

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

Mammoth Spring, Ark.

July 15 1955

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SOME BIBLE FACTS ABOUT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Its Origin—

Was founded by Christ, Matthew chapter 16, verse 18. He bought it. Acts, chapter 20, verse 28.

Christ save it. Ephesians chapter 5, verses 23-27.

Established in Jerusalem of Pentecost A. D. 33. Isaiah, chapter 2, verses 1-3, Luke, chapter 24, verse 49 and Acts, chapter 2.

Its Foundation—

Built upon the rock, truth, or foundation—"Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God." Matthew, chapter 16, verse 18, I Corinthians, 3 chapter, verse 11, and Ephesians, 2, verse 20.

The Church Consists Of—

Obedient, baptized believers of the Gospel. Acts 2, verses 38-41 and 47. The baptized into Christ. Galatians 3, verses 26-27, I Corinthians 12, verse 13.

One Church—

The church is Christ's body. Ephesians 1, verses 22-23. Colossians 1, verses 18 and 24. But one church. Ephesians 4, verse 4. I Corinthians 12, verse 12. Denominational divisions are sinful. I Corinthians 1, verses 10 to 14, John 17, verses 21-23.

Name Was Called—

Church of Christ. Romans 16:6. Church of Firstborn. Hebrews 12:23. Church of the Lord. Acts 20:27-28. Church of God. I Corinthians 1:2. Founded, bought and saved by Christ—therefore His church.

Its Creed—

Teaching of Christ. Matthew 28:19-20. Gospel of Christ. Galatians 1:6-10. Holy Scriptures. 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Gospel is complete. Cannot change the word of God. Revelations 22:18-19.

Law For Entering The Church—

Hear the Gospel. Romans 10:13-19. Believe it. Hebrews 11:6; Acts 2:41. Repent. Luke 24:47; Acts 2:28; Acts 17:30. Confess Christ. Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:35-37. Be baptized. Matthew 28:19-20; Galatians 3:27; Romans 6:1-11.

Baptism Requires—

Water. Acts 10:47. Much water. John 3:5-6. Going into the water. Acts 8:36-37. Burial. Romans 6:4. Planting. Romans 6:5. Washing. Acts 2:41. Hebrews 10:22. Must be begotten by the Word, Spirit, (Gos-

pel) of God and born of water. James 1:18; John 3:5. Raised out of water. Colossians 2:12. Coming out of water. Acts 8:39.

What Is Achieved In Baptism—

Washes away sins. Acts 22:16. Saves from sin. I Pet. 3:20-21; Mark 16:16. Remission of sins. Acts 2:38. Brings us into Christ. Galatians 3:27. Puts on Christ. Galatians 3:27. Into a new life. Romans 6:4. Obedience to Christ. Acts 10:28; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8. Salvation requires baptism. I Peter 3:21. All spiritual blessings are in Christ. Ephesians 1:3.

The Worship Of The Church—

Must be in spirit. John 4:23. Must be from the heart. Colossians 3:16. Meet upon the first day of the week. Acts 20:1-7; Hebrews 10:25. Singing. Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12. Prayer. Acts 2:42; I Timothy 2:1-3. Edifying. I Corinthians 14:15-27. Communion. Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 11:20-32. Contribution. I Corinthians 16:1-2.

Law Of Pardon To Erring Christian—

Repentance and prayer. Acts 8:22. Confess our sins. I John 1:9; James 5:16.

Work Of The Church—

Preach the Gospel. I Thessalonians 1:8 and 2 Timothy 4:1-2. Teach the Gospel. I Timothy 3:1-2; Ephesians 3:10. Visit the sick. Matthew 25:34-40. Feed and clothe the poor. Acts 6:1-5; James 2:15. Care for the orphans and widows. James 1:27.

THINK!!!

Are you a faithful member of the only church that Christ established, gave his life for, and will glorify?

AN EFFECTIVE SCARECROW

A scarecrow is a make-believe object to keep the crows out of the watermelon patch. If the crow learns what it really is he pays no further attention to it, that is, he does not let it keep him away from the melons.

The devil has learned to play tricks on some people with the hypocrite as a scarecrow. He leads some people to believe the church is full of hypocrites, and they are better off to remain out of the church! But the devil only points out the supposed hypocrites in the church. He blinds your eyes to social hypocrites, business hypocrites, political hypocrites, etc. . . You don't refuse to patronize the bank, or the post-

office, or the grocery store because some hypocrites patronize them. But when it comes to hypocrites in the church—you just can't afford to be associated with them! Only Satan knows that if he can just keep you out of fellowship with God, and then in the end he will have you forever.

