

# Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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## And Not Be in the Church?

- RICHARD ENGLAND

Many religious people in our time have the idea that the church is really not important to salvation. It is taught by millions of people that one can go to heaven and not be in the church. This is certainly not in harmony with the teaching of the Bible. To say that one can go to heaven and not be in the church is to say:

1. that one can go to heaven and not be saved! "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body." (Eph. 5:23) Jesus did not promise to be the savior of the body, the church, and also of certain others who felt they did not want to be a part of the church.

2. that one can go to heaven without the blood of Christ. "Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." (Eph. 5:25) When Christ died on the cross, it was for the church. He shed His precious blood to purchase the church. "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." (Acts 20:28) To get the benefit of that which was spent we must be a part of that which it purchased.

3. that one can be saved outside of Christ, hence, without Christ. "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of

you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:10-12)

4. that all that's said in the Bible is unnecessary. But, God does not give needless revelation. Everything He has said is of importance and will certainly accomplish its purpose. We may not see the reasoning in all that God has said and done, but that is not because there is fault in Him, it is because we are so far beneath His glorious power and wisdom. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: so shall by word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." (Isa. 55:8-11)

Why is it that so many people must go on ignoring the very plain teaching of the Bible and refuse to be a part of the Lord's church? It is not that the church saves men, but that CHRIST SAVES THE CHURCH. It is quite similar to

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### A DIFFERENT TWIST:

Have you heard about one of our friends who hurried to his teen-age son's hospital bedside? The lad had a broken leg and was covered with cuts and bruises. "What happened, son?" the father asked. "Did you have an accident coming from your girl's house?" "No," the boy groaned.

"Well, how did it happen?" the father asked.

"We were doing the twist," the boy explained. "when her dad came in. He's deaf and couldn't hear the music, so he threw me through the picture window." - Copied.

that which Paul told the sailors concerning their life and the ship: "Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved." (Acts 27:31) Not that the ship was so good, but that God had promised Paul that He would save all that were in the ship. God has promised us that He will save the church. Are you in it?

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Rosa Ragsdale  
Mammoth Spring, Arkansas 72554

## Fulton County Gospel News

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**EDITORS:  
CLOVIS RAGSDALE  
RICHARD ENGLAND**

## A Fireman Goes where the Fires Are

If Christians are determined to wage a courageous battle against Satan and his forces, it will be necessary for the two armies to meet face to face and for the power of the gospel to be used against every temptation of sin. There is neither honor nor victory in dodging moral issues which threaten the purity and righteousness of God's church.

A cadet from West Point impressed me with a thought along this vein just prior to his graduation from the Academy. He said each cadet was allowed to list several locations throughout the world where he would like to spend his four year tour of duty. My friend had requested Southeast Asia. He explained that his ambition was to become a general in the United States Army as soon as possible. As a commissioned officer he wanted to prove himself to be a capable leader and in his words, "A fireman goes where the fires are."

This is the attitude which can conquer enemies of our country, but more important, this is the same attitude which can conquer

ignorance of God's word, indifference among church members, and many other wiles of the Devil.

A problem of this nature is magnified in the church because its members fail to call their foe by its real name. Sin is no longer thought of as being sin, but rather is called by a different name and treated as an unwelcomed guest (wishing he weren't here, but always wanting to be polite about the matter). This is not the way the apostles dealt with sin. Peter's message on the day of Pentecost cut the hearts of the Jews who listened to him (Acts 2:37). And yet did he frighten or offend these people so as to keep them from accepting the gospel? On the contrary, the result of that type of preaching brought forth a response to the gospel invitation which has been unequalled by the church of our Lord in the twentieth century.

It may appear harsh to some, but the Bible speaks too plainly on certain matters for us not to be reminded of sin which is present in our own congregation. When one-fourth of the membership consistently misses the Sunday morning worship services and more than half of the membership is absent on Sunday evening, sin is among our own number for many are wilfully forsaking the assembly and rebelling to the rule which the elders have over our spiritual welfare. When immodest dress either in our social activities or at the worship services is conveniently called "style" rather than sin, the Scriptures need to be consulted again for a more perfect guide in Christian living. When Christians use their own tongue as an instrument for evil by backbiting, gossip, deceitfulness and lying, someone needs to recognize that Satan has infiltrated our own ranks. The fire we have intended to fight has spread into our own camp.

