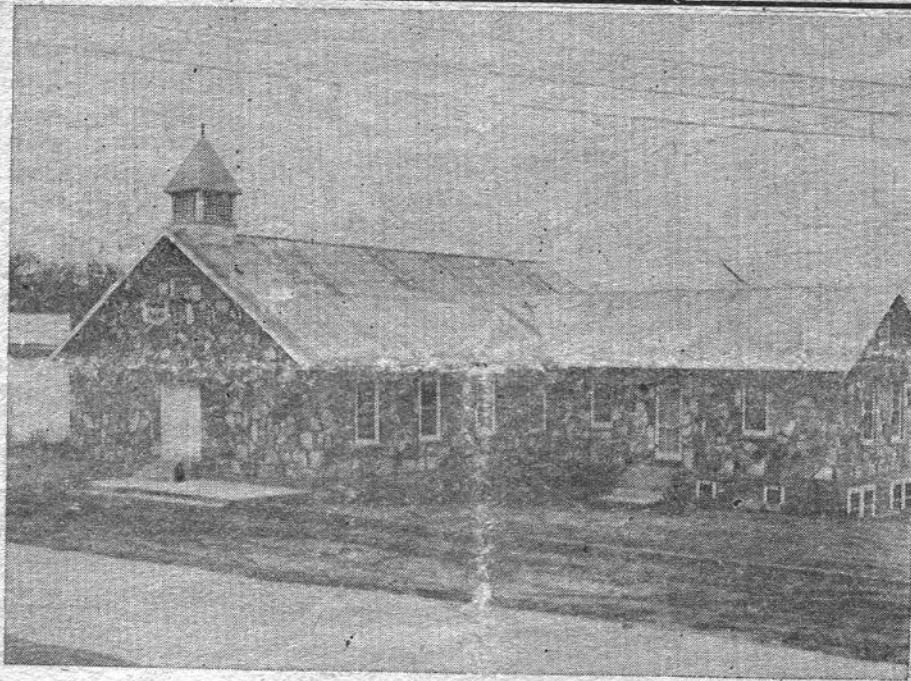


FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

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"The Churches of Christ Salute You"
APRIL 15, 1954

Mammoth Spring, Ark.
Permit No. 1



During the past three months the Mammoth Spring church attendance has been at an all time high. The previous record of 271 for regular Lord's day morning worship set last month was broken the first Sunday in April with 304 in attendance. While we have had more for special occasions, this is our new record for Sunday morning attendance. You are welcome with us.

WHEN WE GIVE

If we desire to be seen...we are vain.

If we are afraid to be seen...we are miserly.

WRONG KIND OF GIVING

Giving up...is cowardice

Giving over...is compromise.

Giving in...is surrender

Giving out...is weakness.

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

Clavis Ragsdale Moten

Those who believe that baptism is not an essential act in the salvation of men would do well to study the baptism of our savior. He is the one person who lived a sinless life, and who, John thought, would not need to be baptized.

We learn in Matt. 3:13-17 that Jesus went to considerable trouble to set an example for all who in the generations to come, would become children of God. Notice that our Savior came of his accord, voluntarily traveling the sixty miles from his home in Nazareth to where John was baptizing in the Jordan river. The Savior explained to John that his baptism was necessary in order to fulfill all righteousness. How then could sinful man object to baptism?

From the sixteenth verse of Matt. 3 we learn the mode of baptism. We are told they came up straightway out of the water. This rules out the idea of sprinkling or pouring. His baptism was a picture and prediction of his death, burial, and resurrection.

After he came up out of the water he was recognized by God, when the voice from heaven stated, "this is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased." It is when we arise from the watery grave of baptism that God will recognize us as his children and not before, as is so commonly taught today. Baptism is the concluding act in the salvation of man from his past sins.

In the book of Acts we have the record of many conversions. The Jews on Pentecost, the Samaritans, Simon, the Eunuch, Saul of Tarsus, Cornelius, Lydia.

Continued on back page

Marion Farley
Jonesboro, Ark.

'And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them.'

When Jesus instituted the supper he said, "This do in remembrance of me" Luke 22:19. The only time element as to frequency is stipulated as The First day of the week. If we can change this to quarterly, semi-annually or annually, why not change it to just once in a lifetime and once having done it to have it over with. The Sabbath day came every week to the Jews. Likewise the first day of the week comes every week to the Christian. Every religious body that observes the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday, is as dependent upon Acts 20:7 as are we for first day assembling. Since the reason why they met is so plainly put when the disciples came together to break bread our reason for meeting is as important as when to meet. Those who meet and leave off this reason become guilty of leaving of a part and hence become guilty of the whole.