We are compelled to concede that some people in the church do some things, or neglect their duty in such a manner that we are bound to doubt their sincerity, and have grave doubts that they will hear the Righteous Judge say in the end, "Come, thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joys of the Lord." These we are ever trying to warn, and to arouse to a deeper conviction of their duty to God.

If the fact that some who profess to be Christians are not considered faithful would justify another in staying out of the service of God, it would justify one as well as another, and if all took advantage of the "excuse" soon there would be no church, and we would all be lost, and would have to spend eternity together with the hypocrites in outer darkness.

We are determined not to allow others to cause us to neglect the great salvation offered through Christ the Redeemer. "Every man must give account of himself to God." Some of us are going to try to serve the Lord in the church in spite of some who may not do to suit us, or the Lord, about everything. If we have been mistreated, or if we imagine we have been wronged, we remember the Lord says in His Word, "Avenge not yourselves, beloved, for it is 'Vengeance is mine, I will recompense, saith the Lord.'" It is possible that I might nurse a grievance until it seems to me far more serious than it really is, and I might just be cutting off my nose to spite my face, and finally lose my own soul besides.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Burk's Chapel, F. A. Bailey, July 9-17.
Agnos, Harlan Hurd, July 14-23.
Elizabeth, Boyd Morgan, July 15-23.
Lone Pilgrim, Mo., K. K. Highway,
Stanley D. Crews of Waynesboro,
Tenn., July 12-21—Tent Meeting.
Welcome Hill, Huey P. Hartsell, Aug.
20—Sept. 8.

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Boyd E. Morgan

EDITORIAL

The purpose of Fulton County Gospel News is to preach the truth by the means of the printed word. As with the spoken word any man has the privilege to deny anything that is said. To just deny, however, does not prove anything. A man could deny an onion was an onion and declare that it was a rose. Nonetheless it would not smell like a rose but would still smell like an onion. Last month F. C. G. News printed an article entitled 'Baptist Errors', and an article entitled "The Right Church." One of our readers saw fit to let us know that he disagreed. There are people who want to stand up against the church of Christ but who have not the courage. They have a sneaking disposition. They want to take a stand incognito without danger of letting anyone know where they stand. Being careful to remove their name from the paper addressed to them so we could not know who they were, they used ink to mark out Fulton County Gospel News and changed it to Fulton County Errors. Of course our incognito denier did not state what was in Error. The title 'The Right Church' was changed to 'The Wrong Church.' Now, it seems to me that our corrector would point out why and what is wrong if he wanted to help us. The article 'Baptist Errors' was changed to 'Campbellite Errors.' Yet, the article showed what Baptists teach. Now, I have always been under the impression that Baptists opposed the teaching of Campbell, whatever it might have been. If Baptists do not teach the things shown in the article it would have been easy to point it out. I ask which point do they not teach? Were we in error ourselves when we said Baptists teach the points shown? Do Baptists teach them? or does our corrector mean Campbell preached Baptist Errors, too? Furthermore, we are not ashamed to show who we

are and what we preach and what we oppose. We believe the Bible and preach it because it is God's word. We do not believe Baptist doctrine is the gospel of God and openly say so to the world. We are not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. Rom. 1:16. Yet it is gratifying to see that at least one of these our readers recognize too that Baptist doctrine is not the gospel of Christ and is truly ashamed to take his stand and let his name be known that he believes Baptist doctrine. At least so it seems to me for the name was carefully removed and no return address placed on the envelope.

I am about to conclude that practically all Baptists are ashamed of their doctrine for almost none bothers to defend it anymore. It becomes more and more evidenced when its fewer proponents begin taking 'shots in the dark.' Now, I am willing to go on record openly to the world as being opposed to Baptist doctrine, but it is quite evident that this one who so brands our paper is not willing to openly let it be known that he believes Baptist doctrine.

Will our reader point out the accusation we have made that is in error? We have proven our points and to merely deny, proves nothing. We have shown where and why Baptist doctrine is **Wrong**. False assertion and denials mean nothing.

—Boyd E. Morgan

SHORTS

A pretense of indifference is usually a sign of envy.

