

# Fulton County Gospel News

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## Man Is Obligated To God . . .

### MUST FEAR GOD

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of men", Eccl. 13:12. "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire", Heb. 12:28-29.

### MUST OBEY GOD

"Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams", 1 Sam. 15:22. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of the Father which is in heaven", Matt. 7:21.

### MUST LOVE GOD

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment", Matt. 22:37-38. "We love Him, because He first loved us", 1 John 4:19.

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LOVE GOD?

"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous", 1 John 5:3.

### DO YOU REALLY FEAR GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS?

### DO YOU REALLY OBEY GOD IN ALL THINGS, OR JUST THE THINGS WHICH PLEASE YOU?

### DO YOU REALLY LOVE GOD AND PUT HIM FIRST IN YOUR WHOLE LIFE? IF THESE ANSWERS CANNOT ALL BE "YES", THEN YOU ARE NOT HIS!

### MUST WORSHIP HIM

"Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve", Matt. 4:10. "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him". "God is a Spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth", John 4:23:23. In spirit means to be honest, sincere and dedicated. In truth, means according to

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## CRISIS CONTROL

Crises come in different sizes, just like people, but inevitably they will come.

A child will fail his grade of face a tonsillectomy. The family will suffer a death, the serious illness of one child or the loss of faith by an older one. These are real crises. They really hurt.

A group of mental health experts from Harvard University led by Dr. Gerald Caplan studied individual reactions to crises for several years. Their recommendations to those who would help are in keeping with the New Testament principles.

The most significant finding was that another person can be of substantial help in times of crisis. The type of help one receives determines the outcome more than his previous disposition and training. Though someone may be informed thoroughly on how to handle crises, when crisis comes he is disoriented. He needs someone to help him find the way. Paul admonishes "Bear one another's burdens."

In this context, especially, a little sometimes goes a long way. The scales can be tipped to a favorable balance sometimes by just a few words of comfort. Paul admonishes "Comfort one another with these words."

The person in crisis cannot be helped by the Polyanna expression "Everything will be all right"! Loved ones who are seriously ill just may die and the family knows it. Rather than try to hide the seriousness of the situation it is much better to help people to face the reality of this crises. Those who face up to their anguish and loss are better able to bear it. Help them to realize that they do need the help of their friends and especially of God. Paul admonishes "Weep with them that weep; rejoice with those that rejoice."

One person enters the home racked with sorrow and says "If there is anything I can do . . ." Another comes and asks "Where do you keep your broom?" The matter-of-fact business of relieving the bereaved of everyday tasks is a great source of comfort and strength of them.

Crisis removal is many times impossible. However, crisis control is possible for those who practice the principles of the compassionate Savior who wept at the tomb of His friend.

-Tex Stevens

## What Is Modest and Immodest Dress?

"Dear Mr. Thurman: I hope you have time to answer this question for me. I am confused about proper dress. What is modest apparel? Is 'modest apparel' different today than in New Testament times? I believe God would want us to be modest whatever the time or customs were. I wear capris, occasionally shorts, and bathing suits. I'm wondering whether it is right. I don't believe in mixed swimming. My husband and I usually are alone, or perhaps my parents are along when we water ski or fish. What is your thinking on this? —J.J.R., Calif."

We live in an age of few restraints. Nudity or near nudity surrounds us on the street, in the supermarkets, and especially on the TV screen. Therefore I find it refreshing to find one who is willing to pause and question the practice. The writer states she has been a loyal Christian only three years. Would that we could get those who are older in the faith to soberly consider this also.

Modest apparel today is the same as modest apparel since Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves! Modesty is always modesty. To be sure, the mode or fashions may change. But modesty is always chaste, discreet, and pure. And the modest lady extends no open invitation to ogle and lust, for she considers herself more than "wolf-bait," and revels not in suggestive whistles from men she may seduce. Modesty is defined as (a) the sense of propriety; (b) the absence of anything suggestive of sexual impurity; decency, chastity; purity of manners (Webster). Even though the style of women's clothes may change, the Christian woman will be modest in safeguarding her reputation by decorous attire and behavior.

It was the nakedness of Bath-Sheba that was the cause of David's great sin. A Christian woman will remember this in selecting her wearing apparel on any occasion. Paul's stated desire was "that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety." (1 Tim. 2:9). The modern bather sees little spiritual instruction in the words of our Lord: "Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his

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### The Fulton County Gospel News

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EDITORS: Clovis Ragsdale  
and James E. Henley.

### NEWS!

There will be a Gospel meeting at the Viola Church of Christ, April 17-23rd. Brother O. L. Grisham of Hoxie, Ark., will be the speaker.

