

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

Mammoth Spring, Ark.

Aug. 15, 1954

Sec. 3465 P. L. & R.

U. S. Postage

1c Paid

Permit No. 1

YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN!

Boyd E. Morgan - Mammoth Spring

We, of the church of Christ believe sincerely that

you must be born again. The denominations believe that you must be born again. The difference between the doctrine we teach and the doctrine they teach is in HOW we are born again. Since the church of our Lord has no creed but Christ and no creed-book but the Bible, we continue to speak as the Bible speaks and to conform our practices to it. We are all agreed that we must be born again to be saved. "Except man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3. These are the words of our Saviour himself. But as stated we differ with the denominations as to how to be born again. Why?

Ask any denominational preacher how to be born again. They answer, "Why, just believe on the Lord. That's all," or "Get down on your knees and pray. Pray until you get it. When you get it you'll know it." We differ with these because theirs are not the answers given in the Bible. They are men's answers and not God's. They are the commandments of men taught for doctrine and are vain. Mt. 15:9.

The question was asked in the Bible and answered by our Lord. Nicodemus asked, "How can a man be born when he is old?" This is the question plainly put. Read John 3:4. The answer was given EXACTLY as the Lord wanted it. John 3:5. "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." This Jesus said is how to be born again when a man is old—of water and of the Spirit. It would be most unusual to hear a sectarian preacher tell a man to 'be born of Water—and of the Spirit.' Their general teaching is be born of the Spirit then after you have been saved by experiencing the new birth, then go and be baptized because you have already been born again. This is contrary to Christ. Since the Spirit teaches us through the word and faith comes as a result of hearing the word. John 6:63; Rom. 10:17, and the word teaches us to be baptized we draw near to God—"hav-

ing our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water." Heb. 10:22. Ananias understood the birth of water and of the spirit when he said to Saul, "Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Acts 22:16. He also knew Paul was not saved with his sins not washed away. He knew Paul also was not to arise and be baptized because his sins had already been washed away and because he was already born again.

The Bible just doesn't teach like denominational preachers. These preachers deceive men saying, "Why, salvation is not a thing you can do anything about. There is nothing you can do to be born again except seek and wait for God's pleasure." The Bible says, "Every one that doeth righteousness is born of him." I John 2:29. Seems to me preachers who preach there is nothing a man can do to be saved and that works has nothing to do with salvation would quake in their boots when they read I John 2:29. But when you begin insisting on what the Bible says, they will tell you that the Bible is a dead letter. Peter says we are born of incorruptible seed by the word of God which liveth and abideth forever. I Peter 1:22-25.

Jesus, who said, 'Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit', also said, 'He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.' Mark 16:16. The church of Christ is still a group of people whom the sectarian preachers cannot convince that Jesus didn't know what he was talking about. You are welcome among us.

from West Plains Gospel Courier
PLEASE READ

Why should a "Christian" deny that he should contribute weekly to the church whether he is present or not in the assembly worship? He may say: "I was sick and could not be present. Do I have to take the Lord's supper when I return, enough to make up for the time I was out?" No, that would be ridiculous. "Then why do I have to make up my contribution for the time I was absent?"

The difference is this; I have a certain income. A liberal portion of that belongs to the Lord.

If I am necessarily prevented from attending, I still have my income. My having to be absent from worship does not prevent me from owing a portion of my income to the Lord.

Illustrate it like this: A man buys some merchandise, agreeing to pay monthly installments on the first of each month. He makes his payments for several months. Then on the first of one month he is sick and cannot even write a check. Suppose he doesn't pay and when justifying himself to his creditors says he was sick on the first of the month and could not even write a check. Would that excuse him? Now if he should say: "I'll pay the regular installment next month, if I am not sick, or out of town, but I will not make up for the installment I missed." Would not all honest people accuse him of making a dishonest dodge? Could there be any one THAT ignorant of right? What must the Lord think of the Christian who uses this argument when he was absent or sick?

Another "Christian" argues he attended another congregation and contributed there, and isn't obligated to the home church. This is parallel to the man who leaves home a month, leaves his family on cash, provisions or credit, then returns and excuses himself saying he was visiting relatives; they were his people, he contributed to their support; but now he is back home and will resume supporting his family. The Christian who visits another congregation may, and should contribute there. But that should not detract one penny from his support of his home congregation which has his obligations whether he is there or not.

