

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

Mammoth Spring, Ark.

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FAITH ALONE?

Joe Prueett Thayer, Mo.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God not of works, lest any man should boast." (Eph. 2:8-9) "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified and not by faith only." (Jas. 2:24).

Is there a contradiction between these two passages? According to the way some people believe, there is. However, we need only to make a little more thorough study of God's word to see that there is no contradiction between any passages. We are saved by God's grace through faith in Him who has provided a way for us. It is not within man to decide his own way of salvation. If he did, then he could boast about it. We are saved through faith. That faith, which saves, is to be one that works by love. (Gal. 5:6) Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." (Jno. 14:15).

James says faith alone will not save but that faith plus works (obedience to God's commands) will save. Hence, we see in harmonizing these two passages that a man is saved by the grace of God through a living faith in Him which moves him to obey every command of God. Faith alone is not enough; either is works alone, but both being combined, will save the soul.

Naaman was a man of authority, captain of the host of the King of Syria, but his body was afflicted with leprosy. He had captured a little Israelite maiden in one of his battles and she became servant of Naaman's wife. She, interested in her master, told him he could be cured by going to a prophet in Samaria. Naaman, wanting the disease cured, went to the prophet. The prophet sent out a servant and told him to go dip in the River Jordan seven times and he would be clean. Naaman, having a preconceived idea of how the prophet of God would go about to heal him, went away in a rage when he was given the simple command to dip seven times in Jordan. Naaman thought the prophet would surely come out unto him in pomp and call on the name of the Lord and strike his hand over the place and recover the leper. He said in answer to the seemingly foolish instructions of the

prophet, "Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? May I not wash in them, and be clean? Had Naaman obeyed his own thoughts about the matter, could he have been healed? The record says he afterward repented and dipped seven times in the river as the prophet had commanded him, and he became clean. If Naaman had refused to go dip the seven times in the Jordan, could he have been healed of his leprosy? Could he have been healed by the faith that the God of Israel, through the instruction of the prophet, could heal him without any act on his part? We know assuredly that in his case it took faith plus obedience (works) before he could be healed.

A man's soul is afflicted with sin, regardless of what his position in life may be. He can go to God to have his soul cleansed from that disease. God, through his word, tells him to hear the gospel (Rom. 10:17), to believe it (Rom. 10:10, Mk. 16:15-16), to repent of his sins (Acts 2:38, Lk. 13:3-5), confess Jesus as the Christ (Matt. 10:32-33, Rom. 10:10), and to be baptized (Acts 2:38, Rom. 7:1-5, Gal. 3:26-27) in order that he might have remission of his sins. Obedience to all these commands is necessary. Would a man's soul be cleansed if he obeyed only part of God's commands? Is the doctrine of faith alone found in the Bible? Does it cleanse one from his disease of sin? Remember the word of James; "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified and not by faith only." (Jas. 2:24).

LIBERTY

Tom Griffith Mammoth Spring
"He saith unto them, but whom say ye that I am? and Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build MY CHURCH; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatsoever thou

shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Matt. 16:15-19.

This, beyond doubt, speaks of Christ's church. The Church of the New Testament. This is the church that has the Spirit of the Lord in it.

"And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart. Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved", Acts 2:46,47.

I wonder why some one didn't ask what church the Lord was adding to? That question was never asked in the days of the apostles. The church was Christ's church. It was just spoken of as the church. These man-made churches did not exist then. However, today, if you tell someone you are going to church they ask you what church. In the New Testament times there was only one and that was the one that Jesus said he would build on the rock of the fact that he was the Son of God. This is the one that has the Spirit of the Lord. Jesus did not leave us in darkness about this.

"Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." II Cor. 3:17.

Anywhere, anytime that the members of the Church of Christ have assembled together, you are permitted and often requested to ask any Bible question that you desire. The church of Christ hides behind the cross. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty.

But just try this in the assemblies of man-made churches and see how far you get. Is there liberty? No. You are apt to be threatened with being arrested for disturbing so-called worship. Do they hide behind the cross? No. They hide behind the laws of the land. They prove themselves, by their own actions, that the Spirit of the Lord is not in their assemblies.

Should they deny this, let them open their doors and invite all to come and ask any Bible questions they wish as the Church of Christ does. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty.

