

Mrs J V Caldwell

# Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID

VOL. 7 - - NO. 1

MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK.

JANUARY - 1965

## Acknowledge Contributions

W. W. Horton, Ash Flat .....	\$3.00
R. R. Hicks, Mammoth Spring (Nov.) .....	2.00
R. R. Hicks, Mammoth Spring (Dec.) .....	2.00
A friend of the paper .....	2.00
Mrs. Orbie Robbins, Elizabeth .....	1.00
Morrison church of Christ ....	5.00
Wheeling church of Christ ....	10.00
Agnos church of Christ .....	5.00
English Bluff church of Christ ..	5.00
S. C. Gilbreath, West Plains ..	5.00
D. B. Bates, West Plains ....	10.00

## The Lost Sheep

The Lord illustrates the state and condition of the lost by examples in Luke 15. The sheep that wandered away from the flock was missed, sought, found and returned with rejoicing.

Why was this sheep lost? There is no implication of deliberate planned departure. There is no implication of malice or even dissatisfaction with the shepherd!

Perhaps the grass looked a little greener on the by-paths. Perhaps less effort was required to turn aside than to stay with the flock. Perhaps the sheep was so busy eating its fill that it just did not notice the departure of the flock and the shepherd. Whatever the cause the sheep was lost and in danger!

It is easy for people to wander away from the Lord and his work. Thoughtlessness, carelessness, and self-engrossment make such drifting an easy matter. One does not have to be deliberately wicked or malicious or rebellious to become lost. All that is needed is to become separated from the flock and supervision of the Good Shepherd.

herd.

Safety for the sheep was with the flock! Safety of God's children lies in faithfulness and devoted service to God through Christ. It is here through the close contacts and the sympathetic consideration that the child of God finds his greatest strength. It is here that he receives of the strength of others.

Fortunate indeed is that lost sheep that has aroused the compassion of another who will seek, search and save by returning him to the fold.

There is indeed more joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth than over the ninety-nine that need no repenting.

Let us be warned against "wandering".

—Malvin L. Vaughn

## God is the Audience

Many people regard going to church as they would attending a play on the stage. Because they are so man-centered, and not God-centered, they think of themselves as spectators, with the preacher as the main performer and if God is anywhere in the production, he is certainly on the sidelines. How unfortunate and how different from true worship. God is the audience, the congregation is the actor and the preacher should be only a prompter to help all to draw closer to him from whom all blessings come. Worship for the Christian is offered to God the Father, through Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit.

When you worship, do you realize your part in the service to God you are rendering? Do you consider the service as you would a lecture, or a concert? Or do you realize that here you are meeting with God and "the ground whereon you stand is holy ground?"

—Frank Pack

## MY DAILY CREED

Let me be a little kinder;  
Let me be a little blinder,  
To the faults of those about me;  
Let me praise a little more;  
Let me be, when I am weary,  
Just a little bit more cheery;  
Let me serve a little better  
Those that I am striving for,  
Let me be a little braver  
When temptation bids me waver,  
Let me strive a little harder  
To be all that I should be;  
Let me be a little meeker  
With the brother that is weaker;  
Let me think more of my neighbor

And a little less of me.  
Let me be a little sweeter;  
Make my life a bit completer  
By doing what I should do  
Every minute of the day;  
Let me toil without complaining,  
No humble task disdain;  
Let me face the summons calmly  
When death beckons me away.

—Selected

## Love for All ?

Love for all — and can it be?  
Can I hope it is for me —  
I, who strayed so long ago,  
Strayed so far, and fell so low?  
I, the disobedient child,  
Wayward, passionate, and wild—  
I, who left my Father's home,  
In forbidden ways to roam.  
I, who spurned His loving hold;  
I, who would not be controlled—  
I, who would not hear His call;  
I, the willful prodigal.  
To my Father can I go?  
At His feet myself I'll throw;  
In His house there yet may be  
A place — a servant's place — for me.

See! My Father waiting stands;  
See! He reaches out His hands;  
God is love, I know, I see,  
Love for me — yes, even me.

- Author unknown.

