

# Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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## Is the Bible Lost?

(Concluded from last month)

We do not need to compass land and sea, to understand the Bible. We do not need the scholarship of a theology school which never draws conclusions but always remain in the state of relativism. All we need to do is sit down and meditate upon the word of God with the mind, ability and talent that God gave us to use in searching His word daily. It is a crime of the highest sort and a slap in the face of our Creator to sit in councils or write in creeds. But moderism, existentialism, and relativism are rampant today as a roaring lion. Men are turning up their noses at inspiration, they are advocating taking second best because one cannot understand first best, and teaching that the Bible is changeable and must be brought up to date. Yes, the loss of the Bible is creeping in among us. When preachers fail to preach the word of God the Bible is lost at that congregation. When elders will not execute the word they bury it deeper at that place. Then the results will be as in the days of Hosea, "My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge." And we wonder why people are not interested in the church and her work. The failure to practice the word of God will cause it to be buried in the rubbish of our own lukewarmness and indifference. The word must be practiced as well as preached. Faith must have

her works. People are living on tranquilizers today when they should be living on the manna of God's word. Jesus taught us to lose ourselves that we might find ourselves. Do you know what he meant by this statement?

The word of God can be lost in many ways. Today as perhaps never before, we need to return to the old paths and walk therein. We must go behind all creeds and man made churches to the day of pentecost and start therefrom. The mother of harlots is wooing her children to come back to her as never before. She is changing from the top of her head to the bottom of her feet. Ever verlast he has ever taught is be- stance. Ced to appeal to her to grow he children left their n- use of her departure from God. She even claim God and therefore infallible. In the children have forsaken their Bibles. Like mother like daughter. No longer to they protest at her outrageous teaching. The dark ages came because the Bible was chained to the pulpit, the reformation was a success in a great degree because it losed the word of God from that pulpit. This should serve to teach all true believers that the New Testament must be preached and practiced. Therefore, let us put on the whole armour of God taking the Sword of the Spirit to withstand all error and every enemy that we may win Christ in judgment when we stand before him to be judged by HIS WORD.

## 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

The ability to speak in several languages is valuable, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in one language is priceless.

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# Fulton County Gospel News

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IN THIS AREA

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## Some Reasons for Studying the Bible

John M. Adams

People sometimes wonder why preachers place so much emphasis on the study of the Bible and why they spend so much time in promoting the Bible school program of the church. Perhaps the best way to point out the need for regular study of the Bible is to let the Bible speak for itself. Consider these reasons for studying the Bible:

1. It is God's Word. "And for this cause we also thank God without ceasing, that, when ye received from us the word of the message, even the word of God, ye accepted it not as the word of men, but, as it is in truth, the word of God..." (I Thess. 2:13).

2. It is a Law of Liberty. "But he that looketh into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and so that forgetteth but a doer that worketh, this man shall be blessed in his doing." (Jas. 1:25)

3. It is a Complete Guide. "Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable...that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work." (II Tim. 3:16, 17).

4. It Tells of Man's Origin. "and God said, let us make man in our

image...and God created man in his own image..." (Gen. 1:26, 27).

5. It Tells of Man's Duty. "...fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man." (Eccl. 12:13).

6. It Tells of Man's Destiny. "Rendering vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus." (II Thess. 1:8) "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." (Rev. 22:14).

7. We Will Be Judged By It. "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my sayings, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I spoke, the same shall judge him in the last day." (John 12:48).

8. It Reveals the Plan of Salvation. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth shall be condemned if it was..." (16:16). "Repent ye, and offer a sacrifice unto the remission of your sins." (Acts 2:38).

Plan to be in a Bible class Sunday morning.

## A Warning - -

"Not in modern times has the church of our Lord faced such a crisis as that which now confronts it. So serious is the situation that, in my view, and in the view of other brethren of wide observation, unless a determined effort is speedily put forth to counteract teaching now being done, the church, as we know it, will scarcely be known in the next generation. An ever increasing number of men among us, who fancy themselves as intellectuals and who have saturated themselves with the writings of denominational theologians, rather than those of Christ and Paul and Peter, and Campbell and McGarvey and Lipscomb, are attempting turn us away from the principles of the Restoration Plea which alone justifies our right to exist as a separate and distinct religious people. There is a deliberate ef-

fort on the part of some men among us to belittle, degrade and destroy the influence of the great and good men who preceded us, and to turn us into a denominational, and emotional sect. The view, that the Holy Spirit, dwells in the heart in abstract form, apart from, and independent of the Word of Truth, now being advocated by some of the brethren, impeaches the all-sufficiency of the Bible, makes each a law unto himself, and revives the battle we fought and won in earlier generations. The time is here when elders of the church must watch with ceaseless vigilance lest the corrupting influence of false teaching and teachers destroy the flock over which the Holy Spirit has made them overseers. John said, 'Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out in the world.'" (1 John 4:1.) It matters not how powerful or pious a man may be if his teaching is not in harmony with that which has ever characterized us, he is a false teacher and ought to be repudiated. It is only thus that a pure faith and faultless practice may be maintained. 'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. For my brethren and companion's sake, I will now say, Peace be within thee. Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good.'" (Psalm 122:6-9)"