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Boyd E. Morgan

EDITORIAL

Nothing is so encouraging as re-
sults. Truly the word of the Lord
does not return unto him void. To
the east of us up and down Jane's
creek from Myrtle to Banks more
than thirty have been baptized with
additional results in restorations by
Bro. Lowell Blasingame with, of
course, the good help of the bre-
thern.

North of us twenty-one souls were
converted to Christ by a Negro bro-
ther in Christ, Bro. Marshall Keebie
at West Plains. In spite of the fact
that the meeting was held with the
primary purpose of taking the gos-
pel to the colored folks of West
Plains, all these converts were white
folks and were baptized by Bro. Wal-
ter C. Billingsley. Besides the bap-
tisms, there were six restorations
to the Lord and to his church. The gos-
pel knows no racial or political bar-
riers.

Here in Fulton County, our hearts
were made to rejoice with the won-
derful results of the meeting at Sa-
lem. To have these kind of meet-
ings brethern must be soul-winners
and have a sincere desire to win
souls to Christ. The brethern were
well prepared for the meeting and
the results were nineteen baptisms
and four restorations. One more
was baptized on the Lord's day fol-
lowing the meeting. The brethren
there are to be complimented and
their work and the work of Bro.
Bobby Hilburn, their local preach-
er, commended to the brotherhood.

The church is growing. Thank
God for a spiritual awakening. The
world is hungry for the truth. The
church of Christ alone has it and the
responsibility of carrying this truth
to a world that is more and more
becoming tired of denomina-
tionalism is ours.

Boyd E. Morgan

JOE H. BLUE

A soldier has fallen to the trans-
gression of Adam. Bro. Blue is
dead. Since flesh and blood can-
not inherit the kingdom of Heaven;
the spirit was called away Sept. 4
and the body was laid in the silent
city of the dead Sept. 6. There are
such things as a time to die, an
honorable death, an honorable burial,
a going to the bosom of Abraham to
be comforted after the trials of life.
These were Bro. Blue's.

Yet it is hard to realize that the
voice that preached Jesus and him
crucified for considerable more than
a half century has been stilled in
death. That voice will be heard again
but with the heavenly choir. He is
no less ours because he has died.
His words, his life, his character,
what he stood for, are ours to re-
member. He preached Christ. He
lived the Christian life. He chose
and served Christ's church. He pre-
pared himself for the hour that
came to him and admonished others
all his lifetime to prepare them-
selves too. Through his influence many
have and many did and beyond doubt
many yet shall prepare themselves.

Words shall never express our love
or our loss. We shall see him again
in that eternal city is our hope,
comfort and consolation.

PROPERLY ARMED

Everyone knows the importance of
being fully armed when entering up-
on the battlefield in carnal warfare,
and are also fully aware much train-
ing in the use of this armor is equal-
ly necessary.

When David's statement that he
would go out and fight against the
great giant Goliath, reached king
Saul, the king had him arrayed in
the choicest of armor, but David took
it off because he had not "Proven
it" or been trained in its use. On
the other hand, he chose a weapon
he was skilled in using, the sling and
a few smooth stones taken from the
brook and came out victorious over
this nine foot giant who had defied
the armies of Israel for forty days.

It is no wonder Paul in Eph. 6,
advised Christians to make full use
of the protecting armor God has pro-
vided for them. The importance of
taking it all is emphasized by the
apostle's statement in V. 11, "Put on
the whole armor of God" and re-
peating it in V. 13, "Take unto you
the whole armor of God."

The armor prescribed is both de-
fensive and offensive, but notice it
is five to one for the defense of the
Christian soldier. Hence the impor-
tance of preparing to defend against

the "Wiles of the Devil," being warn-
ed that He is "As a roaring lion,
walking about seeking whom he may
devour." I Pet. 5:8.

"Truth" is the first part of the
armor recommended. Satan is the
enemy of truth. His very first ap-
pearance was with deception. Gen.
3.

The next "Righteousness" is just
as effective as the first. If there
is anything the old "Deceiver" hates,
it is righteousness. With it he can
be put to flight immediately.

"Feet shod with the preparation
of Gospel of peace" will not be swift
to run to mischief, of which he is
the promoter.

With the "Shield of Faith" we are
assured none of his darts will find
their mark, but with it we become
pleasing unto God. Heb. 11:6.

And finally, by using salvation as
a helmet, we are clothed for the
greatest effectiveness against man's
worst enemy.