## Fulton County Gospel News

PUBLISHED MONTHLY  
FREE SUBSCRIPTION

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID  
MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK.

Supported by

CHURCHES OF CHRIST  
IN THIS AREA

### EDITORS:

CLOVIS RAGSDALE  
RICHARD ENGLAND

## Editorial - -

With the beginning of a new year the editors of Fulton County Gospel News would like to thank the many individuals and congregations who have contributed to the paper. Without your help we would not have been able to have continued publication. We have only a small sum to start the new year, so will be depending on your help again in 1965. The paper costs close to fifty dollars per month to mail nearly eighteen hundred copies. This covers printing, addressing, and mailing. The editors and those who contribute articles receive no pay.

It is impossible to print a paper of this kind without there being mistakes. Some of the mistakes are made by the writers and some are made by the typesetter. We know our readers will be a r with us in matters of this kind.

We would like for all who have a change of address to notify the paper. When the postal authorities have to do this they charge ten cents for supplying the address change. It has been our policy to drop from our mailing list all who move and do not notify us of their new address.

We would like for all the congregations in this area to send information concerning meetings,

## The Story of Worried Willie, the Wayward Water Cooler

A water cooler named Willie was situated in the foyer of the church building at a certain place content and happy, feeling he was doing his job well. Then one day the preacher began making statements that troubled Willie.

He announced the Vacation Bible School and emphasized strongly that NO refreshments would be served because such was not the purpose of the VBS. All during the week of the school Willie felt terrible. Why? Because all the children REFRESHED themselves by drinking water. Willie reasoned that HE was guilty of serving refreshments to the children and to make it worse he had been purchased out of THE CHURCH TREASURY.

Another Sunday the preacher took his text on dish dinners in the basement of the meetinghouse. It seemed to Willie all during the sermon that the preacher did not know the difference between the church and the meetinghouse. What really worried Willie was the passage he quoted to attempt to prove his point. "What, have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? It seemed to Willie that if this passage made it sinful to EAT in the meetinghouse, it also made it sinful to DRINK in the meeting-

lectureships, and other news of their activities to us and we will print it free of charge.

We go to press about the first day of the month and like to have the paper in the mails about the middle of the month.

We will be counting on our friends for support during the coming year.

The Delphic Oracle said, I was the wisest of all the Greeks. It is because that I alone, of all the Greeks, know that I know nothing. — Socrates.

house. But the PREACHER was the first to the fount when amen was said, and sometimes before amen was said.

Then to top it all the preacher expounded the doctrine that it was sinful to take money from the treasury to feed a hungry non-Christian. Willie figured that if it was wrong to take money from the treasury to FEED A HUNGRY non-Christian, surely it would be just as wrong to take money from the treasury to GIVE DRINK to a THIRSTY non-Christian. But Willie had never noticed any guards around the water fount during gospel meeting time. IN FACT, the preacher always invited the non-Christians to drink just like the Christians. Strange preacher thought Willie. Willie was right.

Willie also felt sorry for Henry the Heater, because if it were wrong to take money from the treasury to FEED the HUNGRY non-Christian, surely it was just as wrong to take money from the church treasury to KEEP WARM the COLD non-Christian during the services.

Then one day Willie quit worrying because he realized something. He realized by the actions of the preacher and others that when preachers ride a hobby horse down the path of ridiculous extreme they usually fall in the fatal ditch of fanaticism. Willie stopped worrying and went on about his business.

- Gospel Defender

- from Rock Island Bulletin

Realizing that man did not come from monkeys, we see some that are going to the dogs. They are night owls on Saturday night, become bedbugs on Sunday morning, and growl like bears the rest of the week.

A desirable Sunday begins the night before.

The man who says he fears nothing is a liar. "What" a man fears will determine "where" he spends eternity.

## Thou I Be Lost

- By Robert Henley.

"Thou he slay me; Yet will I trust in Him" — When Job made this statement, I am of the opinion that he referred to physical death. It should be also in our hearts even to that spiritual death that will be meted out to untold millions on that Great Day. When one becomes a Child of God they do not attain eternal life at that time except in the sense that they remain entirely faithful throughout the rest of their lives.