These thoughts are written that we all might take fresh courage. Sin must be exposed as sin. The fire must overcome before it spreads into eternity.

Footprints in the sands of time are not made by sitting down.

## 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

Some grumble because they don't get what's coming to them, others because they do.

A man should work eight hours and sleep eight hours, but not the same eight hours.

## STRAINING FORWARD TO WHAT LIES AHEAD

This expresses Paul's attitude toward the future as recorded in Philippians 3:13. On our campus at Pepperdine College, our track team practices just west of our home. We can see the boys, day after day, "straining forward to what lies ahead." They dream of the coming olympics. It was from these Greek games of generations ago that Paul took his description of his attitude toward the future.

As the runner comes closer to the end of the race, he strains forward more than ever. This should be true of each Christian as he grows older.

I would like to apply this to a church facing the future. Churches tend to grow old and to lose their original enthusiasm for Christ. Most young churches begin with great hopes for the future. Usually they spend a great deal of time talking about what they hope to do for the Lord. Often with the help of a professional architect, they plan the physical facilities. As time passes, there is a tendency for the church to become self-satisfied, to look back with pride on its achievements and to ignore the future.

How is it with the church where you work and worship. Are all of you eagerly anticipating the future? Are you planning for what lies ahead? Do you spend more time thinking of ways to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow than you do in reminiscing? Perhaps the church would be helped by taking a day to prayerfully plan for the coming year or ten years.

GOSPEL LIGHT.

## TRUTH . .

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. From this simply statement of Jesus, we must conclude that it is possible to know the truth. KNOWING THE TRUTH, therefore, will eliminate and exclude a conservative or liberal view of the truth. Likewise, it will

## The Church and the Home

By, CARL BRECHEEN  
Abilene, Texas

There is no greater influence in our lives than that exerted by our mothers and fathers, and all that can be said about important influences is intensified in the home. Yet there is an unprecedented pull away from these home influences in our modern world. Father is increasingly involved in business and civic affairs. Mother is away by PTA, worthy civic projects and club commitments. Teen-agers are involved in athletics, dramatics, and necessary school functions. And children are caught up in "story hours," "play time," "little League," day-camp and a thousand-and-one other involvements invented especially for them.

Home has become a "filling station" - a place where families meet to sleep under the same roof

do away with a Democrat or Republican view of the truth. Truth is void of slants and slides. The truth is the same in the North as in the South. The truth is not PRIVATE knowledge. All connotations to the truth are added by men, not the Lord. God is neither Democrat nor Republican! Neither liberal nor conservative. In man's probe for the truth, how prone he is to investigate the truth in the light of these environmental words! His general attitude erected by geographical and social planks will too many times determine his construction of a passage of Scripture.

James echos the teaching of Jesus by saying, "But the wisdom that is from above is first PURE, (Emp., mine, B.G.) then peaceable . . ." James 3:17. The word pure means unmixed, without admixture. Therefore, before one can arrive at the truth, he must be free of prejudicial, traditional, and emotional overtures of his own thinking!

Give diligence to know the

and occasionally to eat a meal together. But under such arrangements, it is utterly impossible for the home to exert the tremendous influence which is potentially hers.

Christian parents have no greater opportunity for good (for "church work" if you please) than the opportunity to develop their own children. Daniel Webster said, "If we work upon marble, it will perish; if we work upon brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal souls, if we imbue them with principles; with the just fear of the Creator and love of fellow men, we engrave on those tablets something which will brighten all eternity."

The greatest need in our modern world is for every person to learn to live an ordered life in which first things are really first. May God help us to recognize the importance of our homes and to bring up our children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

truth because it is truth that makes men free. John 8:32.

- BILL GRADDY  
North Little Rock, Ark.

## DEAR BRETHREN:

I have moved from Fisher, Arkansas, to Eldon, Missouri; I am now working with the Church in Eldon, the congregation here is small in number. Eldon is a town of about 4000 in population with less than sixty members of the Church; I solicit your prayers in the work of the Lord here, that I may preach the gospel in it's fullness, and that many Souls will be led to the Lord.

I want to say thanks for the papers you have sent me, I have enjoyed them very much, and would like to continue to receive them at this address.

