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"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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Do You Love The Church?

Clovis Ragsdale

Most of the people who read this article would answer yes to the above question. I would like to submit the following questions for your consideration.

1. Are you a member of the church?
2. Do you attend the services of the congregation where you worship, unless provisionally hindered?
3. Do you give of your means as New Testament teaches? (1 Cor. 16:2)
4. Do you contribute to the work of the church according to whatever talent the Lord has blessed you with?
5. Do you keep your tongue under control?
6. Do the deeds in your life bring glory to Christ and the church?
7. Do you study the Bible as often and as much as you should?
8. Are you helping the church in its great task of making known the manifold wisdom of God, by teaching others as opportunity presents?
9. If a parent, are you bringing up your children in the nature and admonition of the Lord?
10. Do you worship and serve God with zeal and enthusiasm which characterizes one who is thoroughly converted to his cause?

If you can answer all these questions in the affirmative than you can truthfully say that you love the Lord. If you fail on any of these questions, than it will be necessary to correct that fault because Christ said, if ye love me you will keep my commandments. All the above are things that we are commanded to do in order to be his servants.

MAILING ADDRESS

Send all comments, criticisms, and questions to P. O. Box 237, Mammoth Spring, Ark.

DAILY RADIO PROGRAM

Tune in each day at 11:30 to 11:45 on station K A L M Thayer, Mo. Monday through Friday. Also at 9:00 A.M. on Sunday morning. Bro. Smith and Bro. Hylton alternate a week at the time, and Bro. Honeycutt takes care of the Sunday program.

THE SAME HOUR OF THE NIGHT

Bro. Don Smith received a phone call at midnight not long ago. The man calling had been considering rendering obedience to His Lord. He finally made up his mind, and wanted to do it then instead of waiting. So they went the same hour of the night and he was baptized. May God richly bless him.

One has been baptized, and one restored, at Mammoth Spring since last report.

When Is Your Meeting?

It won't be long before meetings will begin over this area. Many will perhaps overlap. This is to be regretted, but sometimes it is impossible to keep from conflicting with a meeting going on elsewhere. Send us the date of your meeting. The sooner folks learn of your meeting, and the speaker, the sooner they can plan on attending. If they learn in plenty of time they will be able to plan their schedule so as not to conflict with anything else.

NEWS ITEMS

Good news from the Hill Top Congregation. Bro. Dean Kerr reports two restored, and one baptized recently there. Bro. Dean is working with several congregations in that area. He is doing a very commendable job, and we too rejoice with the brethren there in the progress being made.

Don't Be A Jonah

Don Smith

Satan is a great provider for his own. When man is tired of God's law, Satan will provide the means of temptation, the proper encouragement, and the price of the sin.

Jonah is a good example. When God told Jonah to go and preach to Nineveh he tried to run away from God and from responsibility. He rose up to flee to Tarshish and went down to Joppa. There he "just happened" to find a ship departing. The ship "just happened" to be going to Tarshish. Jonah "Just happened" to have the fare in his purse so he ran away from the task God had given him. When we hesitate at the work of the Lord, Satan will instill fear in our heart to help us decide and then provide the fare to go the other way.

Jonah is typical of many members of the church today. He balked at the Lord's command and tried to run away. Then when he was in distress he turned to the one whom he had rejected. He even promised to do the Lord's commandments then. He said, "But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord." Jonah 2:9. Doesn't that sound familiar?

Jonah preached and Ninevah repented. The Saviour has said "There is more rejoicing in heaven over one lost soul coming to repentance than over ninety and nine just persons who need no repentance." But Jonah was mad. He was so angry that he wanted to die, and besought God to take his life. All because God had spared a city that had repented!!

