

# Fulton County Gospel News

Will Fry

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK.

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## Translations of the Bible

Clovis Ragsdale

Today we have several translations of the Bible, and especially the New Testament, available on the bookshelves of most every bookstore. In 1961, the New English Bible was introduced to the public. The revised version and several private translations were introduced over the span of a century or more years. No doubt there was skepticism over each one as it appeared. We often hear the question asked nowadays, "what about the newest translation?" From my own experience I would have to say that it is easier to read and understand than the King James version. I can read about twice as fast in the present day English. This makes possible the covering of an entire letter often times at one reading. The concern is mainly, is this translation accurate? The same question might well be asked concerning the King James version.

We would do well to remember that the original manuscripts of the Bible were written in Hebrew, that is, the Old Testament. The New was written in Greek, as this was the official language during the time of Christ.

Our faith in God should be strong enough to lead us to accept the works of scholar men as being guided by the providence of God in making his word accesable unto man. Surely the One who made possible the Universe and all that goes with it would have the power to see that his word was distributed accurately to his most loved of all things created.

The biggest problem is getting man to accept God at his word. The men who wrote the translations cannot be blamed when ordinary men will refuse to heed

## News and Notes

Under the oversight of the six Elders of the church in Mammoth Spring, we have recently inaugurated a way of checking the attendance in the worship services on Sunday. With this new method, we plan to increase our personal work on the part of the members and the Elders.

Other work in progress includes dividing the old auditorium into class rooms. This will be of great benefit in many ways to the work and study program. It is hoped that this can be completed in time for the Vacation Bible school this spring.

Singings were held at Camp on the fourth Sunday evening, and at Welcome Hill on the second Sunday afternoon. Affairs of this kind helps to improve our talents in singing.

We would like to remind the people in the vicinity of Franklin of our preaching on the second and fourth Sunday nights. Services start at 7:30 p.m. Brother Clovis Ragsdale does the preaching.

Remember if you have a change of address to notify the paper,

the plainly written word. This is the source of all false doctrines. The problems that confront the church today are, for the greater part, brought about by what some man thinks the Bible teaches and not what s accurately stated. Few of these would qualify as experts in language.

When the different translations are placed alongside one another, we find that they teach the same thing. We would then be at liberty to choose the translation of our choice and then do the best we can to live up to what it teaches. We would not have the right to force our choice on others.

else you will no longer receive the paper.

Bro. Gene Bench will conduct a meeting at Sturkie, Ark., May 24 to June 2.

## A Worthy Appeal

The church in Pleasant Hill, Mo. is in need of outside help in order to keep a full time minister. This problem came about because of the cost of a new building exceeding the planned amount. The congregation averages about one hundred in attendance. Prospects for continued growth are excellent. The need for a full time preacher is great. This church is located in a part of the state where the church is not strong, but is making progress.

If any of the congregations in this area could help so much a month for a year we believe it would be money well spent. Brother O. L. Grisham, who is well known in south central Missouri, works with this group. Send your help to Church of Christ, 907 Cedar Street, Pleasant Hill, Mo.

## Contributions

Mrs. L. P. McAbee, Mammoth Spring	\$1.00
Noel McFann, Myrtle, Mo.	2.00
Hutch McFann, Myrtle, Mo.	1.00
Noble McFann, Myrtle, Mo.	2.00
Orbie Robbins, Elizabeth	1.00
J. F. Tucker, Agnos, Ark.	1.00
H. F. Barrett, Overton, Tex.	1.00
A Friend of the paper	5.00
Crider church of Christ	6.00
St. Joe church of Christ	10.00
Wheeling church of Christ	5.00
Morrison church of Christ	5.00
English Bluff church of Christ	5.00
Agnos church of Christ	5.00
Felis Davis, Memphis, Tenn.	1.00
H. F. Pohnert, Thayer, Mo.	1.00

## Fulton County Gospel News

PUBLISHED MONTHLY  
FREE SUBSCRIPTION

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID  
MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK.