But God is not satisfied with man
protecting himself only, he was given
him the most powerful weapon
known to the human race, "The
sword of the Spirit, which is the
Word of God". Still it, like any
other weapon in the hands of those
who cannot use it skillfully, becomes
of little or no effect against the
enemy.

The fearless apostle, Paul, gave
Timothy the solution to its use when
he said, "Study to shew thyself ap-
proved unto God. Rightly dividing
the Word of Truth". There is abso-
lutely no way of "Handling aright
the Word" as the Revised Version
gives it, other than a careful study
of it.

So many dust covered Bibles at-
test to the fact that people do not
know how to use their God given
weapon.

A gun would not be proper pro-
tection to your home against intrud-
ers if you didn't know how to use
it, neither is an UNREAD, NEGLEC-
TED, DUST COVERED BIBLE, able
to give you the protection God wants
you to have.

Marion Farley
404 So. Masters Dr.
Dallas 17, Texas

Have you hunted for any mention
of the church you are a member of
in the Bible?

What good is intending to obey
the gospel. You haven't done it yet
or you wouldn't be intending to.

The only reason we want you to be
baptized is because the Lord said so.

PARENTIAL DELINQUENCY

by

Clovis Ragsdale—Moten

We read and hear much today about Juvenile Delinquency, and what should and could be done to lessen the amount of crime committed by children and teenagers. But what many fail to realize is that back of most of the cases of Juvenile Delinquency there is, as its cause, Parential Delinquency. Too many parents today fail to heed the advice of the apostle Paul in Eph. 6:4 "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Because so many parents know little and care less about the Lord they consequently fail to instill in their children a knowledge of God and a proper attitude concerning things religious. The child is allowed to grow up much like the heathen's children do and do not know or recognize the existence of God. It is not surprising then to learn of the youth of our Country committing all the crimes know to man.

The youth of today are the offspring of people who grew up in the period immediately following World War I, when a moral downswing was first noticed among the people of this country. During this time divorce became common, the use of alcohol increased and reverly increased greatly. When these young people became parents they were not willing to give up their "big times" but left their children with baby sitters, in nurseries, etc. As the child grew up it failed to learn the difference between right and wrong simply because the parent failed to teach and set the example before it. The parents simply neglect to

bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We have an example of a man who failed in his duty to his children. That man was Eli and because his sons knew not God much sorrow was known by Eli, and finally his death was caused by the sins of his sons. I Samuel, chapters 2, 3, and 4.

We cannot help but wonder what the future holds for the youth of America. If this downward plunge of the morals of our young people continues when they become the parents of tomorrow, then the end of this great nation of ours is in sight. History reveals how many great nations of the past have fallen, and almost always the cause was moral decay from within. Results were internal weaknesses, which then made that nation too weak to withstand the enemies from without.

Parents we need to concentrate on the bringing up of our children because they are our most cherished possessions.

We put in much time and effort in the care of our business but we should be willing to give more time and effort to the proper raising of our children. To fail to do so will most always bring us much sorrow and heartache and then we will ring our hands in despair and would gladly give all our possessions if we could but right our children's mistakes. Parents we need to awake to our responsibilities and opportunities and raise our children according to the advice given by the wise Solomon of old when in Prov. 22:6 he tells us "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it,

The Question

Were the whole world as good as you,

Not an atom better.

Were it just as pure and true,
Just as strong in faith and works;

Just as free from crafty quirks:
All extortion, all deceit,
Schemes its neighbors to defeat,
Schemes its neighbors to defraud
Schemes some culprit to applaud—
Would this world be better?

If the whole world followed you,
Followed to the letter—

Would it be a nobler world,
All deceit and falsehood hurled
From it altogether:

Malice, selfishness and lust,
Banished from beneath the crust
Covering human hearts from view--

Tell me if it followed you,
Would the world be better?

.. Author Unknown

Good Taste

Emily Post, the goddess of those who would be socially perfect, says it is good taste to leave company and go to church! Notice her exact words; "except under very unusual circumstances, courtesy would not require the family to absent themselves from the church. It does require however that the hosts ask their guests if they would like to go with them." Now that Emily Post has said it, it must be so.