—Jack Myer

Brethern are about ready to put the roof on the new building at Franklin.

The Salem brethern have lost one of their faithful brethern in the death of Bro. Fred Cherry. Our loss is Heaven's gain.

Fulton County Gospel News
Mammoth Spring Ark.

Published Monthly
Free Subscription

Sponsored by:

Welcome Hill Church of Christ
Elders; Hubert Taylor
Lester Martin

Supported by Moten, Pilot, Wel-
come Hill and Union Hill
churches

Editors; Clovis Ragsdale
Boyd E. Morgan

EDITORIAL

Fulton County Gospel News continues to serve and to grow. We receive cards and letters from far and near requesting the paper. By keeping the paper's subscription free, this paper goes into many homes that otherwise it would not. Through this medium approximately 7200 lessons are presented each month, six to each reader. Lessons are such that they can be received, digested and read again when presented in this manner. This work is sponsored by the Welcome Hill church of Christ, a congregation of about 40 members, whose elders have vision and a desire to serve. Financial aid is given monthly by Moten, a congregation of sixteen; Pilot, a congregation of forty; and Union Hill, a congregation of about twenty and only two years old as a congregation. We have no financial difficulties. With an understanding of amounts contributed, we limit our work to the amount available. A circulation of 1200 with an estimated 2000 or more readers, assure the work worthwhile. Thus far we have not found it necessary to deny a single request for the paper. Our primary aim is to put the paper in every home in Fulton county, whether that home be Christian or non-Christian. Many subscription papers of the sort find their way into Christian homes as indeed they ought. Very few comparatively, find their way into non-Christian homes. This means the gospel preached in a free subscription paper reaches the people who need it most. We will continue to send the paper outside the county as long as possible.

It is ridiculous for a congregation because it is small to believe it cannot do things, even big things. Foolish for an individual to believe that because he is not a preacher, not a public leader, not a holder of a scholastic diploma that he cannot be of genuine service. Too often this is

just an excuse for not doing things anyway. Those people who are always saying what they would do if they were so and so are generally not doing very much. It has always been my desire to work and help everyone else who will work to get started out. I once had a very dear friend, Bro. John Turner, of Caraway, Ark., now deceased, who sat in a training class I conducted. After the class, Bro. Turner said to me, "Well, I just can't lead prayer, I can't sing very well, I can't make public talks, and really he couldn't. But he said there's other things I can do. I can work and make money to help the church, and he could and he did. When the brethren there were meeting in a too-small converted dwelling house, the brethren resolved to go as far as they could on the building they needed. They laid the foundation. When this was done, Bro. Turner gave generously and loaned them all they needed to finish the building. I conducted the first meeting in that building and there were thirty-three responses to the invitations. If you'll look around at all you can do and need to do, you won't be wasting time thinking about what you would do if only— You'll be so busy doing what you can see to do, you won't have time for idle speculation. Neither will you be a 'why, don't they do this and that' friend, either. You'll know that you are the they and if necessary lead out. When you farmed with a mule and wished you had a tractor, you'll remember that all you ever cribbed was what you made plowing the mule and not that you made wishing. That's all you gather in the Lord's work, too. Treasures you lay up—you have for eternity. You never lay up the treasures you make by merely wishing. Now look around, get to work and lay up a few; with the means that you have. Some could help by just quitting objecting to plans for good made by others and by stopping holding back, and by having a little faith in the Lord and the brethren. Why can't we do the big things we're big enough to do? We can. —Boyd E. Morgan

SPEAKING WHERE THE BIBLE SPEAKS

Bobby D. Hilburn — Salem

Jesus promised his disciples that that he was going to build His church. (Matt. 16:18) and according to Old Testament prophecies concerning His church, it was to be established in Jerusalem (Isa. 2:23) (Zac. 1:16).

In (Jno. 16:13) Jesus promised His disciples power to preach all truths

by means of the comforter Holy Ghost). He told them that this power would come after the Holy Ghost had come upon them. (Acts 1:8). Then again in (Lk. 24:49) He exhorted them to wait in Jerusalem until they received power, and in (Mk. 9:1) told them that His kingdom (church) was to come with this power. The church was to be established in Jerusalem with the coming of power after the Holy Ghost was come.