Yet another comparison can be drawn. Jonah went outside the city and pitched a tent and sat in it to see what would become of it. If it was going to be destroyed he wanted a grandstand seat. Most Christians are glad to see someone come to Christ and welcome them as a brother. Once in a while, though, **SEE JONAH on last page**

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Editors—
Clovis Ragsdale
Wesley Hylton

Is Truth Important In Religion

by George A. Hood

Truth, in the religious world today, is treated as if it is not important. Sincere religious people will trust their soul to what men say without a thought of investigation. Our worship must be in truth as well as in sincerity if we are to please God. Jesus told the Samaritan woman, that they that worship God must worship Him in spirit and truth. (John 4:24.) It matters not how sincere one may worship God if it is not done in truth. Jesus said of the religious Pharisees, "in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Mt. 15:9.)

It cannot be denied that these Pharisees were worshipping God, but not in truth; therefore in vain. Much of the worship in the religious world today is in vain because it is not in truth. In order for any item of worship to be in truth there must be a thus sayeth the Lord for it. Jesus said, "My word is truth." (John 17:17.) The right kind of singing is an act of worship when done in the right spirit. Why? Because the Bible commands it! But where is the scripture for playing upon any kind of mechanical instrument of music in New Testament worship? We have several examples of worship in the New Testament, but none of them say anything about playing on an instrument. See Matt. 26:30. Acts 16:25. Rom. 15:9. Eph. 5:19. Col. 3:16. James 5:13. 1 Cor. 14:15. Heb. 2:12. The scriptures are enough to convince the truth seeker that New Testament worship was, and is today, singing without the accompaniment of

man made instruments of music. Many good people take it for granted that the New Testament is filled with examples and commands to use such instruments in worship.

In Aberdeen Mississippi, a good woman rebuked me because we did not use the mechanical instruments in worship. She said that the New Testament was filled with authority for the use of them. I ask her to show me just one example, or command, and we would begin to use them at once. This woman was surprised when she began to look. I was told that she read the New Testament through, but she never came to me with the one scripture that I asked for. No doubt, a study of the New Testament on this subject would surprise many sincere worshippers. It is not what the Bible says that is causing division, but what men teach that is not in the Bible. All the Bible is truth, but it must be rightly divided. Paul told Timothy to study and rightly divide the word of truth. The Law of Moses is not our guide to worship in this dispensation. It was nailed to the cross putting it out of the way. (Col. 2:14.) Those who would justify their religious practice by the law of Moses, should read Gal. 5:4.

The Bible is filled with warnings against false teachers. Jesus said, "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many will come in my name, saying, I am Christ and deceive many." (Matt. 24:4,5.) The apostle Peter also warned the people in these words, "But there were false prophets among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you. . . . And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth will be evil spoken of. . . . And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you." (2 Pet. 2:1-3.) Paul charged Timothy to preach the word; For said he, "The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but will heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears. And they shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned unto fables." (3 Tim. 4:1-4.)

Truth is not the cause of the religious division and confusion that is prevalent in the religious world today. The truth will free the world of such division when accepted without addition or subtraction. Saving faith must come as a result of hearing the word of the Lord. (Rom. 10:17.) Jesus said unto his apostles, "Go

ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mk. 16: 15,16.)

In Acts 2 we have the first example of these apostles carrying out this commission. The gospel was preached and some believed and ask, "Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, 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 Ghost." (Acts 2: 37,38.) False teachers do not tell sinners to do what Christ and the apostles told them to do to be saved. All manner of holding up the hands, marching down the aisles, and repeating a prayer, will not take the place of doing exactly what Jesus and his apostles told sinners to do to be saved. A perverter gospel will not save, no matter how sincere one may be.

Paul said "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed" (Gal. 1:8.) All the preaching that may be done will not save one soul, if it is not what the apostles of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ preached in the long ago. They were guided into all truth by the Holy Spirit" (John 16:13.) The seeming ways of men, are but the ways of death. (Pr. 12.) Jesus said "Not every one that sayeth unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21.)

The doctrine of faith only may be "Wholesome and very full of comfort" to those who teach it; but it will not justify when we stand before God in judgement. The only faith that will avail is the faith that works by love. (Gal. 5:6.)