Selected

Mottoes:

No book but the bible

No creed but the Christ

No name but the Divine

No plea but the gospel

No basis of unity, but the scriptures,

1. In essentials, unity

2. In opinions, liberty

3. In all things, charity

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Erwin Cowen—Moten

There are three forms of Spiritual Gifts revealed to man in the New Testament. Let us study the subject with open minds taking only what the N. T. scriptures teach us. It is as plain as any Bible subject, plain enough to be understood by any one who will give careful study to what the Scriptures teach. "Study to show thyself approved unto God." [2 Tim. 2:15]

First let us study the Common Gift. By the common gift, I mean the gift common to all who obey the gospel. "And we are witnesses of these things and so is the Holy Spirit whom God hath given to them who obey." (Acts 5:32) "And because ye are sons, God sent forth the spirit of his son into our hearts crying Abba father." (Gal. 4:6)

These passages set forth a gift of the spirit that is received by men upon their obedience at the time they become Sons of God. It is the gift received at sonship, at the instant of becoming sons of God in Christ, this instant arrives at baptism.

"For ye are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ." (Gal. 3:26-27) Nine verses below in Gal. 4:6 Paul says the Spirit is given to the sons of God, that is to all who through faith were baptized into Christ and clothed with Christ. These two passages together show the Holy Spirit, a gift from God, is the clothing put on at baptism.

Now on the day of Pentecost the Faith or law of pardon was once for all delivered unto the Saints. (Jude 3) What Peter

preached upon that day was according to his testimony, the law of pardon for both Jew and Greek, for even as many as the Lord our God shall call unto him. [Acts 2:38-39] That law very plainly states that all believers who would repent and be baptized, for the remission of sins, would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. That not only made the gift common to all but made it absolutely impossible for any man to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins, and escape receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit, for he shall receive the gift said the apostle Peter Acts 2:38-39. This gift common to all who through obedience became sons of God is never attended by miraculous power, but is the natural effect of entering into the name of the Father, Son, Holy Spirit. A super human Spirit to be sure, but one combining man with the Trinity or God head as an essential out growth of man's spiritual birth, and not a miraculous display of super human power. This is the gift spoken of in (Rom. 8:9) "But ye are not in the flesh but in the spirit if so be that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you, but if any man hath not the spirit of Christ he is none of his."

This refers to the Spirit clothing put on when baptized into Christ, and is the heritage of every obedient man. In (Eph. 1:13-14) this spirit gift is referred to "In whom ye also trusted, sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise which is the earnest of our inheritance." (or part payment) until the redemption of the purchased possession unto the praise of his glory. This spirit clothing is part payment in advance of the ideal clothing with Christ in person. In (2 Cor. 5:2-6) Paul refers to this clothing.

"For in this tabernacle [or body] we groan earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven, for we that are in this tabernacle being burdened not that for we would be unclothed, but clothed upon that mortality [or what is mortal] might be swallowed up in life." "Now he that has wrought us for that selfsame purpose is God who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Here again the earnest of the Spirit is seen to be provided as a temporary clothing until we are clothed upon (clothing added to clothing) in our perfected state. Just as God added clothing of skins to the fig leaf clothing of Adam and Eve. (Gen. 3:21) To be clothed and yet found naked in that day, (2 Cor. 5:3 is to have put on Christ in baptism and that time been clothed with the spirit, then in after years to walk after the flesh even as Nemas who loved the world more than God [2 Tim. 4:10] (Rom 8:6-10) [Gal. 5:16-22].

WELCOME HILL

Bible study Saturday night at 7:15. We invite all to attend all of our services.

Hear Bro. Tommy McClure on K C L N Monday through Saturday at 12:15.

WELCOME HILL

We are glad to have Val Irby and his family back in our community and attending church with us. Val has been working in Pontiac, Michigan, Val has been away for around 10 years.

Mrs. J. H. Whiteside was home last week end and has returned to St. Louis.

Mrs. Lou Dowdy was in a car accident. Suffered bruises only.

MARK 16

Boyd E. Morgan — Mammoth Spring

When gospel preachers use Mark 16:15-16, which says "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," we are some times accused of not quoting it all. Truth is this quotation is all that expresses command to the alien sinner today that is found from there to the end of the chapter.

When a gospel preacher preaches the gospel to alien sinners he cannot always teach all lessons about everything in one sermon. Gospel preachers very often 'quote the rest' and teach the truth on it and even so now we take that time.