It is not enough to say that the church can decide how often the supper should be observed. For the church is subject to Christ Eph. 5:24. Ecclesiastical authority is a relic of Romanism and is unworthy of enlightened people who have the Bible.

Neither will it suffice to say merely that the Lord's Supper belongs to the church and is just a church ordinance. Jesus said Luke 22:30 "That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom."

Boyd Morgan

THE GOSPEL PAUL PREACHED

Gospel is simply 'Good News'. Since this is true, many times in life we hear gospel or good news. But the gospel as preached by the beloved apostle was God's will that had been revealed to him in a special manner.

As he neared Damascus with letters of authority in his possession from the chief priests to bind and put into prison all Christians found worshipping God, suddenly a bright light, brighter than the noonday sun, shined about him, and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul why persecutest thou me?" Then he answered, "Who art thou Lord?" and the answer came back, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest," and Paul asked, "What wilt thou have me to do?" He was told to go into the city and there it would be told him what he "Must Do."

Annianias was told to go to him, for he was a chosen vessel to bear the Lord's name to the Gentile world.

Then, some years later in his letter to the Churches in Galatia, he told them where he obtained the Gospel he preached, (Gal. 1: 11, 12). "The gospel which was preached of me is not after man, for I neither received it of man, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ."

This must have been Paul's chief reason for renouncing the religion of the fathers, in which he had been tutored under the guidance of Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, a Pharisee, and a member of Sanhedrin Court, a very learned man.

He learned to love and uphold

the same to the very best of his ability, believing while persecuting Christians that he was doing God service. But, as in his case, ignorance or 'living in all good conscience' will not excuse anyone.

No doubt it was difficult for him to turn his back upon the many friends and relatives he must have enjoyed, who still held to the Mosaic rites and traditions, and to "Preach the faith which once he destroyed" [Gal. 1:23] and to state so boldly as in [Rom 1:16], "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

He even went so far as to pronounce a woe on any that should preach a gospel that he had not taught (Gal. 1:8, 9). "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."

This solemn warning should be enough to cause the gravest concern among those entrusted with God's eternal word, and the destiny, for all eternity, of the souls of men and women.

Let us examine briefly some of the things Paul preached.

In I Cor. 15:1-8 he reviewed the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord with the infallible proofs of the same.

Also the fact in verses 1 and 2 that they had received the gospel he preached to them, that they were standing in it, and by it they were saved if they kept in memory the things he had preached to them, unless they had believed in vain.

The fact the Gentiles were not required to submit to the ordin-

Continued on page 7

ances of the Mosaic law was 'Good News' to them, which was emphasized by Paul in (Gal 2:16) "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."

The faith referred to in this passage was the kind the Phillipian jailer had in Acts 17 when he asked Paul and Silas, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" and he was told to "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." And the record says, "They spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house". After he had heard the gospel story, he was ready to complete his obedience and was baptized the same hour of the night.

There is the greatest need today of the gospel Paul preached, since it is that that saves men and Women from eternal destruction, when they believe and obey it from the heart, and continued to do God's commands throughout remaining days of life, prompted by love and reverence for him, remembering that it is through his grace and mercy, that remission of sins and the promise of a home in that city of gold where the river of life flows from the throne of God, where there is no need for the sun or moon, God himself being the light, an indescribable place of beauty.

God wants all to enjoy his splendors "The Lord...is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" [2 Pet. 2:9].

It is entirely up to you to choose for yourself. God doesn't force any man to accept.

C. H. Cavin.....Sturkie, Ark

It has always been that the last words spoken by our loved one are cherished in our minds more than any others spoken by them. The same is true of great men. "I regret only that I have but one life to lose for my country," were the last words of Nathan Hale before was executed. These words are cherished where ever our history is read. We remember the last words of Sir Walter Raleigh: spoken while lying on the guillotine, waiting for his head to be severed from his body. His words, "It makes no difference how my head lays if my heart is pure." We will never forget the words of these great men.

Why not have as much love for the last words spoken by our Savior. His last words spoken as recorded by Mk. 16; 15-16 are these, "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." Why do not people believe these last words spoken by him. They are true. They were written by inspiration 2 Tim. 3:16. We are to be judged by his word Jno. 12:48.

The apostles understood that they were to preach the gospel to all the world and they did so. Why can't people understand they are to believe and be baptized to be saved? Christ said it. Why do we say, I was saved before I was baptized? Peter said repent and be baptized for the remission of your sins Acts 2;38. Why can we not believe the last words of our Lord? In the fifth book of the New Testament is the record of

every case of conversion recorded after the death of Christ and the conditions of pardon are identical in every case.