Paul, a specially called Apostle, who spent about thirty years laboring for the cause of Christ, in his inspired writings tells us of the constant warfare that is waged in our bodies, (Romans 7 and 8) and in 1 Cor. 9:27 he stated the possibility that he too, could be cast away. We know that we shall have to face a merciful God or else we too shall fail.

As we try to visualize the Judgment we see vast throngs of the congregation of the Lord turned away into destruction. Shall we be among that number? Shall we have been "weighed in the balances and found wanting"? If so, then we shall have failed, not the Lord, not His Word, but the failure will be ours. Somewhere in our lives have we turned as the "sow that was washed, to wallowing in the mire"; Have we as Esau, sold our birthright for a morsel and then having tried could find no place for repentance? These questions stand out as stark possibilities and should not be ignored but should cause us to give more of our lives in devoted consecration to Him.

As we look upon Christianity (and we use the word in its true sense) we see the wonderful blessings it has brought to the world, to both saint and sinner, and a song of thanksgiving should rise up from our hearts. We see the joys that may be had in service to God, see the faith and hope shining in the faces and lives of his true disciples, then we know that even though we fail if through our efforts others have been per-

sued that will gain that crown of righteousness, then a measure of joy should be our own. Though we stand in danger of rejection shall we falter in our love for Him and our fellowman? Shall we cease to strive or shall we as David cry out to God: "For thy names sake, O Lord, pardon my iniquity for it is great." Ps. 25:11

In that Day, though we stand among the rejected and sorrow fills the heart there yet may be a sense of joy in seeing our brethren, our friends and our loved ones (as the world counts loved ones) among the chosen and having the knowledge that we have left a place in the hearts of many that cannot be filled and the world a better place by our having lived in it. May we, as we press onward to attain the crown of righteousness be able to truly say in our hearts, "Thou he slay me, yet will I trust in Him".

## The Spirit of Worship

Cliff Stewart, Mt. Carmel, Ill.

Much has been said of the importance of scriptural worship. Great stress has been laid on the danger of violating the law of God by adding to the worship an element not taught in the word. Acts of worship authorized in the word do not constitute scriptural worship unless these are done in the proper manner. "God is a spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." Jn. 4:24.

Too often overlooked is the fact that spiritual worship includes preparation to worship. Israel had to prepare themselves to meet with God. (Ex. 19:10-11). The old testament priests were to prepare themselves before they could come before the Lord. (Ex. 30: 17-21). Jesus taught the need of proper preparation before worship in Matt. 5:23-24. We may go through an exercise characteristic of one who is worshipping; but unless our heart is prepared we have not worshipped. "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our heart sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water". Heb. 10:22.

How do we prepare ourself for worship? We might begin by going to bed at a reasonable time on Saturday night! For many people the worship service is ruined before they ever leave home on Sunday morning. The hectic scene in the home of the average church member I offer as proof. After getting up late and the mad rush that follows, it is difficult for the flustered wife, the bewildered children and an irate husband to become tranquil worshippers upon reaching the church building.

The boisterous - often rowdy - atmosphere so prevalent prior to the time for services to begin does not promote the spirit of worship. Jokes, gossip, and visiting all tend to distract and divert our mind from the purpose for which we assemble. It should be unnecessary for the song leader to have to announce the number of the first song two or three times, then start singing to the "chatter" of those who refuse to be quiet until they have finished their tale. It would improve our worship if we would try to arrive on time and use the few moments before services start in quiet thought and meditation. If you have a little time before the services start, why not read your Bible lesson, read a selection from the Psalms, or if the hymn numbers are posted, get a song book and study the words of the songs to be used.

A few words need also to be said concerning the spirit that should prevail during a worship service. Remember that Jesus has said, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them." (Mt. 18:20). The spirit of reverence should prevail at all times. We must "serve God acceptably with reverence and Godly fear". (Heb. 12:28) The purpose of our worship is not to entertain; but to glorify God. (1 Cor. 10:31). Our worship should be offered heartily, as unto God and not as unto men. (Col. 3:23; Eph. 6:6). There are often distractions that may annoy us; but if we are intent in our worship many of these small "distractions" may pass unnoticed. Let us worship God with the truth and spirit both.

