

# Fulton County Gospel News

Horlon McGuire  
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"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK.

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## How to Become A Member . .

By Carl Spain

It is not uncommon for some person to ask at the conclusion of a service this question: "What must I do to become a member of the church?" He is perplexed when he is told that the church has not laid down her own peculiar terms of admission, authorized by some ecclesiastical council and stated formally in an official creed for the church. He is equally amazed when we urge him to do what Jesus commanded men to do in order to be saved, resting confidently upon His promise to save him and add him to the church.

### ADDED TO THE CHURCH

All who confess Christ before men will unfeigned faith are as-

(Continued on page 3)

## Meeting Schedule

Sturkie, Ark.:  
May 24 - June 2; Gene Bench  
Camp  
June 7-11; Arthur C. Blackwell  
Valley Star:  
June 7-13; Gene Bench  
Viola:  
Aug. 9-15; Don Fike  
Moody, Mo.:  
Aug. 2-11; Gene Bench  
Welcome Hill:  
May 31-June 6; Arthur C.  
Blackwell  
Brakebill, Ark.:  
July 26-31; Gene Bench  
Winona, Mo.:  
June 7-14; Lester V. Stowe  
Elizabeth, Ark.:  
June 7-13; Ray Latham  
Clarkridge, Ark.:  
May 31-June 9; Robert Mc-  
Dougald  
Mountain Home, Ark.:  
Aug. 8-15; Walter C. Billings-  
ley  
English Bluff:  
July 4-11; Dwight Holland

### LET 'ER WALK

V. E. Howard tells of a Negro minister addressing a congregation for the first time. He said, "Now brethren and sistern, I'm going to make this church run..." An old brother sitting in the amen corner said, "Praise the Lord!" The minister continued, "Brethren, I'm going to make this church fly!" Again the old brother said "Praise the Lord, Amen." Finally the minister reached his point: "Brethren, it's going to take money, lots of money, to make this church fly" About that time the old brother raised up and said: "Let's let 'er walk, brother, let's let 'er walk!"  
Sel...

"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works . ." - Jesus, in Matt. 5:16.

## News and Notes

Brother Wesley Hylton will conduct a gospel meeting at Jeff, June 7 and will continue through June 16.

We lost the names or name of some who donated to the paper during the last couple of months. Sorry the error occurred. The paper did receive credit.

Brother O. L. Grisham, who formerly lived in this area, will conduct a meeting at Gamaliel, Ark. The time of the meeting will be June 1 through June 10.

The church in Mammoth Spring will have a Vacation Bible School May 31 to June 4. We are in hopes that many will attend this school. We plan to be finished with the work on the new classrooms, and use them in this series of studies.

Brother Bill Graddy plans to move this summer from West Plains. We are sorry to lose him from this area, in that he has been a great asset to the work. The work at 6th and Maple in North Little Rock, Arkansas will benefit much by his moving there. His plans are to move about the first of July.

Elsewhere in this months issue of the Fulton County Gospel News you will find a list of various meetings to be conducted in this area. If the church in your locality is not listed and your meeting will be after June 15, let us know about it.

"Brotherly love cannot be faked."

"Before you tell that 'a little bird told you', make sure the little bird was not a 'Cuckoo'".



# 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

## Walking by Faith

Grady Reaves

In II Corinthians 5:7, Paul speak in this manner, "For we walk by faith; not by sight". To walk by faith is to walk (live) by the word of God." Romans 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God". We cannot see God or Christ, yet we believe they exist. And that we have spiritual blessings then we walk by faith. To walk by dreams, or to desire mysterious physical feeling, or miraculous demonstrations would be to walk by something other than faith in the word of God. God does not reveal his will do us today in dreams. Mysterious feeling, or even by miracles. Those were in times past, but not to us. "God speaks to us through his Son by the revealed word. Hebrews 1: 1-2, God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the propmets. Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son..".

In the past, or to the early christians, before the word was written in the New Testament, God revealed in the Holy Spirit his will to be written for our good today.

Paul tells us in, 1 Corinthians 12: 8-10, "...Whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away". "For we know in part, and we prophesy in part". "But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away". Thus, the gifts of miracles were to be done away, when the perfect came. What was the perfect? Not the coming of Christ, for he had already come, died, raised from the dead, and gone to the Father. The perfect law spoken of here is the Gospel of Christ. Revealed to us by the New Testament.

Christ told the apostles whom he had chosen; not to depart from Jerusalem until the promise of the Father, come. Acts 1:2-4, the promise was the baptism of the Holy Ghost, Verse 5, The promise came on Pentecost, giving these men the word by a miracle. They spoke it, and they wrote it. The miraculous revelation passed away. The prophecies by direct revelation. Not the gospel revealed to us by the writers of the New Testament. It will live and abide forever. It is the law of the Lord, and it is perfect. Psalms 19:7, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul;...". James 1:25, "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein...".