In the next 21 letters, written to the Church. Christians are told how to live the Christian life and how to deal with every problem that comes up in the church.

The gospel is the power of God unto salvation Rom. 1:16, we must help to spread it. We are saved by the gospel I Cor. 15; 2, we will be cursed if we preach or believe any other than the apostles preached Gal. 1; 8-9. Notice a few statements found in these letters. I Cor. 1;10 That there be no divisions among you. 2nd Cor. 4;7 We have this treasure (the Gospel) in earthen vessels. Eph. 1;3 All spiritual blessings are in Christ. Gal. 1;27 we are baptized into Christ. 1 Jno. 1;7 the blood of Christ cleanseth us from all sin. Jno. 19;34 His blood was shed in his death. Rom. 6;3 We are baptized into his death. Col. 1;13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear son. The kingdom has already been set up as we are translated into it.

First Thes. 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil. I Cor. 15; 33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners, or bad company ruins character [Goodspeed]

Space will not permit more but Rev. 22;14 Blessed are they that do his commandments that they may have a right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right." Eph. 6;1.

The Baptism of Jesus Continued from page 1

the jailer, Crispus, the Corinthians, and the Ephesians, who were all baptized without exception (Case of Crispus I Cor. 1 also).

The great commission given by Christ to his apostles was for them to go teach, baptize, and then teach the duties of Christian living to all who would hear in all nations. This commission is binding on all peoples who have lived on this side of the cross, and will be in effect until the end of time.

UNITY ?

Bobby Hilburn, Salem, Ark.

"Which Denomination Are You Associated With?"

We hear this question asked time after time by our friends. It fills my heart with joy to stand bold and to explain that I'm not a member of any denomination, but merely a Christian. It's hard for some to understand. Some will turn away in a rage thinking that I'm only trying to be "smart" or trying to hurt their feelings. They can't see that I'm only trying to establish unity in religion.

I understand, there are about 2000 different religious organizations in the world today. Everyone of them professes to be following and pleasing God. To deny that there is some truth in the majority of them would be useless, since in almost all of them one will find some practices founded upon New Testament teachings. If they had nothing founded upon divine inspiration, then those who have any knowledge of the Bible at all, would refuse to have any fellowship

with them. Therefore, they find some New Testament teaching which doesn't require any effort on the part of the member and build an organization around that and gain many followers. Many in these organizations are there in order to take part in the teaching for which they have scriptural foundations, but in doing this, they are also condoning the use of practices not based upon God's word. Still you will hear them unceasingly and unavailingly pleading for unity.

Jesus prayed for unity of all believers, Jno. 17, yet men will disregard the prayer of our Lord and will actually encourage division by professing for men everywhere to attend the Church of their choice. We need to give less concern to the "Church of Your Choice" and more concern to the "Church of Christ's Choice." It would be the church for which he died, Eph. 5:25; the church which he purchased with his own blood, Act 20:28; the church which he spoke of building in Matt. 16:18; the church to which he adds the saved, Act 2:47; the church of which he is head, Eph. 1:22-23; the church which bears his name, Rom. 16:16; the church which he promises to save, Eph. 5:23; and the church which follows the word of God in its doctrine and in every practice.

The denominational world pleads for unity, but they are going in the wrong direction to find it. Not until every religious person agrees to lay aside all creeds of men and pre-conceived ideas about religion, and accepts the word of God, can man ever find unity in anything. About the only thing that the denominational world is unified in is a con-

tinuous war against the Church of Christ and its practices. Why are they against us??? Because we preach the "WORD" and include all it teaches and exclude all it excludes? They are the ones whom the apostle Paul spoke of in II Tim. 4:3-4 as "after their Own Lusts turn from the truth."

When the world accepts God's way of doing things we'll have unity, NEVER before. My prayer to God is, that he will be merciful until all see this fact and repent, then come obeying.

THE CHURCH AND THE KINGDOM ARE THE SAME;

They have the same owner—
Matt. 16:18; John 18:36

They have the same ruler—
Eph. 5:23; I Tim. 6:15

They have the same beginning place—
Isa. 2:1; Acts 2

They have the same beginning date—
Isa. 2:1; Acts 2

They have the same law—
Isa. 2:3; Acts 2.

They have the same keys—
Matt. 16:18, 19; Acts 2:47.

They have the same admittance terms—
John 3:5; Acts 2:38.

They have the same membership—
Col. 1:2, 13.

They have the same glory—
Isa. 2:1, 2; Eph. 3:21.

If baptism does not wash away sins, why does the bible say, "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptised, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Acts 22:16. Think of this before you say that baptism does not save. Those who know the bible know it says, Let God be true, and every man a liar.