

# Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

Second Class Postage Paid

Vol. 1, No. 8

Mammoth Spring, Arkansas

August, 1959

## Gospel Meetings

SALEM, ARK.—Aug. 3?—Chares Coil the speaker.

GUMBO, ARK.—Aug. 3-9—Bro. Mahan from Conway the speaker.

ALTON, MO.—Aug. 3-10—Don Fike, of Northport, Ala. the speaker.

GATEWOOD, MO.—Aug. 20-29—Wesley Hylton, Mammoth Spring, Ark. the speaker.

## The Church in Winona Needs Your Help

Bro. Don Smith and Bro. Wesley Hylton recently closed a mission meeting in Winona, Mo. A tent was placed on the ball park grounds. Interest and attendance were good. Four were baptized. In all around fifteen Christians live in Winona. They want very much to see the cause there prosper and grow. Arrangements were made for them to meet in a theatre building. It is not a very desirable place to meet for worship. They would like to meet in more favorable surroundings. However, nothing is available at the present time. They did not meet regularly before the meeting. There are other towns in the area that do not have a New Testament church. By helping plant the Cause firmly in Winona, it may be the means of evangelizing the whole area. Bro. Henry Casy from Mountain View, Bro. Smith and Bro. Hylton help them one Sunday each. It is a worthy cause and you will be blessed in helping and encouraging them.

There will be other meetings before the summer is over. Make your plans now to attend. They need your presence to encourage them, and to influence others for good.

## CONTRIBUTIONS ACKNOWLEDGED

Clyde Morrison, West Plains, Mo. \$3.00  
John M. Dixon, Hartsville, S. C. 3.00  
Friend of the Paper 5.00  
Friend of the Paper 1.11  
G. W. Harrell, West Plains, Mo. 1.00  
Nettie Bruce, Twin Creek, Ark. 1.00  
Church in Twin Creek 1.00  
Bro. & Sis. C. Cavin, Sturkie, Ark. 2.00

We are sincerely grateful for the help of these good people who are interested in seeing that others learn the gospel story. Would you like to help in this good work? For less than one third of a cent the paper is sent into each home once a month. This includes the cost of mailing. Present help and contributions are not quite covering the expense of printing and mailing. Each month we receive numerous requests for the paper. The mailing list is growing; thereby giving us a greater opportunity to carry the message of Christ to those that are lost. The editors of the paper request your prayers that we may continue the good fight of faith.

## Another Worthy Cause

Bro. Carl Bryant, a colored minister, is working with his people in Caruthersville, Mo. Approximately twenty meet each time. Bro. Bryant held meetings there in 56', 57', 58', and 59'. They began with eight present. Their present need is a building of their own. They have \$775.00 in the building fund. The 11th and Carlton Ave. Church, Caruthersville, is helping with the work there. The elders of 11th and Carlton Ave., C. T. Baird, Denver Fike, and J. J. Richardson, commend Bro. Bryant in the work he is doing, and would appreciate any help and encouragement that you could give them. Write Carl Bryant, Caruthersville, Mo. or J. J. Richardson, at the above address, for further details.

## The Church At Jeff

Jeff Church of Christ organized September 1903 with J. H. Taylor and T. Shelt Taylor, Elders and Joe Kester and Ray Dunsmore as Deacons. First meeting held under an arbor with Bynum Black the evangelist. Preachers who have conducted meetings over the years are: Bynum Black, Jim Honeycutt, J. H. Curry, J. Will Henley, Caleb Higginbotham, Derise Rose, Joe H. Blue, Roy Kellett, Tweedy Foster, W. B. Ragsdale, Elmo Franklin, Lacy Porter, Burl Curtis, Frank Gould, Sterl A. Watson, Edgar Pringle and others.

Present Elders J. A. Prewitt and E. A. Sauser.

The church helps support the Southern Christian Home; has helped with the Herald of Truth Radio Program from its beginning; helps with the Thayer radio program and various mission efforts from time to time.

## NEWS ITEMS FROM HARDY

Bro. Bob Hilburn has closed a meeting at Banks, during the past month. One was baptized . . . Bob starts a meeting at Burnt Hill, located 15 miles N. E. of Jonesboro on Aug. 3rd. It will continue through the 12th. . . . Duane Brandon will enter Freed Hardeman College this fall. He will study for the ministry . . . . Duane preached for the church in Hardy on the 4th Sunday morning. Bob Morgan preached that evening . . . A V. B. S. was held July 1-10. Sixty-four were enrolled . . . two additional classes have recently been started. One on Sunday for the young people, and another on Friday to study personal work.

NOTE—The above report of the work in Hardy is very encouraging. We rejoice with them, and wish them God speed in the future.