Supported by  
CHURCHES OF CHRIST  
IN THIS AREA

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RICHARD ENGLAND

## Common Sense in Bible Study

By Robert Henley

In the study of God's word we find that some parts of His will toward man are emphatically stated and can tolerate no deviation; other parts are given by inference or example. However we study our senses must be alert and used. There is a "revealed" sense, that ability to see, comprehend, to gather knowledge and other qualities that are inherent to normal man. There is also what we may call "common sense". This is developed by observation study of cause and effect, experience and the ability to weigh the matter and make a sensible choice. Both of these abilities are in a sense "God-given" so as to speak, and should never be in conflict, but being God-given does not mean that they are not or cannot be improved. The writer of the Hebrew letter said in Heb. 5:14, "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil". As the physical body gains strength through

proper exercise, so should the senses grow in discernment and understanding through proper exercise.

There is an example in God's word that is particularly worthy of the application of "common sense". In the account of Philip and the Eunuch in Acts 8:38 we read: "And they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him." The question of who baptized whom has arisen many times and has occasioned debate. If we but let "common sense" step in the answer comes very clear; the one who wanted to be baptized, of course.

Another passage that brings about debate and comment is to be found in 1 John 3:9, where it is stated that one born of God cannot sin. In this case indeed it is common sense that must help us in the interpretation. If I am asked to accompany you to Little Rock today and I answer that I cannot go today, I have not set up an impossibility, I have in fact said that under the existing circumstances I cannot afford to go at that time. A Christian cannot afford to continue in a life of sin. In the above scripture the word sin is used in a general sense. A Christian, one born of God, cannot continue in such. The meaning of the word is different than that used in 1 John 1:8 where the writer has reference to individual or isolated acts of sin.

All through God's word are many instances wherein we must use common sense in their application. With our senses exercised through constant use let us approach the study of His will in a sensible manner. The speculative, mystic approach of the dreamer will not suffice. It is a living word and let us live with and in it as we study to make ourselves approved unto God.

We have more respect for the woman who sweeps dirt under the rug than over the back fence to a neighbor.

One of the best pieces of child psychology is made of leather.

## Salvation by Works ?

Richard England,

Mammoth Spring, Ark.

If we are saved at all it will be by WORK! Does this statement shock you? The Bible teaches that we are saved by grace, faith, God Christ, and many other things. But it also teaches that we are saved by works. Many people would shun the very use of the word work in connection with salvation, thinking that such would be saying that we are not saved by grace. This is a mistake made simply because many refuse to see that the word "work" is used in more than one way in the Bible. To be sure, we do not, by any acts which we might perform, earn our salvation. It is not within our power to live such lives as would merit eternal life. With this in mind we might say that as the word work in some places means sinlessness. We cannot in that sense be saved by works. Such is the use of the word in Ephesians 2, Romans 4, and Galatians 3.

Another way in which the word work is used refers to the tasks given us to perform. God has given us certain things which he expects us to do. The doing of them is called "work". Jesus came to perform certain tasks given him of God the Father and his doing them was called "work". John 4:34 says: "Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work." The same use is made of the word in John 9:4; 10:37; and 17:4. In this same way the word is used in reference to that which God has given us to perform. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, ye be steadfast unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Cor. 15:58) "Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear: for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do." (1 Cor. 16:10) "and God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all

things, may abound to every good work." (2 Cor. 9:8) "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God." (Col. 1:10) It is in this sense of the word that Peter declares that "The Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work..." (1 Pet. 1:17) Also John says of the judgment that "they were judged every man according to their works. (Rev. 20:13)

That we are saved by faith is too obvious to even need proof given here. Yet, what is overlooked by many is that our works are the completion of our faith. "Faith without work is dead, being alone." (James 2:26) The saving faith is complete with, and demonstrated by, works (the performance of the tasks given to us by God). Seeing that we cannot be saved by works in the first sense of the word (sinlessness), we must work the works of God (those things he has commanded us to do) in order to be forgiven of our shortcomings.