The Lord had appeared to the eleven (these were the apostles; Judas was dead) as they were eating. Open your Bible now to the sixteenth chapter of Mark and begin with verse fourteen if you want the truth. In that verse he upbraided them (the eleven) with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

The apostles had not believed in the resurrection of Christ. Jesus reprimanded them because they had not believed. These were his own apostles and they had not believed in the miracle of his resurrection.

Then he gave them a command. Go ye (apostles) in to all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. (This is those who need saving.) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. He that believeth not shall be damned. (This is those who need saving.)

Now let's go ahead and see what is troubling folks. "And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." Verses 17 and 18. A great many folks think this is the "He" that was to be preached to and saved, but this is NOT so. These in verses 17 and 18 were the apostles who were to go out and preach. These were the "they" who had not believed. These were the unbelieving apostles who were made to believe and commanded to Go and preach and promised that these signs shall follow them that believe. (The apostles who believed). No gospel preacher would tell the creatures

to whom he preached that these signs would follow them that believed the preaching.

But talk is cheap unless proven. So let us get on to proving that NO MAN TODAY has these signs. We can do that by proving that the "theys" in verses 17 and 18 were the apostles. Look at verse 19. "So then after the Lord had spoken to them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God." We know the "them" in this verse was the apostles. But look at verse 20. "And they went forth, (we know this was the apostles) and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following." This verse says they (the apostles) went everywhere and signs followed them. That was what the Lord promised.

Verse 20 did not say they went everywhere and preached the gospel and everyone who believed the gospel and was baptized had signs following them. It says the signs followed the apostles. Heb. 2:3 says "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him." The apostles were the ones who heard him and confirmed the word with the signs. Not us today.

If what some folks says this means were true, it would be useless even for them to ship in one of their divine healers for anyone of them would be a healer. But even though they say they believe, not many claim they can heal. If you are one of these folks and can't perform these miracles, YOU ARE DAMNED! Get it. YOU ARE DAMNED! Not your preachers or big men. YOU—YOUR SELF. If what you teach and believe is true and you cannot actually perform these miracles, you are an UNBELIEVER. For says the book, "And these signs shall follow them that believe." So if you believe, these signs will follow YOU. If you don't believe "He that believeth not shall be damned." Verse 16.

Now don't get mad at the church of Christ. We are not the ones that preached the lie about Mark 16. We know when a promise is to us or to the apostles, and we know when to offer God's promises for he told us plainly in verse 16.

WE KNOW, TOO, WHEN TO QUIT.

Where does the Bible say you can be saved in any church or the church makes no difference?

NEWS

As this paper goes to press two gospel meetings within our reach are in progress. Bro. L. N. Moody is preaching at Hardy and Bro. Boyd E. Morgan is preaching at Ravenden. Both meetings will close Sunday night, Sept. 19th. There are a few services left you can attend. We have a good road to these places now and the brethren will welcome you.

At the services, the first Sunday in this month, at Viola, the brethren there raised sufficient money to pay off the final indebtedness on the meeting house and have fifty dollars left to go on the butane system they need. The singing conducted that afternoon was well attended and enjoyed by all. Bro. Clovis Ragsdale preached in the morning service.

Bro. Boyd Morgan will begin a seven nights meeting with the Viola church on Sunday night, Sept. 26th. This meeting is for the purpose of saving souls and all brethren are urged to attend and bring those who are not christians to the meeting. We especially urge the unsaved to obey the gospel.

Sunday, Oct. 3 is the big day for commencing the Mammoth Spring meeting. Bro. Morgan will begin the meeting that day and Bro. Ray Chester of Vernon, Texas will be with us Monday night, Oct. 4 to do the preaching for the balance of the meeting. Most of you will already be acquainted with Bro. Chester and will be glad to hear him again and those who have not heard him will do well to do so. The Mammoth Spring church urges you to attend this meeting. We are hoping for a harvest of souls for the kingdom of our Lord.

Sister Robert Henry Powell was restored at Mammoth Spring Sunday Sept. 5.

Prejudice saves time. With it you can make up your mind with out considering facts.

You know how much praise is appreciated. Hand a little out.

The Thayer church has increased its radio program to thirty minutes. This program can be heard on Radio Station KALM on alternate programs at 9:00 a. m. each Lord's day morning.

THE GREAT SALVATION

Orbie Robbins — Elizabeth, Ark.

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?" Heb. 2:1-4.

In verse three the writer of the Hebrew letter refers to this salvation as being a 'Great Salvation.' Let us consider, "Why call it great?"

