

# FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

Mammoth Spring, Ark.

June, 1956

U. S. Postage

1c Paid

Permit No. 1

Sec. 3465 P. L. & R.

## WHICH OF THESE STATEMENTS DO YOU BELIEVE IS UNTRUE?

1. Man can never go wrong as long as he follows the Bible.

2. Our nation would be even greater and its citizens more secure if I, and all men like me, were Christians.

3. Jesus loved the church so much and valued it so highly that He was willing to die for it. I should not treat lightly such a great institution.

4. We teach others, especially our youth, as much by example as we do by words. It is highly important that I set the proper example at all times.

5. My soul is worth more than the entire world. If I must slight something, it should not be my soul.

6. I don't have to 'reject' Christ to be lost. If I 'neglect' Him the results will be just as fatal.

7. After all that Jesus suffered for me, and all that He is now doing for me, He has every right to expect me to serve Him as a Christian.

8. None of us will want to die without Jesus or hear Him say: "Depart from me" when we stand before Him in judgment.

9. If I don't obey the Gospel and serve Him faithfully as a Christian to the end of life's way, I will suffer eternal punishment in a lake of fire and brimstone.

10. I should obey God now. It is so foolish and dangerous to delay such an important matter.

If all these statements are true, what should you do now?

—From Seminole, Okla. Bulletin

1001 Excuse Ave.  
Kareless, U. S. A.

Dear God:

I wanted to write you and let you know why we don't attend the services of the church faithfully. You have chosen for your day, a day that comes after a hard week when we are all tired out. Also, it comes just after Saturday night and that is the night we feel we should enjoy ourselves and take in a movie or a

ball game or a party and it is usually after midnight when we get to sleep. You have chosen the very day on which we want to sleep late. Then, too, my family demands a big Sunday dinner and when I get up so late, I can't get this prepared and make it to Bible study and for preaching. John likes to read the Sunday sport page thoroughly and the kids want to read all the funnies. I mean no disrespect, but it seems to me that you have picked out the wrong day.

Then, too, dear God, we must think of John. John works hard all week and Sunday morning is about the only day he has to catch up on odd jobs around the house. I also feel like he should have Sunday afternoon to sleep, fish, golf or visit with the folks as he doesn't have time during the week. Please try to understand and don't hold this against us.

Last Sunday we meant to go to church but about the time we were ready, Aunt Susie and Uncle Leo came in to visit us. We just couldn't go off and leave them. The Sunday before, we meant to go but it was raining. I was telling John last night that we just had to get straightened out and get back to church or people would think we quit. You know how people are to talk.

I wanted to tell you all these things so that you could see our viewpoint and to know that it really isn't our fault that we do not go to church every Sunday. And don't think that we don't love you, dear God, for we do. We love the church, too. We have been faithful members of it for twenty-three years and expect to die in it and go home to Glory. Well, bye, for now.

Faithfully yours,  
Minnie Saints

If you are a self-made man, the question is: how good a job did you do?

Don't just be for Christ, be WITH him, too.

## THERE'S A CHURCH YOU OUGHT TO KNOW...

This church pleads for the restoration of the New Testament church; practices the unity of all Christians on the basis of God's Word; has no creed but Christ; and preaches no "isms."

This Church seeks to present Christianity as intelligent as science, as appealing as art, as vital as the day's work, as intimate as home, and as inspiring as love.

Our Foundation—"Other foundations can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." — I Corinthians 3:11.

Our Creed—"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." — Matthew 16:16.

Our Rule of Faith and Practice—"Every Scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction, which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work." II Timothy 3:16-17.

Our Name—"The disciples were called Christians, first in Antioch." Acts 11:26. "The churches of Christ salute you." — Romans 16:16.

Our Worship—"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers." — Acts 2:42.

Our Mission—"Go ye therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." — Matthew 28:19-20.

Our Prayer—"That the disciples of Christ may all be one that the world may believe God sent Him." — John 17:21.

Our Invitation—"We earnestly invite the cooperation and prayers of all who endorse these principles.

It is the Church of Christ where you may worship "As It Is Written".

Don't rely too much on the torches of others; light one of your own.

Fulton County Gospel News  
Published Monthly  
Free Subscription  
Sponsored by We come Hill  
Church of Christ

Supported by Moten, Welcome  
Hill and Union Hill churches

Editors -- Boyd Morgan  
Clovis Ragsdale

### EDITORIAL

The time has come to tell of our personal plans. My family and I will be moving to Corning, Arkansas around September 1, where I will take up the ministerial work there created by Bro. Clinton Elliott.