### MAN IS OBLIGATED (Cont.)

the type worship God's word commands, for God's word is truth, John 17:17. The truth will make man free, John 8:32.

#### MUST SERVE GOD

Man MUST serve ONLY God, Matt. 4:10. He canNOT serve TWO masters, Matt. 6:24, Man must CHOOSE to serve God, Joshua 24:15. It is not possible for man to serve God and the Devil at the same time. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are; whether of sin unto death, or obedience unto righteousness", Rom. 6:16. So ask yourselves, "Whom do I really obey"? Well, that is whose servant you are!

#### MUST GIVE ACCOUNT UNTO GOD

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful", I Cor. 4:2. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, whether it be good or bad" 2 Cor. 5:10.

#### IS EVERY ITEM OF YOUR WORSHIP TO GOD REALLY AUTHORIZED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?

DO YOU REALLY SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND SERVE HIM IN ALL THINGS?

ARE YOU, RIGHT NOW, READY AND WILLING TO MEET YOUR GOD AND GIVE AN ACCOUNT TO HIM OF YOUR STEWARDSHIP? YOU MAY HAVE TO, YOU KNOW!

By Glynn Purdy

## The Foolish Act of a Wicked King

Clovis Ragsdale

In the thirty-sixth chapter of Jeremiah there is an account of a most unusual event. It concerned a scroll, or book, which the prophet Jeremiah had dictated to Baruch, a scribe. It contained a message from God to the people of Judah who were drifting from serving him as he desired. The message warned that if they did not repent much evil would come upon the nation.

When the king of Judah, Jehoiakim, heard of the message of God that had been written on the scroll he asked that it be brought and read in his presence. The twenty-second verse of this chapter tells us that it was in the winter season and that a fire was burning on the hearth as Jehudi brought in the scroll and started to read to the king. When three or four pages had been read the king took the scroll from the one who was reading and took a pen knife and cut the scroll into shreds and threw the remains into the fire where it was consumed. He did not like what was in the message and showed his contempt by throwing it into the fire.

Great numbers of people have shown the same attitude toward the word of God from that time till the present. No, not many use the knife and fire method of opposing what the Bible teaches, but use other methods which accomplish the same results. This may be done in many ways. "I don't care what the Bible says, I am going to do as I please." "I don't believe the Bible is inspired." Attitudes like those destroys the respect and reverence that is necessary for one to have toward the teachings in the Bible. Others never study the Bible and are so indifferent toward the message found therein, they might as well burn the book from their presence as they have no interest in what it says.

What were the results of the foolish acts of the king? Jeremiah was informed that the wrath of God would be visited upon the king and the people in his kingdom. The last verse of the chapter tells of Jeremiah taking another roll and giving it to the scribe, Baruch, telling him to write all the message contained in the first book and that there would be many like words added.

The lesson to all is plain. Man cannot destroy the word of God. If we do not accept this word it will destroy us. A short time later the entire nation of Judah was carried into captivity because they would not repent and turn back to God. They refused to heed the prophets who spoke for God and plead for them to accept his will.

## Teach God's Word Now!

I couldn't help teach when I was young,  
For my time was short — I had to have fun

I couldn't teach when I was "Just wed"  
For then I had a husband to be fed.

I couldn't teach after the babies were born,

For then I worked through the night and morn

I couldn't teach as my children were growing,

For then I had my washing, mending and sewing.

I couldn't teach after my children were grown,

For then I had to sit and wait for them to come home.

I couldn't teach after my children were married,

There were grandchildren and my tasks were varied.

Oh yes, I had been asked, many times along the way

If I would teach God's Word one hour - one day

But I never had time to prepare, I felt,

And I had no experience — no heart could I melt.

So I trudged along, so busy and gay,

And in my heart I said, "I'll teach some day,"

But some day is gone and the future is here,

And the precious souls that I could have taught aren't near.

—Selected

## What Shall I Do?

I helped kill the church! I stayed away. Had I stayed away from my home, I had killed it; had I neglected my business, I had no business. My lack of interest in the church made other people uninterested; they stayed away because I stayed away. I helped kill the church; I did not attend.

I helped kill the church! I starved it. I was a poor provider. Time was when I contributed a little to it and helped its program along; but when I quit attending I quit giving. I helped kill the church; I starved it.

I helped kill the church! I quit praying for it. At some time or another I quit praying, and quit praying for the church. By slow degrees something was dying within me. I could have added something to the life of the church if I had prayed for it. But I helped kill the church. I quit praying for it.