Guy N. Woods  
Memphis, Tenn.

## Contributions -

### CHURCHES OF CHRIST

Viola .....	\$ 5.00
Agnos .....	5.00
Salem .....	5.00
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Noel McFann .....	1.00
H. F. Pohnert .....	1.00

## Descriptions of God

JOHN ABBOTT, Hardy, Ark.  
(Continued from last month)

The wrath of God is seen in the fact that He spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them to hell, and delivered them into the chains of darkness, neither did He spare the old world from the flood (II Peter 2:4, 5). As Peter states that God resisteth the proud but giveth grace to the humble (I Peter 5:5). Man is to humble himself under the mighty hand of God that he may be exalted in due time (I Peter 5:6). The fact that God has power over all grace (II Corinthians 9:8), gives the Christian hope because He has the power to make the Christian stand (Romans 14:4) in times of trials.

God is then likened unto things of this world so man, with his finite mind, can comprehend a little of the glory of God. God is said to be good (Matt. 19:17), and with this goodness we see that He can not be made bad for the uncorruptible God can not sin (Romans 1:23). Even though God has the foreknowledge of the future He still lets man be a free moral agent. God is likened to light and in Him is no darkness (I John 1:5) so if man fails to go to heaven he will never see the light of God for there shall be weeping and outer darkness.

God knoweth our hearts, or the intents of our minds, because He is greater than our hearts (I John 3:20). For this reason God can justify man when man becomes obedient to Him (Romans 8:33). It was God's plan from the beginning to give man the opportunity to be saved (Romans 9:11). Man can know the ways and thoughts of God through a knowledge of Jesus Christ (I Cor. 1:9-11).

God is love is a statement that is all inclusive in describing God (II John 4:8) for it shows why He gave His only Son to save man (John 3:16). The love of God is also seen in His patience and long-suffering and His consolation to mankind (Romans 15:5).

God is not the author of confus-

ion (I Cor. 14:33) but He is the God of peace (Romans 15:33) for without His giving His Son man would be lost eternally. As Jesus tells of the difficulty of a rich man to go to heaven He also states that with God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26). The love of God is also in the tender mercy of God that while man was yet sinners Christ died that we might be saved (Luke 1:78)

The interest that God has in man is seen by the glory of God being given to Abraham and to us through His Son (Acts 7:2). As God feeds the ravens of the air so much more does He take care of man, for from God comes the food (Luke 12:24), and clothing man needs to live (Luke 12:28).

Another question man would like answered is where did God come from, but this question is answered only that God was in the beginning and is everlasting (Romans 16:26) in existence. God causes everything to grow for Paul said that he planted, Apollos watered but God gave the increase (I Corinthians 3:6). We can see how man can be adopted by God, or grafted in, to the inheritance with Jesus Christ through obedience (Romans 11:23).

No man has seen God except as He has manifested Himself to man, yet He is described as having bodily parts. Jesus cast out devils with the finger of God (Luke 11:20). Peter states that the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against the ones that do evil (II Peter 3:12)

Even though God loved man so much to send His Son to be killed, and raised Him up (Acts 2:32) He is still not to be mocked or ridiculed by man for He will destroy the ungodly (Galatians 6:7).

### THE EVOLUTIONIST'S DILEMMA

When man creates a dog that won't bark,  
When man finds a woman that won't talk,  
When we have a chicken without a squawk,

Then we'll have the meadow minus the lark.  
When man develops a cow that won't moo,  
When man creates a mule that won't bray,  
When we have a horse that won't eat hay,  
Then we'll have a dove that won't coo.  
When man reverses nature and the sod,  
When man alters the fur of a squirrel,  
When we have a pig's tail without a curl,  
Then we'll have a man minus God....

Bill Graddy

### ARE YOU WILLING?

ARE YOU WILLING to forget what you have done for other people in 1966 and to remember what other people have done for you?