I am now in my fifth year of work with the Mammoth Spring church and half of that year is almost gone. The work here is and has been pleasant and in my opinion profitable to our Saviour's cause. It is with regret that I leave, but such things must be. There has been no difficulty or internal trouble in the church and no lack of cooperation between preacher, elders, and members. It would not be prudent to enumerate our accomplishments. The Lord knows, and that is sufficient. My family and I love the church and the people here and will ever retain them in our hearts. There is no compulsion in our leaving and no other cause except the realization of a work in Clay county that I recognize needs to be done and which I believe that I can do.

Not only have we enjoyed being in Mammoth Spring and doing the work here, but we have enjoyed being in Fulton county and being associated with brethren and friends in the work. We have been graciously received, treated and appreciated, for which I am thankful, and desire to close this work in the same spirit and entertain hopes of returning after awhile to work here again.

I shall be succeeded by Bro. Arthur C. Blackwell, formerly an Arkansas resident, but who is now located with the Loves Park church at Rockford, Ill. Bro. Blackwell is sound, capable, sincere, and able and I can commend him to all. Any trust reposed upon him will, in my opinion, not be mis-

placed.

Forward is the only direction the church should go and forward is the only direction it will go if the Lord's way is followed. The thing about his way is that it works. Let us continue—Forward. —Boyd E. Morgan

### ESSENTIALS AND NON-ESSENTIALS

Marion Farley — Dallas 17, Texas

Often the statement is made, "that isn't necessary, or essential."

Let us examine a few New Testament teachings from both standpoints of view.

Let us remember in the beginning of this study that every commandment, whether it be of God the Father, Christ his Son, or the Holy Spirit, is essential and not to be refused or altered in the least.

Moses wrote, (Deut. 18:15), "The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee of thy brethren, like unto me, unto him shall ye hearken." The words that he was to speak were to be the words of the Father, and they who would not hear his words were to be destroyed from among the people.

In giving the great commission in Mk. 16:15-16, Jesus said, "Go, preach the gospel", which means we cannot stay in one place. We must go or help support those who do go. This is the 'essential' part. Now comes that which is non-essential: we may go by car, bus, airplane, donkey, or any other way that is convenient, for not one word is said about the mode of travel to be used by his ministers.

Furthermore, when he commanded to preach, he said preach the "gospel", (good news, or glad tidings), Paul calls it 'the Word,' and it IS ESSENTIAL, that ALL the Word be preached, adding nothing, subtracting nothing, but the manner is left up to the preacher. He may choose to teach by the blackboard method, the class system, or some other, and as long as it will do the most good, he may use any one, or all of these.

If, when the command was given to baptize, nothing more could have been found in the scriptures concerning it, then pouring, or sprinkling could be argued as harmonious with God's word, but, when we read

the sixth chapter of Romans, we find it is spoken of as a 'burial' and as a 'planting'. Again, when we read the eighth chapter of Acts, we see that when Philip baptized the Eunuch, they "both went down into the water, and he baptized him, and they both came up out of the water." This is the 'essential' part. It is 'non-essential' about the temperature of the water, or whether it is in a baptistry, or running water, or whether it is day or night.

Very significant is the fact that the Lord's Supper was taken on the First Day of the week. The early disciples left us this example, and we read in (John 16:13), where Jesus promised them that the 'Spirit of truth' would come to them and would 'guide you into all truth.' It necessarily follows that they must have been given the command to 'shew the Lord's death' on the day of the week that he arose from the grave. If there are those who desire further proof that the early disciples were Divinely inspired to do this once each week (seeing there is a first day in each week), the case of Cain and Abel should suffice. In the fourth chapter of Gen. we have the account of the first murder. Abel having offered a 'more excellent sacrifice' than his brother Cain, (Heb. 11:4) "By faith Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts, and by it he being dead yet speaketh."

Someone may ask, what does that prove? If you will kindly turn to Romans 10:17 and read with me, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God", and there you have it. They were told, What they 'did they did by God's authority, and surely it is nothing less than sinful to change that that has the stamp of God's approval on it, even though it be ever so slight. Moses wasn't allowed to enter Canaan land with the Israelites because of a slight deviation from God's commandment, just who is man anyway to say that a commandment of Almighty God is non-essential? The disciples knew it was essential and we find them meeting on the first day of the week to break bread. So we are told.