In (Acts 2) we see all of these things come to pass. They were at Jerusalem (Acts 2:5) and the Holy Ghost came (Acts 2:14). The disciples received power to preach as we see (Acts 2:14) Peter standing up with the others and begins to preach. Now the church was to come with this power and we can see it did because the Lord added to it daily. (Acts 2:41), (Acts 2:47). Before these happenings in Acts 2) the church had not been established. It was to be built (Matt. 16:18) was at hand (Matt. 3:1-2), (Matt. 10:6) was coming (Mk. 9:1) but nowhere before (Acts 2) had it been established. After these events took place, the church was there, (Acts 2:41; 2:47). Therefore the church of our Lord was established on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1) only 50 days after His resurrection from the dead and only 10 days after his ascension into Heaven (Acts 1:3—walked with apostles 40 days and then ascended leaving only 10 days until Pentecost).

This church was the one which Jesus had promised to build. It was His because He purchased it with His own blood, (Acts 20:28). He is head of His church (Col. 1:18) which is His body (Eph. 1:22-23). There is only one body (Eph. 4:4), thus only one church.

His church is the Fulness of Him, (Eph. 1:23) the completeness of Him, or His all in all, and since it is the fulness of Him, to reach Him outside of the church would be impossible. He promises salvation unto all who are willing to obey Him (Heb. 5:9) and only through Him can one be saved (Jno. 14:6). All spiritual blessings are in Him (Eph. 1:3) thus in His body or church.

Salvation is in the body or church (Eph. 5:23) and nowhere has He promised it outside.

His blood is there in His body (any man's is) or church and it is the blood that cleanses us from our sin. The blood was shed in His death, thus we must come into contact with His death and become a part of his body at the same time. (Blood is in the body and was shed in His death). This is where baptism comes in. We are

baptized into Christ (Thus His body).
and unto his death, Rom. 6:3.

Baptism is the only thing known to man that can do this and still some fight it. In (Acts 22:16) Annanias told Saul of Tarsus to "Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins." The cleansing power is in the blood, therefore for sins to be washed away in baptism, it becomes necessary for the blood to be contacted in baptism. Baptism is "for the remission of sin", (Acts 2:38) and if our sins have not been remitted, we have no salvation. Baptism puts us onto Christ. Thus, into His body or church. (Rom. 6:3) "Baptism doeth also now save us," (I Peter 3:21) but baptism alone is worthless. We must, first of all hear the gospel in order to produce faith (Rom. 10:17) Faith comes by hearing God's work and not by praying for it, or any other way.

We must have faith, because it is impossible to please God without faith Heb. 11:6). Faith only can't save us because we must do some work on our part. (Jas. 2:24) (Phil. 2:12) Faith does not make us a child of God, but only gives us the power to become the children of God. (Jno. 1:12).

Faith and baptism (alone) cannot save us, because we must repent. (Lk. 13:3). Repentance is being filled with sorrow for our sins (II Cor. 7:10) and making a change from them. (One can't repent and continue to do them). After this we must confess our faith in Christ Jesus before men in order to be confessed before God. (Matt. 10:32).

This confession is to be made with the mouth and is necessary for salvation. Rom. 10:10)

When one has complied with these requirements he is then a fit subject to be baptized into the church. When he is baptized the Lord adds him to the church (Acts 2:41-47). We are not to be joined to the church, neither voted into it, because the Bible does not teach this.

After one has been added to the church, this makes him a Christian. (Acts 11:26). We are not to wear the names of men because to follow after the doctrines of men is vain worship. (Matt. 15:9) If we're the disciples or followers of Christ, we are to wear His name. I t

we can't wear any other name and still be saved because there is salvation ONLY IN HIS NAME. (Acts 4:12).

As Christians, we are to partake in eating of His flesh (unleavened bread) and drinking of His blood) fruit of the

vine) (Lk. 22:19-20) We're to do this in remembrance of Him (Luke 22:19) and upon the first day of the week, (Acts 20:7). Except we do this, we have no life in us, (Jno. 6:53). This is to be done in His kingdom or church, (Lk. 22:30).

