

*Harold Turner  
of Church of Christ Cabool Mo*

# Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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## Things to Think About

"And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, how long halt ye between two opinions? Halting is indecision. INDECISION is INACTION, INACTION is FAILURE. Men of success and leadership are men of decision and action. VACILLATION, HESITATION AND PROCRASTINATION are basic principles of DISOBEDIENCE and FAILURE. We should serve GOD or MAMMON. We can't serve both. Let Us awake from our present state of lethargy and become full grown men of decision and action in the service of the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Only men of decision and action move forward.

"Preach the gospel". (Mark 16: 15) Preach the Word. (2 Tim. 4: 2) "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God." (1 Pet. 4:11). These are commands that all preachers should obey, and must obey if we please the Lord. It occurs to this scribe that too many of our preachers are trying to convert the world by preaching about the denominations. On the day of Pentecost the apostles preached Christ and him crucified and about three thousand souls were saved. In the city of Samaria Philip preached Christ and many of the Samaritans both men and women were converted. In Corinth Paul preached Christ and him crucified and many of the Corinthians heard, believed and were baptized. Thus, it may be easily seen that Peter, Philip and Paul converted thousands without talking about the Pharisees, Sadducees, Stoicks and Epicureans why can't we convert people today without talking about the denominations? "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." (Psa. 19:7). May we use it more and more.

Hobby-riders and hobbies are always with us. They are destructive in nature. They are negative; never constructive. We read about a group of Hobby-riders in the fifteenth chapter of Acts. They didn't preach what the apostles commanded. They promoted a program of SUBVERSION. This is the program of all hobby-riders. My advice: young men stay off all hobbies. They will ruin you. Preach the gospel; that is enough to please the Lord and convert the lost. Sufficient for the day is enough trouble; leave off the superfluous.

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP is an art as well as a duty. The art is to hold the congregation together rather than to drive members away and scatter the group. Every man that aspires to leadership should be careful about what he says or does. There are piercing EYES watching your every act; itching EARS listening to your every WORD; UNBRIDLED TONGUES always ready to publicise your mistakes, blunders and boneheads to the world and among the members. These are things that hurt and hinder the development of the church. Brethren be careful.

Freeny Saunders  
Chaffee, Missouri

## "Christianity in the Home"

More and more parents are observing their children, growing into adults, finding their place in church. For some parents this is a very disappointing thing, and they are deeply concerned about it. Others shrug it off with "I did the best I could" or "You can't tell what the children will turn out to be when they grow up". There must, no doubt, be some reason why more and more young adults depart from the Lord's way. God's

word tells us "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it" Prov. 22:6. In each generation, fewer and fewer families see the importance of, or can find the time for family devotions. God's word is rapidly losing it's place in the home. To Israel God said, "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" Deut. 6: 6, 7. To many professed Christians this saying seems to be very ancient, and out of date. True, times have changed, we live at a faster moving pace, but this doesn't change the importance of daily bible teaching to our children.

The devil exerts every effort possible to keep families from having a daily period of family devotions. Most every christian family will agree that there is a need for devotions, yet they also agree that it is more difficult to find the time for this, than any other thing. Most families can find time for various types of recreational activities together, they have time to watch their favorite television programs together, yet it is difficult to find the time for daily devotionals together. Every family should enjoy recreational activities together, yet far more important, that they learn to enjoy a period of drawing near to God in prayer and the study of God's word together. As parents, we play a vital part in the forming of our children's lives. If we will center our family life around Christ and his word, bringing up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, their chances for departing from the Lord's way will be much smaller.

Harold Turner  
Cabool, Mo.

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SUPPORTED BY:

CHURCHES OF CHRIST  
IN THIS AREA

EDITORS:

CLOVIS RAGSDALE  
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## The Baptism of Christ and Our Baptism

Richard England  
Mammoth Spring, Arkansas

"When Christ was without sin, why does the church of Christ think he should have been baptized?"