## Safe thru the Storm

When storm clouds gather around us,  
And the day seems so dark and drear;  
Sometimes our faith may falter,  
And we may ask "Can God be here?"

Then we hear the thunder's rumble,  
And see blinding lightning flash;  
Till it seems our world about us  
Is surely bound to crash.

But we cling to the final anchor,  
And to each tiny thread of hope,  
As through life's stormy billows  
We pitifully do grope.

And when at last the surge has ended

And the dark sky has burned to blue,

We know we were not forsaken,  
For God saw us safely through.  
Many souls will pass along this way

Where storms bring stress and strife

And many will fall and stumble  
Through the stormy sea of life.  
We are not promised an easy passage,

But we do have the perfect Guide  
Who has promised a perfect landing

Safe on the other side.

—By Doris Hearn

## And it Came to Pass

A man was asked to tell his favorite Bible verse. Here is what he quoted: "and it came to pass." This surprised everybody because it is not a quoted verse, in fact not even a verse. Yet he insisted that "and it came to pass" was the most meaningful to him. In every trouble he explained, he thinks of this Biblical line. The problem, the difficulty, did not come to stay; it came to pass. It came to leave its imprint upon his personality and his character. It came to teach its particular lesson, but it was not itself, a finality. It did not come to stay! It came to pass!!

## "Restoration" - What It Means

From Rock Island bulletin

When one has obeyed the gospel and began living a Christian life, but fell along the way back into sinfulness to such an extent that his or her public example has brought reproach to the cause of Christ it is entirely proper that they publicly confess their waywardness, and their resolve to live for the Lord henceforth.

But, we must state that there is no particular merit in a "confession of wrong" in and of itself. There is no magic in coming to the front of the auditorium and saying we have set a bad example and that we're sorry. We must change our attendance habits, our devotional habits and live for the Lord before we're bettered.

There are those known to most congregations who come very rarely and about half of the time they come they are "restored". I don't know what from, or what to, but they "confess their sins". Most sins could best be confessed in private praying places.

There are many who need to be reinstated in fellowship of local saints and with God. Let's each pray for others who need to do this that they will. We might offer those a word of direction who are trying to get enough strength to be restored: Read the Bible regularly and pray. Ask God for the help you need.

## Good Reasons for Being Baptized

Paul said that there is "one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Eph. 4:4). He further said that this baptism is a burial: "That like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4).

1. Our sins are remitted in baptism. (Acts 2:38).

2. Receiving the Holy Spirit de-

pends on baptism. (Acts 2:38).

3. We flee the coming wrath of God when we come to be baptized. (Mt. 3:7).

4. We fulfill righteousness in being baptized. (Mt. 3:15).

5. We wash away our sins in baptism. (Acts 22:16).

6. We become children of God when we are baptized. (Gal. 3:26-27).

7. We please God in being baptized. (Mt. 3:17).

8. We die to sin with Christ when we are baptized. (Rom. 6:3).

9. By baptism one enters the church. (1 Cor. 12:13).

10. Baptism is a definite, inspired command. (Acts 10:48).

If a person is saved without baptism, he would be saved without all those things which we have here mentioned. And with these facts before us, we can clearly see why Jesus said: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (Jn. 3:5). - Selected via

Savannah, Tenn. Bulletin

## It depends on Your Outlook

A favorite story of many concerns a man and a wife who were riding in a wagon through the swamp country of Arkansas. On his side of the wagon was the swamp with the green scum on the water along the edges and some odor of stagnation. On her side there was a hill on which there were some beautiful pines. As they rode along he turned the corners of his mouth down, saw the swamp and smelled its odor. "Isn't it awful?" was his attitude. She, on the other hand, looked up to the hills, saw the pine trees and smelled their sweet fragrance. Her attitude was, "Isn't it wonderful?" Riding on the same wagon seat, along the same road, but worlds apart. Much depends on which way we are looking!

"A teacher teaches a **LITTLE** by what he says, **MORE** by what he does, and **MOST** by what he is."