Also we're told to sing, Eph. 5:19), (Col. 3:16) which is to be done in the church (Heb. 2:12). It is to be done in the right spirit and with understanding, (I Cor. 14:15). The music is to be the "fruit of the lips", (Heb. 13:15), and the melody is to be made in our hearts [Eph 5:19)

The instrument of music has no part in New Testament worship. Nowhere can we find the commandment in the New Testament to play on the instrument. Neither an example of people doing a worship of God.

David used the instrument and told others to do so, but this was not pleasing to God (Amos. 5:23; Amos 6:5). He just tells us to sing, and we must keep his commandments.

He (God) also tells us to pray, (I Thes. 5:17) and to pray in the name of Jesus Christ, (Jno. 16:23). We are to pray with the spirit and the understanding (I Cor. 14:15).

Also we must teach the word of God, (Matt. 28:19) (II Tim. 4:2) and give of our means (I Cor. 16:1-2)

If we worship God acceptably, we must worship him in spirit and in truth. (Jno. 4:24) If we go beyond His word in any practice, we have no fellowship with Him (II Jno. 9). If we please God we must not add anything to neither subtract anything from His word (Rev. 22:18-19).

We must speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent. "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." (Ecc. 12:13).

Bro. Clovis Ragsdale preached at Mammoth Spring August 8. August 1 was the last Lord's day Bro. Boyd Morgan will be at home for six weeks. His throat is much better. At this time he is in a meeting at Recto, Ark. August 22, he will begin a series of meetings with the Salem congregation. It is his hope that his many friends (in the western part of the county, particularly) will attend.

Bro. Marshall Keeble will be in a meeting with the colored brethren in West Plains, Mo. August 15-29. Bro. Keeble is perhaps our most outstanding colored evangelist and has converted many souls by his preaching. Arrangements are made for

white brethren to attend and hear him preach. You will be well received.

The opening of Highway 63 will afford a much better liason between the churches of this section and those in Sharp county. This will help our attendance for special services and grant better opportunities to help them. We had best plan for larger crowds at meetings, lectureships, etc., Cooperation should be better between us all and for our common good. The kingdom of heaven knows no political boundaries. It is now only a few minutes drive between Hardy and Mammoth Spring. Hardy now is not so far distant even to churches west of Salem as once it seemed.

ALTON

Perhaps the best news this month for Christians is the establishing of the cause in Alton, Mo. The last week in July eleven brethren from as many families met together, raised among themselves \$1100.00 and made plans for the erection of a church building. Thus far a lot has been purchased on a choice location in Alton for \$800 and plans are made for the necessary leveling and digging of a basement room. A 32x-60 foot building will be erected of glazed building blocks. There will be four basement classrooms. A loan will be secured and the building put up immediately. The conducting of services will not begin until the building is up. Unlike many new congregations, this one will begin with capable qualified leadership and a sizeable congregation. Mammoth Spring, Thayer and Hickory Grove will each lose some of their members to this new church, with the latter losing the largest number. Yet this is as it should be and demonstrates the permeating power of the kingdom of Heaven. Truly 'a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.' The gospel truth will be presented through these brethren to those who have it not. The church is growing. The gospel is spreading. The light shall never fail.

WELCOME HILL

Our mission meeting at Camp is over, and with good results, Two were baptised and two restored. We had very good crowds and very good preaching. We enjoyed having Bro. and Sister Bingham with us again.

ELDERS

Clovis Ragsdale

Moten

Before the world's began, God, in his great and eternal wisdom, conceived the plan of organization of the church. II Tim. 1:9; Tit. 1:2. His plan was to perfect and is. James 1-25 This plan called for each local congregation of Christians to have bishops, which are sometimes called elders and pastors. These bishops were the overseers of the church. Paul's charge to Titus to ordain elders in every city in Crete proves this to be a necessity. I Tim. 3.

Each congregation must have elders to be scripturally organized as were those of New Testament times. To fail to meet this condition means that something is lacking. Almost always, the thing that is lacking is qualified men to serve in this high and responsible office. To place unqualified men in the office does not solve the problem, but only makes bad matters worse. Admittedly, the qualifications are high, but upon careful study it can be seen that they are things that all Christian men should possess. Marriage and family qualification included where the Christian is married.