Answer: All who accept the Bible as truth, as I verily do, know that Jesus was without sin. In the presence of his accusers he could boldly ask "which of you convicteth me of sin", (Jo. 8:46) This was done in the same breath of pointing out their sin, which will arouse any man to pick at the faults of another. Had they had any information as to the least little thing, they certainly would have mentioned it. Another text showing the sinlessness of Jesus is Hebrews 4:15: "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

The church of Christ is not the final authority in matters of religion. It actually wouldn't make any difference what the church of Christ taught or thought as far as proving the truthfulness of a mat-

ter is concerned. The final authority in matters religious is the Bible, the Word of God. Many times brethren in the church differ greatly. In such cases, how would one know which part of the church is right? The church of Christ, that is, the body of baptized believers, does indeed read the Bible to gain what understanding possible. Then they teach that which they believe to be the truth according to the things found in the Bible. God's Word, the Bible, is right in all things if no man on the face of the earth ever knows what it says or agrees with it. "Let GOD be true and every man a liar."

But, most likely, this question arises because of what members of the church of Christ understand the Bible to teach as to why WE ought to be baptized. And as we proceed with our remarks, keep this in mind: we do not do things simply because Christ did them. He rode on a young ass; but that doesn't mean that we have to. One of His prayers he repeated three times; but that doesn't mean we have to say every prayer three times. Don't forget this as we go on with the question at hand.

Why was Jesus baptized? "Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John to be baptized of him. But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him". Notice: Jesus was not baptized in order to be forgiven of sins - he had none. He was not baptized because his sins had already been forgiven - he never did have any sins. He was not baptized as "an outward sign of an inward grace." He was baptized to "fulfill all righteousness". This word "righteousness" means "right-ness, justice". It is used in at least two ways in the Bible. One is when it refers to fulfilling our obligations to our fellow man. This is what it means when it is used in connection with "godliness" which means ones obligations to God. Such is the case in 1 Timothy 6:11. Two, it sometimes refers to the fullness of ones responsibilities to God, Man,

and self, all that is included in doing right. In that what God has given as instructions for us in this life is the way to determine what is right and wrong, David says in Psalms 119:172: "All thy commandments are righteousness." Using both meanings, we find that Jesus was baptized because God wanted him to be and also to submit to that very thing he was to command of all men.

Does his being baptized give us authority and obligation to be baptized? We have already pointed out that it doesn't. Why then are we to be baptized? Because he commanded it, not simply because he did it. Why did he command us to be baptized? The only way we can know the answer to this is to let the Bible tell us. Does the Bible say we are to be baptized because Christ was? No. Does it say we are to be baptized to fulfill all righteousness? No. Does it say we are to be baptized because our sins have been forgiven? No. Does it say baptism is an outward sign of an inward grace? No. But, it does say: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38) "He that believeth and is baptized SHALL BE SAVED". (Mark 16:16;) "Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized INTO Jesus Christ were baptized INTO his death." (Rom. 6:3)

The fact of Jesus' sinlessness and that he was baptized does not change one word of the command for us to be baptized nor does it change the reason. Jesus didn't do anything, not even have confidence in the Father, in order to be forgiven of sin. He didn't have any sin. That does not mean that we do not have to do anything at all for the forgiveness of sin. We must do whatever he says.

By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life.

It is impossible to get rid of our own faults by calling attention to the faults of others.

## The Meeting of Faith and Grace

Orbie Robbins  
Elizabeth, Arkansas

Modern "pulpiters" have almost made a career out of the various texts dealing with God's Grace. So radical have they become that there has been fostered a feeling that there is nothing for man to do, and nothing he can do, to affect his salvation. If this be true, then God has the sole responsibility for man's salvation, and if man is not saved, he can point an accusing finger at God. Too, if one man is saved and another is lost, then God has indeed become a respecter of persons, and Acts 10:34 is utterly false, and God has become capricious and fanciful in dealing out salvation.