## Will We Know One Another in Heaven?

I would like to make a few observations about the above question. Jesus said, "that many shall come from the east and the west, and shall set down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of Heaven" (Matt. 8:11). This passage, though not necessarily intending to, reveals the fact that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, will retain their personalities of this life, in the next life. In other words, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob of this life, will be Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the next life. If not, why not? Since God is no respecter of persons (Rom. 2:11), is it not logical to admit that if some will retain their individual personalities in the next life, all will retain their individual personalities in the next life?

Let us ask the question: "Will we know one another in Hell?" Of course no one wants to go to Hell, so, let us re-word the question: "Will we know one another in Hades?" No one will be exempt from the Hadean tenure, unless of course you are still living upon the Earth then the Lord comes. The question is, therefore germane to the issue at hand. The passage that I would suggest for your further consideration is Luke 16:19-31. From this reading one can determine several factors about the next life. There are some who would tell us that this reading is parabolic and therefore, does not mean what it says. The reading being parabolic may very well be; who knows for a certainty? Parabolic or not, the reading is truth. Who would accuse Christ of telling untruths? Therefore, the teaching of Luke 16 is truth, parabolic or not! We learn from the reading that two men lived and two men died and that their existence in the next life was exactly opposite as it was in this life (Lk. 16:19-22). In the next life, we will have eyes and be able to recognize (Lk. 16:23); we will be able to talk (24, 25); we will have fingers (24); we will have the ability to know comforts and blessings (24, 25); we will be able to remember (25-28). This passage, to say the least, is challenging.

One last comment. What if we are not able to have any future recognition of "know-ability"? That would mean many more difficulties for us in the next life. We would not know where we were or why we were there. We would not know God, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, or any one. We would only know ourselves. Although, if there is no future recognition, how do we "un-do" the dilemma of possibly not recognizing ourselves? However, it is pleasing to know that on the mount of Transfiguration Moses and Elijah appeared to Peter,

## Meaningful Christian Love

By Earle McMillan, Assistant Professor of Bible - Abilene Christian College

Do the individuals in the congregation where you worship love and help one another as Christians should? (Read I Corinthians 13.)

True Christianity should be characterized by a forgiving, helpful and reassuring love. All too often it is just the opposite. We see criticism, jealousy and antagonism, where we ought to see understanding, appreciation and fellowship. It never ceases to be amazing how Christianity finds it possible to consume itself in this way.

We sometimes think of God as a being somewhere up above us, looking down upon us with a watchful eye, taking into account every mistake that we make. Make no mistake, sin is wrong, and we should not compromise with it in ourselves or in the church. Yet, the idea of God as an "all-watching eye" surely does an injustice to his love and concern for us.

God would be better understood as a loving parent trying to help a child walk for the first time. When the toddling child falls only the most unaware parent would accuse it of being stupid or doing something he should not. It is much more likely to see a loving hand extended or to hear an encouraging word spoken.

God is such a companion in the spiritual life. Rather than watching for an opportunity to condemn, He stands ready to life up, encourage and love.

The members of a loving church should stand ready to help in the same way. Rather than watching for an opportunity to be critical or condemn, they should be ready to uplift and encourage. Only in this way can the church be the understanding, forgiving, spiritual fellowship that God intends. To be anything less permits Satan to use even the church as a tool to serve his purposes.

James and John, and were known by them. It is suggested that if these Heavenly dwellers were known on the Earth they are also known in Heaven and so shall you be. Wherefore, comfort one another with these words.

—Mike Wilson  
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## Old Fashioned Mother

What has become of the "Old Fashioned Mother"?

The ones we knew in the long ago.  
Her dresses were long but clean and neat;  
She got up early to start the day,  
Put a fire in the wood cook stove right away.  
She prepared the meal set for every one a plate;  
She called them to breakfast and how they ate!  
The men folks were soon out to do the chores.  
She was then busy washing, ironing, or scrubbing the floors,  
You could hear her singing as she worked all day long.  
Oh! "Old Fashioned Mother", where have you gone?

There were no clubs to join, no teams to meet,  
No trophies to win, no fear of defeat.  
There were no baby sitters hired in that day,  
And she never heard of P.T.A.  
She was happy and contented her home to keep,  
Singing "Amazing Grace" as she rocked her baby to sleep.  
Times have changed and we drift along.  
Oh! "Old Fashioned Mother" where have you gone?

Women's Lib was unheard of then,  
She didn't usurp authority over the men.  
But were help mates for their husbands  
As God intended it to be.  
And she always dressed — modestly.  
"Old Fashioned Mother", we want you to know  
We miss you and need you.  
Where did you go?

—0—

The foregoing poem was written by Mrs. Cecil Risner, who is nigh unto 84 years of age. The decades of her experiences through life still shine through in tones of true wisdom. The young mothers of the "now generation" could probably learn a great deal from her words.