This is the perfect law Paul was talking about that we are to walk in. It is all we need today. II Tim. 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction in righteousness; That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works". Since the Scriptures furnishes us unto all good works, we do not need miraculous gifts anymore. We have the perfect law, the gospel, in the scriptures.

When we hear, believe and obey the word of God, Then are we walking by faith. In both the Old and New Testament's we find many who did not walk by faith. They should be examples to us today. For instance, in 1 Chronicles

13:9, 10, "And when they came unto the threshingfloor of Chidon, Uzza put forth his hand to the Ark; for the oxen stumbled. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzza, and he smote him, because he put his hand to the Ark; and there he died before God". Uzza changed God's law thus he died, walking by sight and not by faith. When we fail to walk by God's law, we fail to walk by faith.

Leviticus 10:1, "and Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded not". What happened to them? Verse 2, "And there came forth fire from before Jehovah, and devoured them". They were devoured because they walked by sight, not by faith.

Matt. 17:4 "Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord it is good for us to be here; if thou wilt, let us make ehre three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses and one for Elias". what stopped Peter from his ambitious desire? He wanted to build three tabernacles (churches). Verse 5 stopped him. The voice out of the cloud spoke and said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear ye him." In order to walk by faith Peter had to obey the word, to obey the word he had to hear Christ. The same is true today we must hear Christ through the word, the scripture.

Christ built his church as he promised in Matt. 16:18, (Christ speaking) I will build my church. The Church is his body, Col. 1:18, "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence". Here we learn that the church and body are one and the same thing. There is but one body (Church) Eph. 4:4. The one body, (church) was purchased with his blood. Acts 20:28, Therefore the blood is in his body, the church, spiritually speaking.

Man does not have the authority to build a church, and never



**HOW TO BECOME  
A MEMBER - -**

(Continued from page 1)

sured that Christ will confess them before the Father in heaven. (Matt. 10:32) All who, in the obedience of faith, repent of their sins and are baptized for the remission of their sins are added by Christ to the church. (Acts 2: 37-47).

The law of admission into the church is no different in our New Testament than are the terms of

has had. We are to be in God's family, the church Christ built on Pentecost, the blood bought church-family, the church Christ built on Moses, or Elias, surely we cannot build another today, and walk by faith.

We must enter the family of God walking by faith. Heb. 11:6, "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". This is faith by God's Word. We must repent. Luke 24:47, "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." Again we have faith by his word. We must also confess faith in Christ. Phil. 2:11, "and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father". We do this by faith that comes by hearing the scriptures. Confessing our faith that he is the Son of God.

By faith we walk into the grave of baptism. Col. 2:12, "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead." When we walk thus by faith, we come in contact with the blood, that cleanses us from sins, of the past. The Lord will add us to the blood bought church. Acts, 2:47, This is not man's way. But it is the way of the Lord, revealed by the Holy Ghost, written by those to whom it was revealed. We have it in the New Testament, will you study and obey it, walking by faith?

pardon. They are identical. What one does to please Christ makes him a member of the church of Christ, which is His body. This may be simply illustrated by the case of the Corinthians. In Luke's history we read, "And many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized." (Acts 18:8) Later Paul addressed a letter to these same people as follows, "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints." (1 Cor. 1:2)

**JESUS SAVES US**

The sinner is not commanded to obey the laws of the church. The church cannot save. Jesus saves, and He adds those that are being saved to His church. The firm foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, "The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." (2 Tim. 2:19) The wisdom of the Lord has dictated that saved people be added to a fellowship of saved people. Through this fellowship of singing, praying, mutual confession of faults, instruction and meditation, giving and serving, loving one another, and gathering in the unity of the Spirit to observe the Lord's Supper — through this fellowship the saints retain and protect their integrity as a people sanctified for the Master's use. In this sense only can we speak of the church saving a man.

**THE VITAL QUESTION**

The vital question is: "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 2: 37; 22:10-16; 16:30-34.) Thus the Lord adds the saved to the church; it is His prerogative. (Acts 2:47). It is plain that one becomes a member of the church when he fulfills the requirements of salvation through primary obedience. It is a matter of pleasing Christ and doing His will, rather than pleasing the church and doing the will of the church. This is the essential difference between the New Testament and modern churchanity.

**THE CHURCH  
IS THE KINGDOM**

The question may take another

form scripturally: "What must I do to become a citizen of the kingdom?" The kingdom of Christ and the church of Christ are identical and co-extensive. Members of the church are citizens of the kingdom. In the Colossian letter Paul clearly indicates that members of the church constitute the kingdom: "To the saints and faithful in Christ which are at Colosse". (1:2) To these brethren he gives this admonition: "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son." (1:13)

This identity between the church and the kingdom is also seen in Eph. 12:0-23, where the position of Christ as the head of the church is described in terms of a king on the throne. (Read also Matt. 16:18, 19) The apostle John speaks of the church as the kingdom in Rev. 1: 4-6: "John to the seven churches which are in Asia." Verse 6 shows him rejoicing with them in the fact that Christ "hath made us to be a kingdom." (RV.)

**YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN**

These facts are pertinent in considering the problem of how to become a member of the church. Jesus was very emphatic in speaking to Nicodemus about the terms of admission into the kingdom. In John 3: 3-5, He urges: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

The experience of conversion to Christ is identical with the new birth described by Jesus to Nicodemus. Every case of conversion recorded in the book of conversions, Acts of the Apostles, is a spiritual regeneration conforming to the pattern of John 3:5. These converts were added by Christ to the church, which is equal to saying that each new-born child was inducted by Christ into His kingdom.

"An enemy who has merely fallen may rise again; but the reconciled one is truly vanquished."



## A Glimpse of Hell

By Wesley Hylton

Hell is a fearful reality to those who believe in God's Word. It will be a place of unending misery, suffering, and regrets. It will be the final destiny of those who "know not God, and obey not the gospel."

What will hell be like? It is doubtful that we can actually comprehend the scope of such an awful place. Since the human mind can only endure so much suffering, we prefer not to think of the horrible possibilities. Nevertheless, we may, if we don't flee to Christ, one day inhabit that God forsaken region. For that reason we must seriously consider how to avoid being in the group that is told to "depart."

No human today can tell us from actual experience what it will be like. However, the Bible paints a graphic picture, describing in vivid detail the condition of those unfortunate enough to be sent there.

The word "Hell" is translated from the Hebrew term Sheol. It refers to the mysterious place of the dead. In some cases it was translated grave, or pit. See 1 Sam. 2:6 Nu. 16:20. The Greek word "Hades" is also translated hell, being equivalent to the Hebrew Sheol. It is also translated "Goherna," a place of torment. This name comes from the valley of Hinnon' or "place of burning." It is in this sense that we think of hell.

In Mark 9:43, 48, Jesus refers to a "fire that shall never be quenched." In this same reference He also said, "their worm dieth not." With this in mind let's read Isa. 66:24, here God says, "And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh." Here God pictures the punishment of the wicked as a body that is eaten of worms, but not consumed; that is burned

with fire, but never burns up. How utterly awful! Doesn't it make you shudder? It should!

In Matt. 25:41, Jesus says, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire." He calls it "Everlasting punishment" in the 46th verse. The punishment of the wicked will last just as long as the blessings of the righteous, and that will be forever. In Matt. 13:42, Jesus refers to "a furnace of fire." He said, "There shall be mailing and gnashing of teeth."

Hell, then, is a place of eternal punishment, where the "Worm dieth not, and their fire is not quenched." It is a place of "Outer darkness," where there "There shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." It is also mentioned as "The lake of fire." Jesus tells of a man, in Lk. 16, who woke up in hell, in torment. What a terrible way to awake! This man became vitally interested in his loved ones after it was too late. We shouldn't make the same mistake. Now is the time to act.

Certainly, no one wants to go there! Knowing this to be true, we often wonder why so many act as they do. If they actually believed there was such a place it seems reasonable to suppose they would do everything possible to avoid such a fearsome possibility. If the people of this generation feared God a small fraction as much as they fear the hydrogen bomb you would be able to note a striking difference in attitude.

It is possible that we have failed in our preaching to picture hell in all of its terrible reality. People who fear something will avoid it. Many consider hell nothing more than a tame "cuss" word. Many of today's prominent religious educators in the denominational world have actually denied the existence of such a place, speaking of it being the results of archaic superstitious fantasies. Many think of the devil only as a tame "bogey man" to scare children with when they refuse to mind.

In speaking of the past, reference has been made to the "hell fire and damnation preaching" of that era. People were moved to

fear God by such preaching. Today we are told that you can't appeal to people through fear. It must be through love. There is no doubt that The Lord appeals to us through His love, but it most certainly wasn't love that motivated Paroah to let the children of Israel leave Egypt. Neither was the Lord trying to appeal to the people through love when He struck down Ananias and Sapphira, as recorded in Acts 5:1, 11. Verse 11 tells us, "And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things." Maybe we need some more "hell fire" today.

If the Bible is true, and only a fool would doubt it, then all of those who "know not God, and obey not the gospel" will inhabit that dreadful region. Therefore, it should make us bold to warn all about this fearful possibility, that none may go there.

The Lord doesn't want anyone to go there. He "is long suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 1 Pet. 3:9. The fact that Jesus died to provide a better way, and a wonderful resting place for all eternity, proves that He doesn't want anyone to go there. Nevertheless, He couldn't be true to His own wordners to escape this awful wrath. If He allowed unrepentant sin-

We purchase insurance to protect us against future losses. There is no better time than now to protect against eternally being lost in hell. It will be a long miserable time! My friend, heed the warning! Flee the wrath that is to come. Jesus is the only way of escape. Do His will!

"The cost of failure is greater than the price of success."

"If some people get to heaven the way they are headed they are going to have to do a lot of running backwards."

"Now that its 'shorts season' again, Christian women and girls have an opportunity to let the world know they are Christians by dressing as such and not as the people of the world."