Yet, none can deny that God's grace is extended to man, and man can receive it. "For the Grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and Godly in this present world." (Titus 2:11, 12) It is just as important for us to realize that there is something that Grace does as it is to understand that Grace is given. We are told that Grace teaches. Also we are told that Grace teaches us to do something! The fact that we are to do something does not nullify Grace. Rather, this is the means whereby Grace is appropriated! In Ephesians 2:8, 9 Paul wrote: "For by Grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; not of works lest any man should boast." Here he explains that Grace, apart from the works of the law of Moses, saves through faith. But to be an availing faith, it must work through love. This is the obedience of faith which obtains Grace.

Even in the field of nature, grace is associated with the obedience of faith. God's grace is shown in seed time and harvest. He sends rain and sunshine, and has placed the germ of life in the seed. Na-

ture teaches us these things. But when praying for our daily bread, we cannot ignore the laws of nature. We, in faith, must plant, cultivate, and harvest the wheat in order to appropriate God's grace. Grace provides, faith accepts, and the obedience of faith appropriates that which grace has offered.

That we may see this same rule holds true in spiritual matters, we turn for examples to the word of Noah. God's grace was extended to him in that God warned of an impending danger of the deluge. Grace also taught him a way of escape. Faith is conviction developed by reliable testimony, and Noah had faith in that which God said. Noah's faith caused him to obey the Word of God and thus he was saved. (Genesis 6:22) Grace provided the blessing, faith accepted, and obedience of faith obtained it. (Hebrews 11:7)

Another good example of the working of this principle is the cleansing of Naaman. God's grace was shown in the promise of cleansing. The instruction of grace was presented in the command from Elisha that he dip seven times in the river Jordan. At first this grace was not accepted in faith by Naaman, for he rebelled against God's instructions. But when faith was generated and prompted obedience, the reward was received and he was healed.

When Jesus made the clay spitly, and told the blind man to go wash in the pool of siloam, God's grace was offered. The fact that he went and washed demonstrated his faith in the instruction grace had provided. The results of his obedience is stated very simply: "He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing." (John 9:7)

The same rule of faith and action is carried over into the gospel proclamation. Those Jews on Pentecost heard the promise of salvation which God's grace extended to them. But they had to have faith in order to obtain the blessing. (Acts 2:36) They then asked what they were to do. Peter was still delivering God's plan of grace in commanding: "Repent ye and be baptized every one of you in

the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38) Notice how this grace was received by some: "Then they that gladly received the word were baptized." (Acts 2:42)

The same rule is seen in every case of conversion in the New Testament. Grace extends the Gospel, faith accepts the message, and obedience obtains the reward. Never has God's grace blessed any man until faith had accepted the message, and was made perfect in obedience. We plead with you to accept God's message of grace, and obey from the heart the doctrine grace delivers, and be saved.

## Meeting Schedule

Meeting announcements:

AGNOS church of Christ will have a meeting June 20-29 with Dwayne Warden of Hardy doing the preaching.

STRUKIE, Arkansas church of Christ will have a meeting May 24 - June 2 with Burl Curtis preaching and Abe Hammons leading the singing. Services will be at 8:00 p.m.

RING church of Christ, Route 2, Ravenden, will have a meeting June 10 - 19 with Orbie Robbins doing the preaching. This is a correction of last month's statement that this would be at Ravenden. Our Thanks to brother Vankwinkle for making the matter known to us.

GAMALJEL, Arkansas will have a meeting June 5- 15 with Brother Burl Curtis preaching.

MORRISTON, Arkansas will have a meeting June 26 - July 5 with brother Frank Gould of Paducah, Ky. preaching.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be conducted at Morriston June 27 to July 1.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be conducted in Mammoth Spring June 6 - 10 beginning at 9:00 a.m. each day. All are invited.