## SEVEN INDISPENSABLE THINGS

Orbie Robbins — Elizabeth, Arkansas

In the natural realm some things are indispensable, and our existence, physically, depends upon them. To illustrate, man cannot exist without water, food, fire and air. Those things are indispensable in connection with his existence upon this earth.

The same principle exists in the Spiritual realm, in connection with salvation from alien sins and eternal salvation in the world to come.

In the Bible we have seven indispensable things mentioned in connection with our salvation and eternal happiness.

**First: Blood of Christ.** Without the shedding of blood there was no remission of sins. Heb. 9:22. It was not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Heb. 10:4. In that day shall a fountain be opened unto the house of David and inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and uncleanness. Zech. 13:1. In whom we have redemption thru his blood even the forgiveness of sins. Eph. 1:7. His blood cleanseth from all unrighteousness. I Jno. 1:7. These scripturally definitely teach that the blood of Christ is indispensable in connection with our salvation.

**Second: Faith.** Impossible to please God without faith. Heb. 11:6. We are justified and have peace with God thru faith. Rom. 5:1. We walk by faith. 2 Cor. 5:7. Must be faithful unto death in order to receive the crown of life. Rev. 2:10. Must keep the faith in order to receive crown of righteousness. 2 Tim. 4:6-8. We must fight the good fight of faith to lay hold on eternal life. 1 Tim. 6:12. Thus we can see from these truths that faith is an indispensable thing.

**Third: Holiness.** No man can see the Lord without holiness. Heb. 12:14. The Lord expects us to be holy even as he is holy. 1 Pet. 1:15-16. He left an example that we should follow in his steps. 1 Pet. 2:21. Christians are referred to as an holy priesthood. 1 Pet. 2:4. We present our bodies a living sacrifice holy and acceptable unto God which is our reasonable service. Rom. 12:1-2.

**Fourth: Works.** For as the body

without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. Jas. 2:26. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified and not by faith only. Jas. 2:24.

In every nation he that feareth him and worketh righteousness is acceptable. Acts 10:34-36. This is the work of God that ye believe on him whom he hath sent. Jno. 6:29. Thus we see that works and obedience are indispensable.

**Fifth: Love:** Must love God with heart, soul and mind. Mt. 22:37. Love is an active principle. Our love for God is demonstrated in keeping of God's commandments. 1 Jno. 5:3; 1 Jno. 2:4. Blessed are they that do his commandments that they may have right to the tree of life and enter in thru the gates into the city. Rev. 22:14. If you love me keep my commandments. Jno. 14:15.

**Sixth: Jesus himself is indispensable.** We must abide in him to bear fruit, and without him we can do nothing. Jno. 15:5. He is the way, the truth and the life, no man can come to the father but by him. Jno. 14:6. All spiritual blessings are in Christ. Eph. 1:3. Without Christ no salvation. 2 Tim. 2:10; Mt. 1:21. Church would have no head. Eph. 1:22-23. Without him as king—no kingdom. Without Jesus—no hope. Heb. 6:18-19. Without hope, lost. 1 Cor. 15:19. Surely we can recognize from these statements that Jesus is indispensable.

**Seventh: Obedience to the Gospel.** The gospel is God's power to save. Rom. 1:16. Man must obey it. 1 Pet. 4:17. Must believe and obey the gospel or be damned. 2 Thess. 1:7-8. A perverted gospel will not save. Gal. 1:6-8.

Morrison will have its annual homecoming Sunday, June 24. Bro. Bill See of Blytheville, Ark., will preach at the morning service. Dinner on the ground and singing in the afternoon.

Bro. L. N. Moody will conduct a gospel meeting at Thayer, Mo. July 9-18. We urge you to arrange to attend.

Bro. Body Morgan will be in a meeting at English Bluff July 5-14. We invite you to come out.



Bro. Harlan Hurd of Fisher St. Church in Jonesboro will conduct a series of meetings at Welcome Hill church of Christ June 18-27. This will be a tent meeting. You are invited to attend all services.



Bro. Lowell Blasingame of Grenada, Miss. will be with the Ring church of Christ in a meeting June 18-27. A cordial invitation is extended to all.

## WAIT—BEFORE YOU JOIN!

Does that church you are thinking about joining teach that salvation is by faith only? Read James 2:24. It says it is not. Don't join!

Does it teach that baptism does not save? Read I Peter 3:21. It says it does save. Wait! Don't join!

Does it teach that once saved, you are always saved regardless of what you do? Gal. 5:4 teaches you can fall from grace. Better stay out of that one.

Does it vote on its prospective members and will it vote on you? II Cor. 10:12 says they are not wise. You be wise and stay out.