Bible study is the incipient step toward spiritual maturity.

It is just as sensible to talk of the God of your choice, as it is the church of your choice.

The really big men have won their spurs by doing what they didn't want to do when they didn't want to do it.

He lived a life of going-to-do, and died with nothing done.

—James Alberty

When business is brisk, push all the harder.

—Via Lawrence Light

SPIRITUAL SINGERS TO PRESENT PROGRAM

The nationally known "Spiritual Singers," from Southwestern Christian College of Terrell, Texas, make an appearance at the church of Christ, located at Mammoth Spring, Ark., at 8 P. M. on August 1.

These Negro singers are widely known for the excellence of their performance in presenting both hymns and spirituals. During the past two years they have made appearances before more than one million people in practically every state and in Canada. They are experienced radio and television artists. The public is cordially invited to hear them. A pleasant hour is assured.



NOTICE

Please note this change. These singers will be with us August 1, instead of July 21 as previously announced.

TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?

First Devout Man: "Yes, but not any more, and as I was going to say, it's purely the fault of these narrow-minded preachers like Peter and Stephen, who persist in talking about other people's sins and criticizing other religions. People just won't stand too much of that."

Second Devout Man: "That's for sure. This job we're doing right now proves that. But how long do you suppose Peter will get away with it?"

First Devout Man: "Probably not long. The people's treatment of Stephen today shows that their patience is just about at an end."

Third Devout Man: "Yes, and the really sad part of it is that the whole church will probably have to suffer for the crudeness of these few men."

Fourth Devout Man: "Well, I don't intend to lose all my friends because of their narrow-minded preaching. I have been a Christian for thirty years, but only during the year-and-a-half that I've been in the church have I had any trouble getting along with my orthodox friends. If the church gets much more unpopular, I'll just quit. I know lots of Christian people who aren't in the church, and if they can be good folks outside the church, so can I."

Third Devout Man: "Now, now, brother! That's no way to feel. The church needs men like you to show the world that we aren't all argumentative, dogmatic and tactless. After all, you do believe in Christ, don't you?"

Fourth Devout Man: "Of course."

Third Devout Man: "And you aren't ashamed of him, of his church, or his gospel, are you?"

Fourth Devout Man: "Why, you know I'm not!"

Third Devout Man: "And you do love God's truth, and are willing to stand for it."

Fourth Devout Man: "Absolutely."

First Devout Man: "Them's my sentiments, too!"

Second Devout Man: "Mine, too!"

Third Devout Man: "Fine. Then let's all go and apologize to the council for all those nasty things that Stephen said awhile ago."

Although this is an imaginary sequence, we see many of our church members of today reflected in it.

Read Acts 6 and 7 and receive strength from the faithfulness, sacrifice and courage of Stephen.

WATCH YE, STAND FAST IN THE FAITH, QUIT YOU LIKE MEN, BE STRONG. 1 Cor. 16:13.

Orbie Robbins

Elizabeth

John 6:68. "To whom shall we go?"

There is authority behind every secure thing, and in religion this principle is not to be overlooked.

Christians find their security in FAITH. Paul describes faith as the anchor of the soul. Heb. 6:19. Faith is based on hearing God's word. Rom. 10:17. To be secure on the authority of God's word is to be secure indeed.

Denominationalism tries to find security in feelings as authority. I know I am right by the way I feel; is a common expression among them. When we consider Paul's statement; in Acts 26:9, this is absurd. Paul said, "I verily thought I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth." God speaking through Jeremiah said, "Oh Lord, we know that the way of man is not right for it is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps." Jer. 10:23. Our trust must be in God. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding." Prov. 3:5.

Peter's question is our question in things pertaining to life and godliness. To whom shall we go? Let us consider.

Shall we go to the preacher?

The influence of some preachers are great. But people sometimes depend too much on the preacher. Some seem to think that the preacher cannot err. Just because he is preacher he is to be followed, they believe. Of course, this is a mistaken idea. Preachers can err. Peter erred and it was necessary for Paul to withstand him to his face because he walked not uprightly according to the gospel. Gal. 2:11-14.

That preachers are just men and human is shown in Acts 10:26 when Cornelius attempted to worship Peter. Peter said, "Stand up, I myself also am a man."