Every Christian should conduct himself so that he will be thought of as blameless, patient, sober, of good behavior, no striker, no brawler, no winebibbler, not covetous, with a greed for money. Moreover, the family life of the elder should be such that his children are under subjection. So should all Christians. Christians parents are admonished to raise up their children in the nature and admonition of the Lord. Eph. 6:4. While the elder is to have only one wife, our saviour taught that divorce is sinful, except for fornication. Apt to teach is one point that causes many a man to qualify, but Peter exhorts young Christians to desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby. II Peter 2:2. If every Christian brother studied as he is taught to do, he should, with the passing of the years, develop some aptness for teaching. He should also be able to recognize false doctrine whenever and wherever he should hear it taught. One more necessary thing is that he be not a novice, or a beginner. Every Christian who remains faithful soon grows out of the class of a novice. Now, why is it that the churches in this section, as well as many other places, are suffering from a lack of scripturally qualified men to serve as elders? The answer is obvious. Men simply are not growing and developing as they

ought to do.

The need is great. The qualifications are no more than Christian men need to possess to be as they ought. The opportunity for serving our saviour is almost unlimited in this respect. The parable of the talents teaches us that God expects us to labor in his service. Paul, in I Tim. 3:1 tells us that if we desire the office of a bishop, we desire a good work. I am persuaded that if we do the best we can there would soon cease to be a shortage of elders. The church would prosper and the cause of Christ would grow at a much faster pace.

WHERE WERE YOU?

404 So. Masters Drive
Dallas 17, Texas

Marion Farley

Yes, that's the question—Where were you—last Sunday morning when the classes assembled for study;—Sunday night for preaching;—Wednesday evening for Bible study?

Another question you may ask yourself is, "If no one attended more than I, what kind of a church would this church be?" Have you read Heb. 10:25? "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is." Nineteen centuries of time and gospel light has not changed the manner of some for the condition exists today as existed then. As it was firmly denounced then, it naturally follows that it is as wrong today as it was then.

You may think, "Well, why isn't an hour on Sunday morning enough? Can't a person do all in one hour that is required for that week?" But, does not nature itself teach you that when you use 167 hours for yourself and devote only ONE to the Lord's service, (and some, it is a shame to say, won't even do this more than once or twice a year) out of a week, that you have failed in your duty toward God?

Jesus said in Luke 9:23: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." This shows we are to be greatly concerned daily about spiritual matters, and enough to cause us to be willing to put aside self by denying ourselves. How? By missing some of the radio or television programs we like so much, or a famous movie just come to town, or a trip to some amusement spot, or even a nap to serve Christ. The many excuses are too numerous to mention, but there are any of the things we like to do that hinder us.

Notice Jesus said: "Daily," we are aware that when he taught his disciples to pray for their 'daily bread,' he didn't have just one day of the week in mind, neither did those disciples understand that he did.

I am sure that if you were asked directly, "Do you believe the Sunday morning Bible study and the Sunday night and the Wednesday evening services are good works?" You would be quick to say they were. Then are we not to be ready to every good work? Why then, will you not come and have part in them?

Timothy was admonished, "Study to show thyself approved unto God—rightly dividing the word of truth." Without giving a great deal of time to a careful and systematic study of the inspired record, you cannot rightly divide the word; hence the necessity of attending the services of study, as well as any service arranged for your benefit. Only in such services does each have the privilege, as they are urged to do, of expressing their views on the subject under consideration. Wonderful opportunities indeed to learn more about God's will, so many are so lightly passing by.

NEWS

The Mission meeting at Camp, sponsored by the Welcome Hill church, was a success. Attendance and interest were good. Two were baptized and one restored to the fold. The seed sown during this meeting will be reaped for years to come. Services are held each Sunday afternoon in the community building at two o'clock and all are invited to attend. This is now the youngest church in the county and needs your encouragement.

Two restorations and one baptism in the tent meeting at Myrtle, Mo. The meeting at Viola resulted in two baptisms. The work continues to grow.

Bro. Jack Bowers was restored to the church at Mammoth Spring the first Sunday in August. We are happy to have him back with us.

Burk's Chapel has been remodeling their meeting house. The doors open now on one large common opening. The seating is arranged with a center aisle. The brethren are purchasing new seats and already have some on hand. A butane heating system will be installed.