Don Smith was with the church in Winona, Mo. the past first Sunday afternoon.

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Published Monthly  
Free Subscription

Entered as second class matter Jan. 3, 1959, at the Post Office, Mammoth Spring, Ark., under Act of July 26, 1955, as amended.

Supported by Churches of Christ  
in this area

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Clovis Ragsdale  
Wesley Hylton

## The Sin of Indifference

Wesley Hylton

One of the greatest sins of this age is the indifference manifested by so-called members of the body of Christ. Indifference is a deadly malady. People who have been enlightened and then turn away from the truth, in cold indifference, are in grave danger.

There is no way of knowing how great the influence of the church would be if all the members were faithful and loyal. One of the greatest detriments to building up the church is the total lack of interest shown by indifferent, unfaithful members. Even those who are faithful to attend their local congregation are indifferent toward other areas that are having a hard time establishing the Cause. Their presence would be an inspiration to those struggling along without much help. There was a time when Christians would work hard, and pull together, to help the work along in other places. Has that time passed? Are we self-satisfied and complacent with what has been accomplished? Have we done all that we can do? Or, have we grown weary in well-doing? Are we tired of trying because of the indifference we see others manifesting? We shall reap in due season, if we faint not.

A woman was one time encouraged to start attending services regularly. She made this remark, "Well I guess my church going is over for a while—till spring—maybe." In the meantime, she will continue to receive God's blessing, because He allows the rain to fall on the just and the unjust alike. But notice the callous indifference — not going till spring, and just maybe then. No wonder

that the world looks upon Christianity and asks, "What's the use of it? What good does it do? They say, and do not!"

Pity the poor children of a parent that indifferent. Not only do they disregard the well-being of their own soul, but utterly fail in their responsibility to the most precious thing that God grants to man. Asleep, and that among the dead! How will that parent feel on the day of judgment when God tells that son or daughter to "depart, I never knew you." The parent had every opportunity to please God. They had the time and privilege of raising the children to suit themselves. They refused to take God into consideration. Then comes the final reaping. "Depart, into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels." We reap what we sow. The parent who fails to teach his child about God, and the child's duty toward God, will reap a bitter hereafter.

What will be the attitude of children toward spiritual things who have been raised by indifferent parents? The answer is obvious. Like father, like son. Like parent, like child. When the child reaches the age of accountability, in which direction will his affections and desires turn?

We can't help but wonder how that indifferent parent would feel with a situation like this. Suppose on the day of judgment God tells the son or daughter to depart. The one thus condemned turns to the indifferent parents and asks, "Why didn't you tell me about God? about Christ? Why didn't you warn me about this place of punishment and torture?" What can the parent say then? Will it do any good to say anything? Memory will persist in that region of the damned. And one of the greatest torments of that parent will be the fact that he could have avoided that place, and also led the children in the right direction. He would give ten thousand yesterdays to have another chance! How many mothers and fathers do you know that would like to spend eternity with the accusing eyes of their children fastened on them?

How many lost souls will cry, "Why didn't you send the gospel to me? Why didn't you set me a good example? Why weren't you interested in others?"

It is a great tragedy that those thus afflicted can't seem to realize it. They do themselves a great injustice. Sometimes coming face to face with the

"grim reaper" will awaken such people. However, many not only come face to face with death, but are actually called away still unprepared.

Should Christ come suddenly, would you be ready? The indifferent person certainly wouldn't. We know not the day or hour, so we should be ready at all times.

AWAKE, AWAKE from the druggy sleep of indifference.

## Inspiration Of The Bible

Charles Van Winkle

THE BIBLE—Is it true or false, divine or human, God-made or man-made? Does it contain the thoughts of the Infinite Mind or the cunning of priestcraft? Here lies the struggle:

That it is a wonderful book is undeniable. A book of facts, prophecies and promises, poetry and politics, law and gospel. It speaks of God, of men, of angels and demons, of a life given and lost, of a beginning and an ending, of eternity and a never ending life.

It traces man from The Garden to the grave, placed its fingers on the pulse of newborn time and rocked the baby world in its cradles. It will feel the last feeble pulse of dying time and lay its hand upon its pale and furrowed brow. Through the ages it has proven indestructible.

Now let us examine two of the leading arguments of the infidel world against the divine inspiration of this wonderful book, the Bible.

1. The infidels urge that the book cannot be fully understood, therefore it is not God-made. Since it claims to contain directions of how to live and die, and how to get to Heaven, at least all minds ought to be able to comprehend its contents.

We who believe the Bible to be inspired admit man's inability to understand the book fully, but deny the conclusion they have reached.