Denominationalism results from following men instead of Christ. 1 Cor. 1:11-13; 1 Cor. 3:1-3. If men followed Christ, there would not be a denomination on earth. Paul made a statement which if adhered to would correct division. "Be ye followers of me even as I also am of Christ—and keep the ordinances as I have delivered them to you." 1 Cor. 11:1-2.

Shall we follow Moses? Moses, himself, taught that we should hear Christ. Acts 3:22-23.

Moses' law was faulty. Heb. 8:7-8. Moses' law was removed by Christ. Gal. 3:16-19; Col. 2:14; Rom 10:4.

These scriptures make us know that Jesus is to be heard and not Moses.

Shall we follow John the Baptist? John was considered a great man, but Jesus said the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. Matt. 11:11. Note then the following reasons why not to follow him.

His work was preparatory. Luke 1:17.

He died before the church was established and before the law of Christ went forth out of Zion. Matt. 14:10; Mat. 16:18; Isa. 2:2-3.

He was never in the kingdom. Matt. 11:11.

It would be sinful to accept his baptism as shown in Acts 19:1-6.

Shall we follow Christ?

The answer found in the New Testament is a positive Yes. God speaks to us through him. Mt. 17:5; Heb. 1:1-2. There is no escape if we refuse him. Heb. 2:1-3.

Jesus has all authority. Mt. 28:18-20; Eph. 1:20-23; Col. 3:17. He is able to save all. Mt. 1:21; Heb. 7:25.

In conclusion the New Testament teaches that he saves all that obey him. "Not everyone that saith, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 7:21. "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." Heb. 5:8-9.

In order to become a Christian we must go to him as the question implies in John 6:68 for 'thou hast the words of eternal life.' We must do what he commands. Heb. 5:9. This includes faith. John 8:24; Repentance, Luke 13:3; Confession, Matt. 10:32-33; Baptism, Mark 16:15-16. Further, as a follower, we are to follow in ALL he requires in Christian work and worship—thus we have the assurance that heaven will be our home. Rev. 22:14.

The teeth may be false, but let the tongue be true.

Man may fall many times but he is not a failure until he begins to say that some one pushed him.

THE BURIAL OF STEPHEN— MODERN STYLE

After the first martyr had fallen, bruised, battered and bleeding, the victim of the very Jews he was seeking to save, the scripture tells us that "devout men buried Stephen and made lamentation over him." (Acts 8:2) With due apologies to these unnamed men of God, let us for the moment assign to them an up-to-date, 1955 model "Christian" attitude, and listen in on an imaginary conversation which they might have had as they carried the martyr to his burial:

First Devout Man: "Alas, poor brother Stephen! I kept telling him that his flair for debating was going to get him into trouble some day but I really didn't expect it would come to this."

Second Devout Man: "Well, you never can tell what people will do if you just keep on criticizing them. I tried my best to get Brother Stephen not to preach so hard, especially about other people's religion. You can't expect to convert people if you're always making them mad, and that's about all you accomplish when you talk about their religion."

Third Devout Man: "How well I knew it! You know, my wife was a Sadducee before coming into the church, and her folks still are. Well, we worked on them for months before we ever could get them to come one time, and of all things, do you know what Stephen preached on that Lord's Day? The Resurrection! And you know Stephen!—it wasn't enough for him just to express his views on the doctrine of resurrection—he had to go and say that without the resurrection all religion is vain. And as if that weren't enough, he mentioned the Sadducees by name and said that they do not believe in a resurrection! Well, sir, I wanted to drop right through the floor! My wife was mortified, and her folks were so angry they could hardly speak. They stomped out of the meeting house, and vowed that they would never again set foot in a Christian assembly. They accused my wife and me of telling the preacher they were coming so he would deliberately preach to them. We apologized to them, and assured them that if we had known Stephen's subject beforehand we wouldn't have taken them with us; but they've been pretty cool toward us ever since. I doubt if we'll ever be able to reach them

now."

Second Devout Man; "What a shame after you had work with them so hard! It really must have been discouraging to your wife."

First Devout Man, "Discouraging is right! Why she was so torn up over it that she couldn't bring herself to attend services for several weeks. Instead, she went out to that little synagogue where all the Herodians go. Now, those people out there are broadminded. No controversial doctrines. They wouldn't insult anybody. They believe in being kind to everybody. The rabbi said that preachers who are dogmatic about religion are just narrow-minded bigots who are determined to make everybody do things their way or else."

Second Devout Man: "Do you mean you went to the synagogue, too?"