ANNUAL HOMECOMING will be at Morriston on June 25th.

## "Lord I Believe"

Wesley Hylton

The man who said "Lord I believe," also said, "Help thou mine unbelief." This man had a son that was afflicted with, as he put it, "a dumb spirit." He requested the Lord's help. Jesus told him, "All things are possible to him that believeth." He then said, "Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief." Mk. 9:24.

There seems to be a time in the life of everyone, even the most faithful, when doubts arise. These doubts affect our faith. John sent two messengers to Jesus. He wanted to know "Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?" Even though John had been an inspired messenger himself, he needed reassurance about the Lord.

When life doesn't go according to our preconceived notion, faith sometimes suffers a setback. As long as things go well, our faith is accepted as a matter of course. It is when trials come that our faith is tested. Many fall away. When tribulations are sore upon us we need a faith that can not be shaken. Well do we need to consider our belief in Christ, and ask His help when doubts may arise.

"O ye of little faith," is an expression the Lord sometimes used. This was a rebuke to those who failed to put complete faith and trust in God's way. We still have them with us today. Some believe in the Lord, but fail to trust Him in everything. They'll trust Him up to a certain point, but then the situation, at least to them, seems to call for human intervention to solve the problem.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if all Christians actually believed what Jesus told this man? "All things are possible to him that believeth." If all of our brethren actually believed this it would do away with the negative approach they've adopted toward the Lord's work. "We can't do that." "There just isn't enough of us." "We'll have to wait." "Maybe next year." A positive approach would

do away with this negative attitude. If the Lord is with us, who can stand against us?

Jesus can help us solve every problem, regardless of its nature. All things are possible! This shouldn't lead us into the realm of fanaticism. While all things are possible, and the Lord will provide, it doesn't mean that we can sit back and expect things to happen by themselves. The Lord provides the means, time, and opportunity, and He expects us to use them effectively. Jesus worked the works of His Father, and so must we. By always being zealous for The Work, we can accomplish the Lord's will.

Do you sometimes doubt whether Jesus can do all He claims? Are you sometimes afraid? If so don't be downhearted, you have lots of company. But of most importance, do not allow these feelings to lead you astray. They indicate a failure, not on God's part, on your part, in not laying hold on the blessings of all our faith and trust in our Saviour. Remember all things are possible; but also notice the condition, "to him that believeth." Belief here is not just mental assent. It involves obedience in all that the Lord commands.

## Contributions

### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR APRIL: CHURCHES OF CHRIST:

Elizabeth .....	\$ 5.00
English Bluff .....	5.00
Agnos .....	5.00
Salem .....	5.00
Hatfield .....	5.00
Wheeling .....	5.00
Big Pond .....	10.00
Felix Davis .....	1.00
E. E. Shepherd .....	1.00
Edith Kirksey .....	2.00
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R. R. Hicks .....	2.00
A Friend .....	3.00
Mrs. Herbert Rhoades .....	3.00
Joe Price .....	1.00
Mrs. O. L. Armstrong .....	1.00

Train up your child to give penies, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

## What Must I Do to Become a Christian

HEAR— "If any man have an ear, let him hear." Rev. 13:9 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Rom. 10:17.

BELIEVE — Except ye believe that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." John 8:24 "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb. 11:6

REPENT — "I tell you, nay; but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Lk. 13:3 "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent." Acts 17:30

CONFESS — "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 10:32 "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." Rom. 10:9

BE BAPTIZED — "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Mk. 16:16 "Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38

"THEN THEY THAT GLADLY RECEIVED HIS WORD WERE BAPTIZED: AND THE SAME DAY THERE WERE ADDED UNTO THEM ABOUT THREE THOUSAND SOULS." Acts 2:41.

He who has a closed mind should mind have the same sort of mouth.

A man who wants to lead the "orchestra" must turn his back upon the crowd.

The Lord takes notice, not only of what we give, but of what we have left.