To those who would say that we are not saved by works in any sense of the term, we would say as James 2:18 says: "show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works".

Besides believing that Jesus is the Son of God, God has given us other "works" to do. We are commanded to Repent (Luke 13:3), Confess Jesus before men (Matt. 10:32), be baptized (Acts 2:38), worship (John 4:23, 24), be faithful (Rev. 2:10). Included in these things are all the principles of Christian living which must govern our lives, such as love, mercy, longsuffering, etc. If you have lived with the misconception that you could be saved on the basis of mere mental acceptance of the fact that Jesus is the Son of God, consider carefully the things herein contained and study the scriptures carefully to see if they are so. If they are, make them a part of your life.

Men who pray much, don't bray much.

## Yesterday, Tomorrow, Today

There are two golden days in the week about which I never worry — two carefree days kept sacredly free from fear and apprehension.

One of these days is yesterday. Yesterday, with all its cares and frets, all its pains and aches, all its faults, its mistakes, and blunders, has passed forever beyond my recall. I cannot undo an act I wrought; I cannot unsay a word I said. All that is holds of my life is in the hands of the Mighty Love that can bring honey out of the rock and sweetest water out of the bitterest desert. Save for the beautiful memories sweet and tender, that linger like the perfume of roses in the heat of the day that is gone, I have nothing to do with yesterday. It was mine — it is now God's.

And the other day that I do not worry about is tomorrow. Tomorrow, with all its possible adversities, its perils, its large promise and poor performance, its failures and mistakes, is as far beyond my mastery as its dead sister yesterday. It is a day of God's. Its sun will rise in roseate splendor or behind a mass of weeping clouds, but it will rise.

Until then, the same love and patience that held yesterday holds tomorrow. Save for the star of hope and faith that gleams forever on the brow of tomorrow, shining with tender promise into the heart of today, I have no possession in the unborn day of grace. Tomorrow is God's day. It will be mine.

There is left for myself, then, but one day in the week-today! And man can fight the battles of today. Any man can resist temptation for just one day. Any woman can carry the burdens for just one day. It is only when we willfully add the burdens of these awful eternities, yesterday and tomorrow, such burdens as only the mighty God can sustain, that we break down. It isn't the experi-

ence of today that drives men mad — it is the remorse of something that happened yesterday and the dread of what tomorrow brings. Those are God's days — leave them with God.

Therefore, I think and I do and I journey but one day at a time. That is man's day. Dutifully I run my course and work my appointed task on that day of ours, and God the Almighty and All-loving takes care of yesterday and tomorrow.

—Robert J. Burdette

## Mid - South Evangelistic Campaign

There will be a great series of meetings in Memphis, Tennessee April 11 through 18, in the new coliseum with Jimmy Allen as evangelist. It is expected to draw record crowds in the field of gospel preaching in the south. Most all of us know of the great ability of Brother Allen. Those who have not heard him, have heard about him. The great message of Jesus Christ presented by such a devout man and dynamic speaker will surely be a blessing to all those who hear.

### SERENITY

We bear the strain of earthly care  
But bear it not alone;  
Beside us walks our brother,  
Christ  
And makes our task His own.  
Through din of market, whirl of  
wheels,  
And thrust of driving trade,  
We follow where the Master leads,  
Serene and unafraid.  
The common hopes that make us  
men  
Were His in Galilee;  
The tasks He gives are those He  
gave  
Beside the restless sea.  
Our brotherhood still rests in Him,  
The brother of us all,  
And o'er the centuries still we  
hear  
The Master's loving call.  
—Ozora Sterns Davis

## The Beauty of Scriptural Baptism

By Robert Henley

It is passing strange that the subject of baptism, as to its purpose, method, etc. becomes a point of departure and debate, when the Word of God is so specific concerning it. Let us look at the subject for a little and see the heart-touching beauty and significance of Scriptural baptism.