Third Devout Man. "Well, er yea. Us . . . Well, my wife was going over there, and I always felt like a husband ought to share their religion. I heard a preacher say something one time about a husband and wife ought to be 'hers together of the grace of life', or something like that. Yes I went with her. We enjoyed their services 'over there, but the people weren't very friendly, so we decided to come back to the church. My wife still won't take the bread and wine, though."

First Devout Man: "I know just how she feels, and can't say as I blame her too much. You people aren't the first to be insulted by Stephen. I really hate to say it, but frankly, I feel like the church is better off without him, unless he would change his way of preaching."

Fourth Devout Man: "Oh, he was too stubborn to do that! He wanted to change everybody else, but you couldn't change him! Why, not long ago I gave him a copy of Rabbi Backscratcher's new book, 'How To Please People and Persuade the Populace,' and told him it would help him to get more additions and fewer subtractions. You know what he said? He figured the word and guidance of the Holy Spirit was enough to enable him to please God, and if that didn't please men too, he was sorry, but it couldn't be helped."

Second Devout Man: "Such nerve! Well, it's the attitude of preachers like him that makes it hard for the church to grow. They can tear down

with one sermon all the headway we've made with out friends in a year of our personal work."

First Devout Man: "That's what I told Brother Stephen one time, and he said, 'Be Thankful, brother, that you've been able to get your friends to hear the gospel one time, at least. You've done that much good. From there it's up to them. You cannot obey the gospel for them, and you cannot force them to obey it for themselves. You have seen that they have a chance to know the truth. You have been a faithful servant. Keep up the good work and don't be discouraged because all of your prospects don't accept the gospel. After all, look at the converts that even Jesus didn't make.' Isn't that a foolish attitude to take?"

Third Devout Man: "Well, like you said, we hate to say it about him, zealous as he undoubtedly was, but the church is certainly better off without him. And I'll tell you another preacher that we could do without, too, if you want my opinion, and that's Brother Peter."

First Devout Man: "Right again! Did you hear about him offending so many people with his criticisms and accusations that they cancelled his free time on the Temple Devotional Hour?"

Fourth Devout Man: "You don't say!"

First Devout Man: "I do say! Every time he got a chance to speak on the Temple hookup he would talk about how the Jews had crucified Christ and couldn't be saved unless they repented, and a lot of other things that offended people. There were so many complaints about it that the Greater Jerusalem Rabbis' Association finally just forbid him to speak anymore. But I thought everyone knew about that."

Fourth Devout Man: "Well, it probably happened while I was on my vacation up at my fishing camp on the Sea of Tiberius. I was out of touch with the brethren for a whole month. No church within six miles, you know."

First Devout Man: "Ah, I see. Well, it caused quite a stir. Really put the church in a bad light among outsiders. You know, the church is not nearly as well thought of as it used to be, and—"

Third Devout Man: "That's right; why I can remember when they used to let us meet in the temple, and we had favor with all the people."

Turn To Next Page

A SINNER'S PRAYER

Erwin Cowen — Moten

"Brethern, pray for us." These are the words of Paul to the Thessalonians; 1 Thess. 5:25. The plea was to Christians to pray for Paul and his fellow laborers who were like-wise children of God.

Prayer has been grossly misapplied. Instead of being an essential privilege as God appointed, belonging to the saved, it has been transformed to the world (and this by men) and made a duty of alien sinners. Not only this, but it has been made to substitute for a thing (baptism in water) that God actually commanded the alien sinner to do. There are two kinds of sinners. The alien sinner is a sinner who has never been redeemed and has never been a child of God, hence saved. The other kind of sinner is the one who has been redeemed (saved) and who has become a child of God and who sins after becoming a Christian. Such a one becomes an erring Christian or erring child of God.

Alien sinners are kept from doing what God commanded by being employed in what he did not command. They are kept from being baptized for (unto) the remission of sins by being told to pray until they are saved. Some refer to Matt. 7:7. Remember the asking, seeking, and knocking, if referring to prayer at all, is stated as a privilege to those who were already God's people, for such were the people (Jews—children of God by fleshly birth) to whom Jesus was sent and to whom he ministered while on earth. Matt. 15:24. They were lost because and when they as children of God failed to keep God's righteousness. The persons addressed in Matt. 7:7 were God's children for Christ told them, "How much more shall your FATHER, who is in heaven give good things to them that ask him." Mt. 7:11. The same is true of those who the Lord taught to pray, "our Father who are in heaven," Mt. 6:9-15. They were God's children. Only God's children have the right to call him father. When a person turn to sin and Satan he is marked as being of the devil. "Ye are of your father, the devil." John 8:44.