1. It's author was great. John 1:17; Heb. 5:8-9.

2. The cost of it was great. John 3:16; Rom. 5:8.

3. It was inaugurated and dedicated with the blood of Christ. Zech. 13:1; John 19:34 Eph. 1:7; Heb. 10:4; Heb. 9:22.

4. The sacrifice made in order to procure it was great. Heb. 9:26-28.

5. It was great because it provided remission of sins. Lk. 24:46-47; Acts 2:38.

To show the necessity of giving heed to this great salvation the writer said the word spoken by angels was stedfast and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward. Evidently the work spoken by angels referred to the old covenant or Law of Moses. Those who transgressed this law did not escape punishment.

When did this great salvation begin to be spoken in fact? Certainly it was spoken in promise, but when was it spoken in fact?

1. Not during the days of John the Baptist. The old covenant was then still in force. Col. 2:14.

2. Not during the personal ministry of Christ. Mt. 10:5-6. He was sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel only.

But after the death of Christ when the law was abolished and after his resurrection and before his ascension, he gave the worldwide great commission which embraced the great commission. Mk. 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-47; Mt. 28:19-20.

This fixes the time when it began to be spoken by the Lord.

Who heard him speak? The apostles. Mk. 16:14.

When was it executed and con-

firmed by them that heard him?

As pointed out, it was the apostles that heard him when he gave the commission. In Luke 24:46-47 "And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." As a result of what they heard they "returned to Jerusalem with great joy." Verse 52. On the day of Pentecost as recorded in the second chapter of Acts they received the power when they were baptized with the Holy Spirit. After this baptism of the Holy Spirit they began the execution of the Great Commission and the confirmation of the great salvation which it embraced.

The example of conversion which follows Peter's sermon on that day shows us what people did in order to procure this great salvation

1. They heard. Acts 2:37.

2. They believed. This is inferred, for upon hearing Peter, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Rom. 10:17.

3. They were commanded to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins. Acts. 2:38.

It is necessary to infer that they confessed Christ before being baptized. Mt. 10:32-33; Rm. 10:8-10; Acts 8:37.

The same gospel believed and obeyed then will save people today if believed and obeyed.

Those who neglect and reject it cannot escape. Rom. 1:16; II Thess. 1:6-8; I Peter 4:17-18.

MURMURING IN THE CHURCH

By Clovis Ragsdale

The first account that we have of brethren murmuring is found in Acts 6:1. The occasion for this condition was over the help that the Jerusalem church was passing out to the needy in its midst. The Grecian Jews believed that their widows were not getting their fair share and they began to complain or murmur. In the same verse we are told that the church was making great progress as it was multiplying. It is noticeable that when a congregation starts to

make progress (in doing something) that murmuring is most often to begin. The chief interest of some brethren seem to be to resist all moves which are most likely to cause the church to make progress. As long as the church is drifting and doing little or nothing they seem to have little interest.

It is noticeable that the murmuring in Acts 6 was directed against the apostles. Today the preachers and elders are most often the objects of the complaints. Some consolation can be gleaned from this case by the leaders of the church today. The apostles were inspired men and if they could not escape criticism, then how could ordinary men today expect to be able to be free from criticism.

Let us study the attitude of the apostles toward those who murmured. The apostles did not do like many do today. They did not fall back on their authority and refuse to consider the complaints. Instead they considered the problems and gave recommendations which settled the problem. Oftentimes things that come up can be talked over in a spirit of love and a wise course chartered. Brethren whose complaints are not justifiable or wise, should not take offence when their complaints are not recognized. A good attitude for all to take is—let us do the work this way unless someone knows of a better way to get the job done.

Complaints nearly always arise over things which God has left to man's expediency and not over something in which God has legislated to be done a certain way. When God speaks man should not murmur. This would be rebellion and sin. Some brethren seem to feel that they are infallible and the things they suggest are the only way that things can be done. If a proper spirit of christian love is manifested in all cases where complaints arise and where brethren are willing to "give and take" then many cases of church troubles could be avoided and much sin would not be committed. The church of our Lord is too big and too great for the whims and fancies of mortal man to disrupt. The feelings of no man or group of men are important enough to hinder the cause for which our saviour died.

"Cursed be he that setteth light by his father or his mother, and all the people shall say, amen." Deut. 27:16. Let Jesus be the light.