Does it assess its members and endeavor to collect its dues? II Cor. 9:7 says every man is to give according as he purposeth and not as someone else purposes. Don't join that one.

Does it sprinkle for baptism? Rom. 6:4 says baptism is a burial. Leave alone those who alter and substitute for God's commands.

Does it have a humanly written creed, such as manuals, disciplines, catechisms, articles of faith? II Tim. 3:16 and Rev. 22:18-19 plainly forbid such. Just follow the Bible and make a wide detour around such as this. Don't join one like this.

Are you about to join a church that has infants baptized? Just remember that the Great Commission Mt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15-16 tells us to teach before baptizing. Why baptize a baby? Would you do it because its sins are forgiven or in order that its sins be forgiven? Either one would be wrong enough. That baby has no sins. Don't join that one.

Does it wear some name other than what you can read in the Bible? How much salvation is in a human name? Read Acts 4:12. Pass that one by.

Will it defend what it teaches and preaches or does it not believe in it? Then its not the faith for which Jude 3 declares we are to earnestly contend. You are better off without it. Don't join!

Does it teach that it is no better than all the other churches? Then it doesn't believe it has anything to offer to save for it teaches you can be saved outside of it. For sure its not the church of the Bible for it

teaches that it is the ONE body. Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:18. The one that teaches that it is the one body can be considered, but don't fool with the rest. Even then you should investigate for even the one that teaches it is right might be a counterfeit. Don't join just any.

Does it teach you can join it? Then Don't. You are human but the church is a divine institution. You can't join things of unlike nature. In fact, don't join a church you can join. If you do, you are wrong.

Why worry about it? Do what the Bible says. Hear his word Rom. 10:17: Believe in Him Heb. 11:6; Repent of your sins Acts 17:30; Be baptized. (After all it's the Bible that says do it—and it will pay to ignore anything that says don't do it). Acts 22:16; I Pet. 3:21. If you do these things you won't join any church. You'll be a church member, alright, and it will be the Lord's church for the Bible teaches it. Read Acts 2:47.

## ARE WE LIKE GRASSHOPPERS?

Clovis Ragsdale

When the children of Israel were being led out of captivity, an event happened which was of great importance. They had come to Kadesh, the gateway to Canaan. There twelve spies were chosen to spy out the land and advise as to whether the Israelites were strong enough to go in and possess the land. Ten of the spies returned with a report which is recorded in Numbers 13:33, "and there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which came of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight." The other two spies, Caleb and Joshua, gave quite a different report. They said that if the Lord be with them that he would bring them the land. Besides, they said that the defenses of the land were weak.

Because the people chose to accept the report of the ten, the children of Israel did not enter Canaan for many years, in fact none of the adults, save Caleb and Joshua, were permitted to set foot in the promised land.

There are many today who claim to be God's people who choose to call themselves grasshoppers in the service of the Lord. Have you ever heard

Christians excuse themselves of a task because, as they say, we are too few or too small. This has become the standard excuse of many small congregations for adopting a "do nothing policy". Remember that grasshoppers are just about the most worthless creature in the world. The danger of this attitude is that it can cause us to fail to enter heaven just as it caused the Israelites to fail to reach the land which flowed with milk and honey. We have the right example before us in Caleb and Joshua, who had faith, that with God on their side, that they would be successful if they but put forth an effort in reaching their goal. Many souls could be saved today if we would put forth a strong effort to reach them with the Gospel. Think of this brethren when you want to put off holding a meeting or to leave off some effort which might be the means of saving a soul.

## IF A RICH MAN WERE TO SAY:

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be given one thousand dollars," no one would misunderstand and none would attempt to collect the rich reward without being baptized.

BUT WHEN JESUS SAYS: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved", (Mk. 16:16), someone often says: "I just can't see it that way" or "I know that is what it says but that makes baptism too important". How wise we are FOR A DOLLAR!! How foolish we are FOR A SOUL!!

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PAPER

Ed Hubbard, Rockford, Ill., \$1; Arbie Robbins, Elizabeth, Ark., \$1; Viola church, Viola, Ark., \$5.

## SHORTS

Don't mind criticism! If it is untrue, disregard it; if it is unfair, keep from irritation; if it is ignorant, smile; if it is justified, learn from it. If you are unable to travel the road to success, at least try to refrain from scattering tacks along the way.

A dog that nacks the bone after him helps to gnaw it.

Patience is the ability to throttle your motor when you feel like stripping the gears.

No one but a woodpecker lives by knocking.