Even the prayer of Cornelius failed to bring him unto salvation and covenant relationship with God. It only led him into the knowledge the Peter possessed through the spirit. WORDS whereby Cornelius and his house should be saved. Acts 11:14. It was necessary that Cornelius send for Peter (verse 13) before he could

be saved and that he hear and follow what Peter said. He had to be baptized unto the remission of sins just as Peter preached on Pentecost. Acts 2:38; Acts 10:47-48. Peter preached the same gospel to all.

The Eunich also had the same gospel to obey. He too, was baptized. Acts 8:36-40.

Notice, friends, in neither case, the case of Cornelius or the Eunich, did prayer bring them a single thing more than every alien sinner in a Bible land possesses, namely, the gospel as it was preached by the apostles of Christ. In their day, the knowledge of the gospel abode with the apostles by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Today it is open to all men in pages of the New Testament. Sinners cannot properly use the case of Cornelius as an example of salvation by prayer with out baptism. Alien sinners today in our land already stand in the same position where Cornelius stood when the apostolic word came to him. They like he did, need to be baptized. God is no respecter of persons. He saves every one that fears him and works righteousness.

We have heard the prayer of the Publican as recorded in Luke 18:13 cited as an instance of the alien sinner's justification by prayer. But such is not the case. Both the Publican and Pharisee were children of God, though erring. No one save children of God were permitted in the temple and this is where they went up to pray. The case is not a case of alien sinners praying but a case where Jesus commanded humility in contrast to the self-righteousness of the Pharisee in a case of two erring children of God. The erring child was justified. This case does not belong to those who teach alien sinners to pray. What they need to find and cannot find is a case where some alien sinner was commanded to pray or did pray and received justification by prayer.

"We know that God heareth not sinners; but if any man be a worshipper of God and doeth his will, him he heareth." John 9:31. How can anyone read this passage and still insist alien sinner must pray for salvation? "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination." Prov. 28:9. "Praying" is not what God commanded the alien sinner to do but "Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins." Acts 22:16. God will never answer the prayer of the alien sinner who just prays for salvation. He will

hear his prayers when he obeys Him. God does not command these sinners to pray for pardon but to hear. Rom. 10:14-17; to believe, Heb. 11:6; John 8:24; Repent, Luke 13:3-5; Acts 2:38; Confess, Rom. 10:10; and to be baptized, Rom. 6:3-5; Gal. 3:26-27; I Pet. 3:21. All systems of religion that teaches alien sinners to pray for pardon and expects it before they are baptized only leave their subjects where they found them. Still in sin.

No amount of praying, begging, and wresting of the scriptures will avail anything so long as one refuses to obey the command to be baptized. The lost will remain out of Christ and in condemnation. God is not going to alter the law of Christ to accommodate a false religion or a mistaken conception of the truth. We must be reconciled unto God through his son Jesus Christ. Eph. 2:16.

NEWS

Very encouraging news comes from Rockford, Ill. Many will remember seeing the letter from Bro. Marvin Powell of Rockford in last month's issue of F. C. Gospel News. The Gilbourn Ave. church that had been teaching and practicing Modernism, has issued a statement renouncing their erroneous teaching and support of such. May God bless them for recognizing and renouncing their error and for their pledge to purity in doctrine.

The Elizabeth church sent \$25.00 to be used on the building at Camp. The money has been used to purchase material to build door and window frames. Bro. Cecil 'Shorty' Smith of Mammoth Springs is building the frames and donating his services. Contributions to Camp have been slow but all received are greatly appreciated and this contribution is a very good lift to these good brethern.

The teeth may be false, but let the tongue be true.

Man may fall many times but he is not a failure until he begins to say that some one pushed him.

"Wordly riches are like nuts; many clothes are torn in getting them, many broken in cracking them, but never a belly filled with eating them."

—Venning

SAVED LIKE THE THIEF ON THE CROSS?

Marion Farley — Dallas 17, Tex.

So often, someone is heard to say, "I want to be saved like the thief on the cross."

I feel reasonably sure if put to the test, they would back down.

