

# Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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## CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE (7)

### "WHAT WILL BE MY REWARD IF I REMAIN FAITHFUL?"

Everyone likes to know that his efforts are not in vain. A coach enjoys seeing his team pull together and win. A parent likes to see his child grow up to be truly successful. The architect wants to see all his efforts come together in a completed structure. On and on we could go, but these will suffice to show us that we do not want to labor in vain.

Likewise, the Christian needs to know that what he is doing will someday lead to a tremendous reward. It should be a source of joy and comfort to us to know that the sufferings we endure, the trials and temptations we conquer, the "fun" we deny ourselves, the taunts and jeers of the world we shake off, will one day bring us to heaven.

If we are faithful, what will be our reward?

1. "Crown of life" (Rev. 2:10) - A crown was a reward for victory.

2. "Eternal life" (Matt. 25:46) - If an ant was able to walk around the equator of a steel ball the size of the earth, and in his continual walking, he was able to wear a rut in the ball, and finally, wore the ball completely in two, eternity

would just be beginning. IMAGINE! ETERNAL LIFE!

3. "Rest from our labors" (Rev. 14:13; Hebrews 4:1)

4. "Freedom from sufferings and death" (Rev. 21:4)

5. "Be with Christ" (1 Thess. 4:16, 17; 2 Thess. 2:1)

The faithful will be rewarded with a place in heaven. Read Revelation 21 for a description of heaven. To be found faithful, we must let the world know that we are Christians (2 Tim. 2:2; 1 Peter 2:11, 12; 1 Peter 3:15; Col. 3:12-17). The fearful and the disobedient will not make it to heaven (Rev. 21:8). We need to be able to say as Paul said:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day; and not to me only, but also to all them that have loved his appearing." (2 Tim. 4: 7, 8)

Please give prayerful consideration to the things that have been discussed.

Charles Coats

## The All Authoritative Word

Gerald Bolin

A preacher friend of mine, Boyd Morgan, who lived neighbors to me used to say, holding up his rather large foot, "I know I have beautiful feet for the Lord said so," then he would quote Romans 10:15, "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things." My brother and friend is gone on now, but the gospel is still here. We need more than ever to preach that same gospel that former preachers preached and it will continue to save souls.

God says what He means and means what He says. The Father gave Jesus all authority over all things to the church (Ephesians 1:22, 23). It is still in effect today as it was in the first century church of Christ for which He died that we may be saved.

After Jesus left this earth to sit on the right hand of the Father, He left all authority vested in His Word. Jesus said, "He that rejecteth me and receiveth not my words hath one that judgeth him: the Word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48).

The Word of God is all inspired and is profitable in all things (II Timothy 3: 16, 17). So we see how that Christ's all authoritative written Word is all sufficient even unto all things pertaining to life and Godliness.

God has always, both in Old Testament and also the New Testament, demanded respect for the Word. When Paul wrote to the Corinthians, he said, "That ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written" (I Corinthians 4:6).

When one gets out of the realm of the teaching of Christ he is actually fighting against the Lord and there cannot any good come from it. Only strife will come until one returns to the true teaching of the Bible, God's Word.

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### MISSOURI - KANSAS LECTURES

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THEME: "The Unity Of The Spirit"

Lectures will be taped, both audio and video. There will also be a book of the lectures. For more information contact Jack Williams at the above address.

**FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS**

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**THE ALL AUTHORITATIVE WORD**

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Notice what the inspired scripture says, "Whosoever transgresseth (steps across the line) and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God." Also, "If there come any unto you and bring not this doctrine receive him not into your house, neither bid him God's speed: for he that biddeth him God's speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (II John 9-11).

Our Lord will not tolerate any additions to His Word. "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book" (Rev. 22:18). Also, He does not allow any subtractions from the Word. "If any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the Holy City (Rev. 22:19).

Even in the Old Testament God did not tolerate such doing against His Word. Solomon wrote, "Add thou not unto His words, lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." Paul wrote, "Let God be true, but every man a liar" (Romans 3:4). John wrote, "All liars will have their part in the lake of fire." The only conclusion would be that those who add, subtract or substitute or trifle in any way with God's Holy Word are fit subjects for hell. It is a serious thing to treat the Bible as something common.

The Word says of the Old Testament, "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherein he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of Grace?" (Hebrews 10:28, 29).

Yes, God does mean what He says, and says what He means. Let us think soberly and spiritually in all things pertaining to God because it is the Word of God that saves and not the doctrine of men.

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**Do We Dare Change  
The Constitution?**

Max Schmollinger

From time to time, we find a law passed by Congress declared unconstitutional, or Congress called the President to task for attempting to exceed his authority. By the same token, the President has influence over the court by his appointees as well as Congress by approval power. This is all the framers of the Constitution intended for governmental authority. It is remarkable that we have a government based on a Constitution that has required little change since its inception. In fact, we have had fewer amendments to our Constitution than many countries have had forms of governments in the same or less time period.