The Bible was intended to engage the best thought powers of the most giant minded of all Earth born sons. It is for all ages, for all time—past, present, future—for all races, all tongues, all people—tribes, kindred. It is to be read, studied, and thought on by all to the last of Adam's dying race. It must have,



then, a height of thought over which an angel's wing has never passed, depth too profound to be fathomed in the course of time. Suppose some master mind should grasp it all. The result would be mental stagnation for all mankind.

This argument is a two-edged sword—in handling it, they cut off their own fingers. No man can understand the book—admitted. But all books made by men can be understood by men, by the reader as well as by the author.

The Bible is a book that has never been fully comprehended. Therefore, it is not of man. IT MUST be of divine origin. It MUST be inspired.

2. Their (the non-believer) second argument is drawn from discrepancies in details. Contradictions, they call it. But I believe these are for a two fold purpose: To enable man to do as he pleases, to either be a Christian or an infidel. This allows man the freedom of choice. It also preserves the power of faith. Had God chosen to make all the evidence concerning Christ coercive, so conclusive that all doubt would be driven from all minds, of what value would faith be? How could man be saved here from sin, by what he could not help believing or doing?

These slight differences strengthen, rather than weaken, the truth. Witnesses, in describing an incident, do not use exactly the same words or see or hear all that takes place. Had there been perfect agreement in every detail, then the infidel would have no cause or excuse to find fault with the Bible.

Now let us consider reasons that show that the Bible is of God.

1. It's the only book that can be read continuous. It's like wealth—the more you get, the more you want.

2. In it the mental giants find food for thought and yet the plan of salvation is so simple all can understand it. No other book can do this.

3. All biographies written by men, not inspired, are motivated by either love or hate. In the Bible, however, people are shown with their faults, weaknesses sins; as well as their virtues and labors for the Lord.

These facts prove to me that truly the Bible is the inspired Word of God, given to use by man moved by his Holy Spirit. And that if we wish to do the will of God we must study and follow it until He comes.

## "One" Means One

Orbie Robbins — Elizabeth, Ark

In Jno. 17:21 Jesus prayed that all may be one. In I Cor. 1:10 Paul exhorted the Corinthians to speak the same thing.

From the beginning to end, the new Testament teaches that all should be "one".

### 1st—ONE WAY

Jeremiah said, "And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me forever, for the good of them and of their children after them. Jer. 32:39. Isaiah stated, "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness: the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those; the wayfaring men, the fools, shall not err therein. Isa. 35:8.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the father but by me. Jno. 14:6. Again he said, "Straight is the gate and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life and few there be that find it. Mt. 7:14.

### 2nd—ONE PATH

Job said there is a path which no fowl knoweth, and which the vultures eye hath not seen. Job 28:7

David stated in Ps. 16:11 thou wilt show me the path of life.

Solomon stated in Prov. 4:18 The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

### 3rd—ONE DOOR

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out find, and find pasture—John 10:9

Again Jesus stated in John 10:16 and other sheep I have which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice and there shall be one fold and one shepherd.

### 4th—ONE FOLD

There shall be one fold and one shepherd—John 10:16

### 5th—ONE GOSPEL

Paul said for I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth: to the Jews first and also the Greek. Rom: 1:16

And he said unto them go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved: but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Paul said but tho we are an angel

from Heaven preach any other gospel let him be accursed; if any man preach any other gospel let him be accursed. Gal. 1:8-9.

### 6th—ONE BODY

There is but one body and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling. Eph. 4:4

But now are they many members: yet but one body. 1 Cor. 12:20

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body, and be ye thankful. Col. 3:15.

For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body. 1 Cor. 12:13.

### 7th—ONE CHURCH

Jesus said in Matt. 16:18 and I say also unto them that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church: and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Again Paul stated, God gave him to be the head over all things to the Church which is his body. Eph. 1:22,23.

## MAILING ADDRESS

Send all correspondence to Wesley Hylton. P. O. Box 237, Mammoth Spring, Ark. Questions and comments are invited.

## NEWS ITEMS

Two have been baptized at Hardy in recent weeks. Bro. Bob Hilburn works with the church there. May God continue to bless their efforts for good.

Bro. Hylton held a meeting at Joiner, Ark. the fourth week in June. Good attendance, and interest, but no visible results. Bro. George Hood works with the church there. He has worked hard in that area to build up the church.

The meeting at Pilot, with Bro. Boyd Morgan preaching, closed with two baptisms, and one restoration. There was good attendance and interest. Bro. Morgan enjoyed seeing old friends again.

The meeting at Thayer was also held during the past month. There was good attendance; reported by some to be the best ever. Bro. Riley Henry did the preaching. There was one restoration.

Bro. Don Smith's meeting at O'Kean, Ark. closed with one man being baptized. Don said that it was a good meeting; with interest and attendance good.