In 1 Cor. 10:2 we learn that the hosts of Israel were baptized unto Moses (Type of Christ) in the Red Sea. The waters of that baptism became the destruction of the hosts of Egypt (type of sin). In 1 Peter 3:20-21 Peter draws the analogy of the Ark to baptism and states that as the Ark bore Noah and his family safely through the waters of destruction, so in like figure baptism also saves us.

In both of the above instances, man did as commanded of God and had reached a certain point beyond which he must place his trust in God for safety. It is a thought worthy of consideration that the word "pitch" when used as a noun in Gen. 6:14 wherein God told Noah in pitch the Ark within and without with "pitch", is the same word as translated in Lev. 17:11 as "atonement". "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul." Lev. 17:11 So by the atonement of the Lord in his suffering and death may the penitent believer, through the waters of baptism reach the safety of the kingdom.

Christ, our example, was called out of Egypt, was baptized of John to fulfill all righteousness, by obedience went to the cross to die and shed his blood for the sins of the world and was raised by the power of the Father to establish his kingdom. He was in fact "king" before his ascension. In Matt. 28:18 we hear Him say to the eleven, "ALL power is given

unto me in heaven and in earth."

Beautiful is the comparison: a sinner hearing the Word of God, believing it, repenting of his sins, being made dead to sin and turning his back upon Egypt, acknowledging his faith in the Lord, led by obedience into the waters of baptism where by the mighty power of God he comes into contact with the atoning blood of our Lord and is then raised up to walk as a new creature in the kingdom of the Lord. Think on these things.

## Is Money All the Church Cares About?

"All the church cares about is money!" How many times have you heard someone make a statement like that? I've heard it many times — even by members of the church. But I must admit that my blood pressure rises a little each time I hear it. Here's why:

All the Liquor interests care about is MONEY. That is a true statement! But I don't hear people say it very often. Liquor interests don't care about a man's soul. They don't care about accidents and mangled bodies caused by drink. They don't care about "skid row" and the human wrecks they sent there. all the liquor interests care is MONEY.

All Tobacco companies care about is MONEY. That is true! They don't care about polluted air and stuffy trains and buses. They don't care about stained fingers, lips and lungs. They don't care about damaged health and wasted budgets. All they care is MONEY.

All the movie makers care about is MONEY. That is true! But it is not often stated. They don't care about the low moral standards they encourage. They don't care about the drinking and sensuality they display on thousands of screens across the land. All they care about is MONEY.

All the church cares about is — what: The church cares about souls without price or measure. The church cares about the home

and community. The church cares about the sick and dying, the underprivileged and the discouraged. The church cares about elimination of crime and vice. The church cares about morals, It cares about God and godliness.

The church cares about much more than "filthy lucre." I know because I am a part of the church and I care. My Christian friends are a part of the church and they care. Christians care enough to pray, and to give of their money. Aside from the church which belongs to Christ, there isn't a group on the earth concerned with, and working toward accomplishing something for the eternal welfare of the soul.

"What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" It's worth something, and it cost something. Yes, the church is after far more than money, and if we do not give as God teaches us to do, it will cost us far more than if we do give! THINK!!!

—Selected

## What I Could Do If I Wanted To

IF I wanted to, I could use my efforts to help promote the greatest possible harmony in the church

IF I wanted to, I could help make his church the most wide awake and working church in all the world.

IF I wanted to, I could visit members who are sick and find other ways of helping them.

IF I wanted to, I could attend Bible Classes regularly, and encourage others to attend.

IF I wanted to, I could profit more from the sermon by not resenting the truth where it reveals some of my weaknesses.

IF I wanted to, I could tell others about Christ and his church and lead them to salvation, at least my action could always speak for him.

Of Course this all depends on what I want to do about it.

"WHAT DO I REALLY WANT TO DO?"

(South Charleston Bulletin)