I suspect one reason for this is that the framers of our Constitution had a respect for God and their fellowman. Language of the Declaration of Independence such as, "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator . . .," lend support to the premise that these men tried to use a sense of Godly wisdom.

How much greater Bible authority is, for the authors not only used Godly wisdom, but were inspired by God in their writings (2 Tim. 3:16). It is amazing to me how some people can read 1 Peter 1:25 and say that in this modern age many of the scriptures no longer apply.

"But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

As an example, some denominations have women as preachers and even elders. This is in direct conflict with scriptures such as 1 Timothy 2:12; 3:2 and Titus 1:6. This and many other divergences from God's Word is legitimized in the minds of men by formation of councils or conferences. Somehow they think this makes the change acceptable. This has led to the vain worship of so many today (Matthew 15:9), and the reliance of words of men and not of God (Matthew 22:29; 2 Timothy 4:3, 4).

If people were as quick to change Constitutional authority as they are Bible authority, we would have long ago lost our freedom. Sad as it is, by disregarding Bible authority, man has lost his true liberty in Christ: "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

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**Saved By Faith?**

Garry Stanton

Is man saved by faith? Yes, the Bible clearly says that he is. In Hebrews 11:6 we are told that "without faith it is impossible to please God." And the apostle Paul tells us that "by grace are ye saved through faith (Ephesians 2:8). A problem arises though when we say that we are saved by faith only. You see, the Bible does not say that man can be saved by faith only. Instead, the Bible teaches that man is saved by a system of things rather than by faith only. Why is it that men want to accept the passages which tell us we are saved by faith, and ignore the passages which tell us we are saved by other things? I hope that it is because of a lack of knowledge and not because of a lack of honesty. We can do something about the lack of knowledge but the dishonest individual must change himself.

Let us take time to notice the other things by which we are saved. Please read each carefully and with an open heart and mind.

1. Man is saved by Hope, Romans 8:24. "For we are saved by hope . . ."

2. Man is saved by Calling on the Name of the Lord, Romans 10:13. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

3. Man is saved by the Gospel, 1 Corinthians 15:1 - 2. "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved . . ."

4. Man is saved by Belief and Baptism Mark 16:16. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved . . ."

5. Man is saved by Baptism in water, I Peter 3:20 - 21. ". . . 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 . . ."

6. Man is saved by Being Faithful

unto the end. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Revelation 2:10). "He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Matthew 24:13).

Dear friend, please consider carefully and honestly these holy inspired scriptures on this matter. Do not be lulled into a sense of false hope by the erroneous idea that man can be saved by faith only. Take time to read the great expose on the relation of faith and works in James 2: 14-26. Saved by faith? Yes. Saved by faith only? No!!

"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." (James 2:26).

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## KNM-WT 17000

Charles Coats

In the September 1986 issue of DISCOVER, there is a story concerning the finding of a new skull. Although this may not sound that unusual or that exciting, this skull has caused a great deal of concern among those that believe in the evolutionary origin of man.

Pat Shipman, a paleontologist at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, is the author of this article, and her husband is the discoverer of this skull. The skull was given the number KNM-WT 17000 in the National Museum of Kenya. Her article gives an account of the finding of the skull, and then shows the problems that this find has caused. "What the new skull does, in a single stroke, is overturn all previous notions of the course of early hominid evolution" (p. 89).

Because this skull is the oldest of its kind ever found and because it is more advanced than its supposed ancestors, the evolutionist is having a hard time putting this skull in its proper place. Evolution teaches that the least advanced or least complex developed into the more advanced or more complex. So, what do you do with a skull that is older and more advanced than those that are supposed to predate it?!

Apparently, they are not doing much with it now, but are waiting for more research. Obviously, though, the evolutionist is now in a state of confusion. "And then where is the ancestral hominid species? The best answer we can give right now is that we no longer have a very clear idea of who gave rise to whom; we only know who didn't" (p. 92).

KNM-WT 17000, the new skull, will probably turn the evolutionary world upside down. However, if there is ever any change in their thinking, it will come very slowly. "I don't think the new synthesis will come quickly, for most of these choices (on how to evaluate the impact of this find, C.C.) will make many of the primary researchers in this field uncomfortable" (p. 93).

Meanwhile, the evolutionist will continue to put on an air of confidence as to the origin of man. Our children will continue to be taught that man descended from an ape, and they will (far too many of them at least) continue to believe it. That is, unless we take the DISCOVER article, and others like it, and show them that the evolutionist does not have ANY of the answers for the origin of man.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

We must always be alert to the teaching of Evolution. The outcome of this teaching is atheism. In order to keep our children true to God, we must be aware of what is going on in the field of Evolution, and then combat it with logical reasoning and God's Word. If you do not already take it, let me urge you to invest \$3.00 and take the journal Reason and Revelation as this will be a tremendous aid in your study on the issue of Evolution. This paper is edited by two fine gospel preachers who have done a great deal of study in this field. Subscribe now at: Apologetics Press, Inc., 230 Landmark Drive, Montgomery, AL, 36117-2752.