A sermon can help people in different ways. Some rise from it greatly strengthened; others wake up from it refreshed.

# Does the World Owe Me a Living?

This is something that we hear much about today and the question has been asked, with the request that we present God's view on the matter. Of course the Bible teaches so much on the subject that we cannot cover it all but give an outline which the honest person can study the Bible by it.

## EARN BREAD BY SWEAT OF FACE

God never intended for man to be a parasite on society! From the beginning of time God gave instructions concerning the matter. "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground: for out of it wast thou taken: For dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return", Genesis 3:19. This is God's plan that every one who is able, to work for his bread! This alone could answer the question!

## DON'T STEAL, BUT LABOR WITH HANDS; FOR HIMSELF AND OTHERS

"Let him that stole steal no more: But rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth", Ephesians 4:28.

## NO WORK, NO EAT

The Apostle Paul has the answer: "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat", 2 Thessalonians 3:10. This would put those who are able, to work in a hurry! Most people will work if their life depends on it! We repeat, God never intended for man to be a parasite on society!

## MAN MUST SUPPORT SELF AND HELP THOSE IN NEED

Jesus himself did not think that the world owed him a living. For he said, "Even as the son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many", Matthew 20:28. Jesus came not to be served, but to serve. Not that the world owed him something, but that he might contribute something to the world to make life easier for others! Even while on the cross, he was concerned about others and prayed for them! Christ's kingdom requires "laborers" who will work, Matthew 20:1. There are no parasites in the Lord's vineyard! Many church members may think so and many may act as though some one owns them salvation, but faith without works is dead, James 2:24. So if you believe that you can parasite yourself to Heaven, you will no doubt learn after it is too late, that it is not possible. We must work while it is day, John 9:4.

## WE MUST CARE FOR THE NEEDY

God has always demanded that those who have material goods must support those in need! "Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child", Exodus 22:22. "When thou hast made an end of tithing all the tithes of thine increase of the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled, Deuteronomy 26:12. When the Israelite harvested his crops, he was to leave some for the "stranger, the widow and the fatherless", Deuteronomy 24:19-21.

## PURE RELIGION DEMANDS CARING FOR THOSE IN NEED

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the father is this, to visit the fatherless and the widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world", James 1:27. The New Testament Church cared for those in "need" only, Acts 2:45; 4:35. Please read these scriptures! It was according to "need", no one was "owed" anything and there were no parasites! No work, no eat!

## ANY ONE MAY STAND IN NEED OF HELP SOMETIMES, BUT NOT ALL THE TIME

Any person may find himself in circumstance sometime in life, where his obligations are greater than he can carry, but to make a "career" out of charity, is something that God condemns! God gave certain conditions which should be met even for "widows" whom the church could support. So it is easy to understand if not all widows could receive support, certainly able bodied men are not to become parasites!

## WHEN SHOULD A WIDOW BE SUPPORTED?

First, if a needy widow had children, or nephews; they were to care for her needs! If she had neither the church could support her, if she met the following conditions; she must be over 60 years of age, having been the wife of one husband, reared children and done good works, 1 Tim. 5:3-10. All who are able, even widows, were to work. No, I, nor no one I know, and certainly not God, is opposed to helping the needy! But Jesus said that it, "is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35), and this is the lesson that we should learn! No one owes me a living, and I cannot be a Christian and believe and practice such a thing! Jesus said again, "And whosoever will be chief among you: Let him be your servant", Matthew 20:27; no, and double no, the world does not owe me a living!!!!

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## WHAT IS MODEST (Cont.)

shame." (Rev. 16:15). The modern bather sees no shame in parading nakedness. More and more publicity is given to shows where performers appear completely nude. They openly parade their shame as their glory, and seem to have nothing else to offer the world. Can Christians sanction such gross behavior by trying to walk in their steps? Can we in any way patronize those who boast of their "sex appeal"?

Ordinarily the whole concept of this "mixed bathing" is only a guise which the shameless wear as an opportunity to preen before the lustful and adulterous eyes of the opposite sex, who ogle and lust for what is either seen or suggested.

As I have written to mothers, "If you don't want indecent men casting indecent looks at your daughter, don't let her parade about indecently."

The wearing of shorts, capris, bathing suits, or flimsiest negligee may be proper attire in the right time and place, and seen by the right one. But the woman who leads any man to lust after her, save her own husband, thereby commits sin. A woman is responsible for the evil thoughts in the mind of all men if she has placed the thoughts there. It is not my place to tell women what they should or should not wear. It is my responsibility to warn you that you are your brother's keeper.

Mrs. Ralph Copenhagen  
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