The meeting at Lanton, for the church at Hatfield, closed with eight baptisms. Attendance and interest were very good. Bro. Hylton did the preaching, and Bro. Fred Casey led the singing.

## Present Day Religious Teachings Versus The Bible - Part II

Denver Robinson

We learned in a previous article that there is only one Gospel of Christ. Now let us compare some of the plans of salvation set forth by religious teachers of today with the one gospel set forth in the Bible. Some today teach that a person is saved by "faith" and faith "only". James 2:17 says, "Even so faith if it has not works is dead, being alone." James 2:24. "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified and not by faith only." Another popular doctrine is pray for salvation. Just come to the mourners bench and pray until you feel that God has forgiven your sins. Some say a person can be saved while he is off somewhere by himself. I have never found a command or an example of anyone of these in the New Testament. Another doctrine is that after one is saved he ought to be baptized since it is a command of our Lord, but he can go to heaven without baptism so it really is not essential. Well, if it were possible for one to be saved before baptism then this doctrine would hold true, but let us look into the true gospel and see what the Apostle Peter has to say on the matter. I Pet. 3:20, 21. When once the long suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

Now if baptism saves, as the word of God declares that it does, how can one be saved before baptism? Now someone says "Oh you people just believe in 'water' salvation." We do not believe or teach that water alone saves, but we do teach that a person cannot be saved without water. John the Baptist was sent to prepare a people for the Lord. Luke 1:17, Matt. 3:3. He used water baptism in preparing the way for Christ's coming. Matt. 3:6, Mark 1:4.

Jesus himself was baptized of John in the Jordan River, not because he had

sin, but in order that he might fulfill all righteousness, Matt. 3:15. Again, when Jesus gave the great commission to his apostles he told them to baptize the believers, thus making disciples of them. Matt. 28:19. Mk. 16:15,16. He commanded his apostles to tarry in Jerusalem, until they be endued with power from on high. Luke 24:49, Acts 1:45. In the first chapter of Acts we find the disciples in Jerusalem, as commanded, and they chose Matthias to be numbered with the other eleven apostles. In the beginning of Acts chapter 2, we find them all with one accord, one place, and the Holy Spirit came. They all began to speak as they were led by the Spirit. Peter's sermon is recorded and in Acts 2:37 the audience was pricked in their hearts and cried out "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Peter's answer Acts 2:38. "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." There are many more commands and examples of baptism in the New Testament. Here are just a few. Acts 8:12, Acts 8:38, Acts 9:18, Acts 10:48, Acts 16:15, Acts 16:33, and Acts 22:16. Do we conclude then that salvation comes by baptism alone? No, indeed. Christ told Nicodemus, "Ye must be born of water and the Spirit", John 3:5. Romans 10:14 says "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a Preacher?" So we can see that first we must hear the gospel. Then we must believe it. Jno. 8:24, Acts 13:39, Acts 16:31, Rom. 10:9 and Heb. 11:6, but hearing and believing is not enough. James 2:19 says, "Thou believest that there is one God, thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." So then there is still more works to be done to OBTAIN SALVATION. When John came to prepare a people for the Lord, he preached the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Mark 1:4 Christ says, "I tell you nay, but except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:3. The inspired apostles also taught repentance for the remission of sins. Acts 2:38, Acts 11:18, Acts 17:30, 2 Pet. 3:9. Confessing Christ is also necessary. Romans 10:8-10 says "The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Again in Matt. 10:32 Jesus says "Who-soever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father which is in heaven." The final step to make one a child of God is baptism. We have already proven by the scriptures that baptism is a command of our Lord and is for the remission of sins. But let us notice this one example. Saul of Tarsus though a very penitent believer was not saved before baptism. Ananias told him, "And why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Acts 22:16. When we have obeyed from the heart these five steps we are a child of God, a Christian. The next question arising is which church should I join? The Bible doesn't tell us to join any church. Let us see how the people on the day of Pentecost entered the church. Peter preached to the people. Acts 2:41 says, "Then they that gladly received the word were baptized: and the same day there added unto them about three thousand souls." Verse 47 "And the Lord added to the church daily such as were being saved." When we obey the Lord's commands we need have no fear that the Lord will add us to the wrong church. When a man goes out to buy a piece of property, he does not put his complete trust in what a man has said about the property but instead he examines it carefully to see if it is exactly as described. We are careful in matters along that line, let us be even more careful in matters pertaining to the salvation of our soul. Do not take my word or the word of any other man, but study the word of God to see if the things taught are true.

### EDITORS NOTE

In the last issue of the paper we published the first in a series of three articles with the above title. We failed to give credit to Bro. Denver Robinson as the writer. We take this opportunity to correct that mistake, and commend Bro. Robinson for his interest in furthering the Lord's work.