## Should Infants Be Baptized?

Garry Stanton

One of the most widely accepted teachings concerning baptism is the practice of baptizing infants. Those who practice infant baptism do so because they believe that every infant is lost in sin when it is born. Is this practice a scriptural one? Does the Bible teach that infants should be baptized? Is one, who was baptized as an infant, in a saved condition as an adult? Let's look to the Bible for the answers to the questions.

1. The mode of baptism that is usually employed with infants is sprinkling a small amount of water. This idea is not in harmony with the definition of **Baptizo**, the Greek word translated baptize in the New Testament, which means to dip, plunge, or immerse. The analogies associated with baptism point to baptism

being more than just sprinkling. Romans 6:4 says that "we are buried with Christ by baptism into death," and in verse 5 Paul says that we are "planted . . . in the likeness of his death." Is something considered buried with the sprinkling of a small amount of dirt over it? Do we dig a hole to plant a tree and then sprinkle only a little dirt over the roots? Neither are we buried with Christ by baptism by sprinkling a little water on our head. The action of baptism takes much water. John the baptizer baptized in Aenon "because there was much water there" (John 3:23) In Acts 8:38, when Phillip baptized the eunuch, it says they "went down, both into the water." Question: Is "much water" needed to sprinkle? Is it necessary for both or even one to go "into the water" to sprinkle? The answer is NO. The baptism of the New Testament is not sprinkling but a total and complete immersing in water.

2. The Bible is equally clear as to the subjects that were baptized. In each example of baptism given in the New Testament, those baptized did so of their own free will. Infant baptism is clearly not an act of an infants free will, it is forced upon them by their parents' will. Notice the required response of one who is to be baptized.

a. Mark 16:16 - "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Does an infant have faith before they are baptized? NO.

b. Acts 2:38 - "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins." Can an infant repent before baptism? How does a week old baby change his life?

c. Acts 8:36 - 38 - The eunuch asks Philip what prevented his being baptized, and Philip said that if he believed with his heart that nothing prevented it. The eunuch responded by stated the great confession, he said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." What infant has faith in Jesus as the Son of God and is able to make that affirmation? Unless a person has responded to faith in Jesus, repented of their sins, and confessed their faith, all before their baptism, they have not followed the examples of baptism found in the New Testament.

3. The premise that infants are born in sin and lost is not taught in God's word. The Bible shows us that sin is an action, a transgression of God's will (1 John 3:4). A person can sin by thinking evil, speaking evil, doing evil, or failing to do good. God will judge us according to each man's work. We will be held account-

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**SHOULD INFANTS BE BAPTIZED?**

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able only for those sins we commit. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity (sin) of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son . . ." (Ezekiel 18:20). Paul writes that "we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (II Cor. 5:10). Infants are not capable of sinning and they are not held accountable for sins of others, therefore they do not need to be baptized. Jesus, instead of picturing children as sinful, says that the adults need to be pure and white as children "for such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14).

Is the practice of sprinkling infants a scriptural one, that is, one that the scripture teaches? NO! Does the Bible teach that infants should be baptized? NO! Is one who was sprinkled as an infant (supposedly as an act of baptism) in a saved condition as an adult? NO! Only when they follow the steps of salvation as given in the gospel will they find salvation.

The vital importance of this matter demands our attention. Please think carefully about these things and as Paul says, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." (II Corinthians 13:5).

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**Thank You & Update**

Charles Coats

We would like to take this time to express our appreciation to all who have contributed financially to the work of this paper. Several individuals and congregations are helping on a regular basis, and we have received other help from time to time. While we may not always send a thank you letter, we do want you to know that these gifts are greatly appreciated.

We have completely transferred our mailing list to a computer, and it may be that in this process we lost someone's name. If you know of someone whose name seems to be lost, please let us know. We apologize for any inconveniences.

With the January issue, we mailed 4,997 copies of this paper into 41 states. We also mailed one copy each into Canada and Sweden. We believe much good will be accomplished with this paper. Please keep in mind that the Fulton County Gospel News is mailed FREE OF CHARGE to all who would like to receive it.

Please keep us in your prayers.

**THE CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1. The Bible is its only guide (Romans 1:16; I Thess. 2:13).
2. Wears a Biblical Name (Romans 16:16).
3. Established at the right place (Isaiah 2:2, 3; Acts 2).
4. Established at the right time (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2).
5. Established on the right person (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:36).
6. Saved are in it (Ephesians 5:23; Acts 2:47).
7. Its members are enrolled in heaven (Hebrews 12:23).
8. Membership in it is obtained by obedience to God's commands including baptism (Acts 2:41-47; I Corinthians 12:13).

**GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION**

1. Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).
2. Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).
3. Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).
4. Confession (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).
5. Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).
6. After the above five steps, faithful Christian living (I Peter 2:11, 12; Revelation 2:10).

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