ARE YOU WILLING to ignore what the world owes you and think more what you owe the world?

ARE YOU WILLING to put your rights in the background and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground?

ARE YOU WILLING to see that your fellow men are just as real as you are and try to look behind their faces to the hearts, hungry for joy.

ARE YOU WILLING to realize the only good reason for your existence, not what you are going to get out of life but what you are going to give to life?

ARE YOU WILLING to close your book of complaints against others and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness?

ARE YOU WILLING to begin the New Year with a greater desire to enjoy life to its fullest by giving more of your time, talent and money for the greatest cause on earth -- the cause of Christ?

ARE YOU WILLING to do these things in 1967? -- Ralph Bumpass

# How Unity Can be Achieved

By - CLOVIS RAGSDALE

In recent years the religious world has took note of the need for unity among all those who believe in Christ. Much is being said and several conferences are being held in the councils of many different churches. People are finally beginning to accept the fact that Christ's prayer for unity was not hollow words, but represented the earnest will of our savior. The plain command that Paul gives in 1 Cor. 1:10, is beginning to receive the serious attention that a command, given by the Holy Spirit, should receive. The statement is unmistakably clear. Paul said, "now, I beseech you, brethern, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind, and in the same judgment." He further pointed out that to be divided was carnal mindedness and that to be so was sinful.

Preachers and many who have had a part in the restoration movement have advocated unity since the very beginning of the movement to restore the church of New Testament days in faith and practice. Their plea has gone unheeded by the many different religious bodies, and sorry to say, some in the restoration movement itself. Nor that men have finally seen the need for unity the next problem is how and on what basis can this be brought about.

Unity among all believers can be achieved when all men will lay aside their own ideas and doctrines and accept only those taught in the Bible. The Bible itself is the basis for unity. Paul said in 2 Tim. 3:16 and 17, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good

works." If the scriptures are able to make men perfect, is there a need for the ideas of men? Men must always remember that we are to obey God rather than men. To obey God is to do what he says, the way he says do it, for the purpose he says do it, just because he says do it.

The failure to obey introduced sin into the human family in the garden of Eden. Failure to heed the word of God caused Saul to sin in the sight of God (1 Samuel 15). He was instructed by the prophet to utterly destroy all the Amalekites, together with all their stock, Saul did not hearken to the commands of the Lord for he spared king Agag, and the best of the stock which was to be used to sacrifice to God. Samuel told Saul that the Lord was more concerned with obeying his voice than sacrificing the fat of rams, and that it was better to hearken than to offer a sacrifice.

Let us all unite upon the word of God and hearken to what the Lord has said and then true unity can be established. Unity must be based on truth. To unite upon error would be foolish and dangerous.

The big problem to religious unity will be getting men to lay aside their own ideas and accept the teachings of the scriptures. This, men have not been willing to do in the past. Many will have to change their attitudes toward some things that the Bible plainly teaches. The authority of the scriptures will have to be reestablished. Creeds, manuals, dogmas, and such like will have to be discarded. The Bible is our only guide.

If men will pay the price, great blessing will be the result. With unity will come more love and trust among peoples and nations. Skeptics will be fewer in number. The unlearned will not be confused and will accept christianity in greater numbers. The most important thing is that God will be pleased, Christ's prayer answered, and souls saved. No amount of effort should be spared in the search for that which we know is God's will.

## OMISSION

Webster defines omission, "Neglect or failure to do something which a person has power to do, or which duty requires to be done. The old adage, "What one does not know does not hurt him", is not true! If true, why the gospel?

If omission is not sinful, then ignorance is bliss and to be earnestly desired. But one is commanded to study, 2 Tim. 2:15, and instead of God overlooking ignorance; he commands all men to repent. Acts 17:30.

When one becomes accountable to God, he must know the truth and obey the gospel or be the recipient of God's vengeance. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.

Since man will be judged by the word, John 12:48, it irresistably follows that his omissions will condemn him as the one talent man and the five foolish virgins who were guilty of the sin of omission.

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven". (One must know the will before he can do it) "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works (They named some things they DID DO) "and then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; (Why?, because they did not do the will of the Father --- those things they should have done) "depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matt. 7:21-23.

"Woe unto you, scribes, and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have OMITTED - omission - the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith; THESE OUGHT YE TO HAVE DONE, and NOT TO LEAVE the other undone." Matt. 23:23.

Forgiveness is not a one time deal! As one learns more-grows in grace and knowledge - he will need continual repentance especially of those things he previously did not know TO DO.

--Bill Graddy