Would they be willing to be nailed to a cross and left to die? To have their legs broken to hasten death after hanging there for many hours in indescribable agony? To be looked on as a thief or robber as was he?

This would all have to be done, if they were saved (granting that he was saved, as is claimed by so many) like he was.

Those who claim they want to be saved in this manner, are individuals who are seeking to get to heaven without obeying the simple New Testament commandments as taught by, and carried out by the apostles of our Lord, and the early church.

They are TRYING to prove that a person can be saved without baptism as say they the thief was.

Just how do they know that the thief was not baptized? The Bible does not say, or even hint at such a conclusion.

As far as we know, he may have been one of John's converts.

According to the language of Matthew 3:5-6, "Then went out to him (John) Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, and were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins."

Would it not be much easier to prove by the testimony of Matthew that he had been baptized, than by any authority, that he had not?

Christ, while here on earth, had the power to save in any manner he desired, and to forgive sins as often as he chose.

But after the New Testament became effective, (of force) there is no record of His setting aside one single commandment.

At the time the thief was under the Mosaic dispensation, not the Christian.

We read in Heb. 9:17, "For a testament is of force after men are dead."

Paul clearly points out in Gal. 3:15, that a testament made by man, where it is duly confirmed, can neither be changed by adding to or taking from the same. Then, who is man to undertake to change God's law or Testament, that has been confirmed by his only begotten Son?

The following scriptures should suffice to show that when God speaks, we should be eager to listen.

"The law of the Lord is perfect,

converting the soul." (Ps. 19:7).

"All thy commandments are righteousness." (Ps. 119:172).

"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." (Jas. 1:25).

"Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." (Eccl. 12:13).

"If ye love me keep my commandments." (Jno. 14:15).

What are His commandments we must keep to be saved from past sins?

Let us find the answers in the Word of God, as they are the right ones, and all others are wrong that conflict with what is taught therein.

In Rom. 10:17, "So then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

Acts 2:38 says, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, for the remission of your sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Rom. 10:9, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Friends, this is the Bible way, and is the way to please God, it will make a Christian of each one who complies with these five simple steps, Hearing the gospel; Believing... Repenting of past sins; Confessing Jesus as the Son of God, as did the Eunuch in Acts 8:37, where he said to the preacher, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God," and then being baptized IN water as was he, and not with a few drops sprinkled on the head or a small amount poured on, as the case may be.

When these commandments are all complied with, God adds you to the church Christ purchased with his blood. Acts 20:28; Rom. 16:16.

And then by faithfully doing the commandments relative to living the Christian life to the end of the way, Heaven will be their eternal home.

This is just too simple to misunderstand without help from a source other than the Bible.

The very last warning, and indeed a very solemn one, is given in Rev. 22:18-19, "If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues written in this book, and if any man shall take away from the words of this book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the things of life, and out of the Holy city, and from the things written in this book."

I firmly believe this is one of the reasons the Saviour said in Matt. 7:14, "Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leads unto life and few there be that find it."

Also in verses 22-23 in the same chapter, "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, have we not prophesied (taught) in thy name? and in thy name cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? and then will I profess unto them, I never knew you, depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

To me this is positive proof, that many moral people, and members of religious bodies that the Lord did not establish, regardless of how sincere they are in their belief and practice, are going to be lost eternally, and woe will be unto those who have been responsible for leading them astray.

SAVED IN SAVING OTHERS

Two men were riding in a sleigh in the far North. They were on their way home during a bitterly cold blizzard. One of them noticed the form of a man by the side of the road and they stopped. He found the man almost frozen to death and badly in need of artificial respiration and stimulation. His companion in the sleigh refused to wait for him to try to save the man's life. He feared that they might all die from the cold if they waited any longer so he drove on alone.

After working hard at the job the "good Samaritan" succeeded in reviving the stranger and forcing him to walk several miles into town. As they came to their destination, they noticed the sleigh in front of the house. It took only a moment to discover that the companion who had sought to save himself had relaxed into a sleep from which there was no awakening in this life. The "Good Samaritan" had saved his own life by exerting all his efforts to save another.

The above story illustrates a truth clearly taught by our Lord that we shall be saved in saving others. There are many today, friends and neighbors of yours, who have never obeyed the gospel. They are living without hope and without God in the world and if you can sit idly by, cold, indifferent and unconcerned — while they are going the way of death, may God have mercy on your poor soul when you come to face Him at last.

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