I would like to hear from you, any time you have time. Until then, I am,

Yours in the Faith,  
Joe L. Camp,  
Box 345, Eldon, Mo. 65026

## The Natives Are Restless

From the four winds of the earth, the whirlwind is bringing strange things across the plains of the brotherhood. In almost every camp of the saints, "THE NATIVES ARE RESTLESS" because of these divers sounds. The gale is whistling a new tune. It is blowing in an odor that is not sweet. The sails are bearing the language of Ashdod. The wind that bears these sails must change. Perhaps a "GREAT NORTHERNER" would help! The mouths which blow this hot air must be met and stopped. Titus 1:9. Mouth to mouth resuscitation may be needed. This air which is full of particles of false doctrine must be purified by the Word of God. The modern "weather men" must learn to discern the sky lest they become hypocrites. Matt. 16:2-3.

We need to use every medium of communications at our command to stop this polluted air. (How is the congregation where you meet ridding itself of this "fall-out"?) New religious journals are being started that will blow both ways.

Brethren, we are in the large sea and we must "abide in the ship" that is "born along" by the Holy Spirit. The New Testament must be our guide. Let us preach it, practice it, and penetrate these paper made sail boats by using the printed page to its fullest extent. God chose this way to give us His Book, why cannot we do likewise? Let's keep the ship from rocking and calm the "NATIVES" that His work may continue full steam ahead.

BILL GRADY

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Encouragement is like premium gasoline, it helps to take the knock out of life.

### NO HARM IN IT ?

- ELDRED STEVENS

Some years ago, while laboring with the St. Elmo church in Chattanooga, Tennessee, on several Sunday afternoons I preached to the girls in the Florence Crittendon Home. As I stood before the girls, I knew they represented many fallen men. I knew they represented that many homes into which sorrow, shame, and heartache had come. All of them were to become unwed mothers. Most of them were in their teens. Their faces were young and sweet and tended, but deeply troubled. Many of them had run away from distant homes and parents, and for all practical purposes, they were utterly alone in the most trying hour that can ever come to a woman's soul.

After doing my best to encourage, help, and strengthen them with the words of Christ, who hates sin but whose heart is ever touched by the plight of those who fall into sin, I asked the matron, a sweet motherly woman, "Do you ever question the girls as to what caused their downfall?" She replied, "Yes, we question them because we want to help them; and you may be surprised, but most of them say they started toward their ruin when they learned to dance." "No," replied, "I am not surprised. Everybody acquainted with the modern dance ought to be able to see that its tendency is toward the immoral and indecent."

The above quotation reveals an experience that many preachers have encountered. It doesn't take much of that to convince a preacher that he should cry out against the danger and sinfulness of dancing. The sad thing is that many will hear such, but feel, "Well, it might happen to others, but it could never happen to me or my child." It's just like death—it always happens to somebody else—it can't happen to me!

The only thing wrong with the world is the people.

## The God of Pleasure - -

An NBC-TV documentary, narrated by Sander Vanoccur on May 8, portrayed our society's "Pursuit of Pleasure." After ranging from hedonism through nudity and LSDism, the closing question was left unanswered. Indeed, this was the disturbing premise of the production. "How much individual permissiveness can be permitted without losing that element of cohesion necessary to maintain an ordered society?" Though poised to such imposing spokesmen as the editors of "Playboy" and "National Observer" magazines, and the dean of the Harvard Divinity School,

Interesting it was, however that the attitudes and actions presented which were an obvious rejection of Biblical morality, instead reinforced the validity of Christ's standard. Twenty centuries ago inspired men wrote that men would be "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." (2 Tim. 3:4) LSD high priest, Timothy Leary's observation that society, weary of liquor and sex, had turned to hallucinatory drugs for a "new kick," but would in time restlessly move on to something else, also confirmed inspired teaching. Paul wrote that along with fornicators and haters of God would be those "inventors of evil things . . .", those seeking to fulfill the restless urge of spiritual beings starving on a diet of materialism and sin (Rom. 1:29-32.)

If these Biblical observations could be made with such relevant accuracy though written 2,000 years ago, is this Book of no consequence? Is the author of these accurate predictions only a man? Indeed sin's pleasures cannot satisfy the soul, but endure only for a season. Today, as always, man needs to live . . . by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (Matt. 4:4) Unchanging standards of truth are ever relevant to unchanging man. - Ted Kell, Nashville.