The Bible says, "For as the body without the spirit is dead, even so faith without works is dead." (James 2:26.) Again James said, "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." (Jas. 2:24.) Faith is the first step toward salvation, but is by no means the last one. "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Rom. 10:10.)

Repentance is also a condition of salvation. Jesus said, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Lk. 13:3,5.)

Repentance is also unto life. (Acts 11:18)

The next thing in the gospel which the apostles preached is baptism. It is in baptism that the sins of the penitent believer is washed away. "And now why tarryest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16.) The Bible says nothing about one believing into Christ, but it does say that we are baptized into Christ. (Gal. 3:27.) Being baptized into Christ, a new life begins. (Rom. 6:4.) The sinner is made free from sin, and becomes a servant of righteousness. (Rom. 6:17,18.) No one is a new creature who is not in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17.)

Since baptism is that which puts us into Christ, and since salvation is in Christ (2 Tim. 2:10.), it follows that who are not baptized are not new creatures, and have not had their sins washed away. They do not have the promise of salvation, regardless of what men may say or think. It is the truth that will make the believer free. (John 8:31,32.) All can know the truth, and be made free by it. Dear reader, are you a victim of a perverted gospel? If so, will you not open your Bible and learn the truth; that you may be free indeed. Many will go into judgement thinking they have done many mighty works, but will be turned away. (Matt. 7:21-23.) Vengeance will be taken on all who do not obey the gospel. Why not obey now, before it is too late?

A Grave Danger

Wesley Hylton

"For the want of a nail the shoe was lost. For the want of a shoe the horse was lost. For the want of a horse the battle was lost."

The above statement plainly illustrates the grave danger of neglect. Many Christians seemingly are unaware of this ever present enemy. It seems such a small thing to neglect the little things connected with the Christian life. However, the failure of an individual to look after small things gives us an insight into his character. Small details will be the undoing of many.

In the great judgement scene depicted in Matt. 25, those placed on the left hand were condemned; not for great things they had done, but rather for small things they had left undone. Their

cry was, "Lord, when did we see thee hungry," and etc. The answer given, "Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me." A plain case of failing to take advantage of small opportunities. No doubt, neglect could be considered one of the outstanding factors that led to their downfall.

When the subject of religion comes up some will say, "Well, I don't know much about the Bible." Such an attitude effectively points out their lack of interest in things divine. Now we know that some people can't read the Bible. However, the vast majority of the people who make such statements as the above could read the Bible, if they would. They don't fail to read the newspaper, magazines, and other literature that interests them. The prophet of old cried out, "My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge." Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Jn. 8:32. Isn't it strange that men will neglect to learn about the most important thing that concerns them while on earth. It is not a small thing to neglect salvation. In this wonderful land where Bibles are available to all, what excuse can a person give for not knowing God's will? And if he fails to learn, isn't it neglect on his part?

It is doubtful if some Christians realize the tremendous influence they are exerting on others. This is especially true when they fail to set the proper example. When asked about their failure to attend Wednesday, or Sunday, night services, they cannot give a valid reason. Their failure to take advantage of every opportunity to influence others for good is hurting the church. They can't seem to realize this. This remark is frequently heard with reference to a drunken driver. "Well, I don't care about him risking his own neck, but I don't want him risking mine." The same principle applies to those referred to above. They not only risk their own souls, but endanger others.

A valuable piece of farm machinery can be destroyed effectively through neglect. Its destruction is just as complete as the one deliberately broken in pieces with a hammer. By leaving it out in the weather, without protection, rust will eventually take its toll. A Christian who fails to protect himself from the temptations of the world is in just as much danger as the farm ma-

chinery. By compromising a point here, and a principle there, he will soon become utterly useless to the Cause of Christ. He then becomes a liability instead of an asset.

With proper care and service, the farm equipment does an effective job for many years. It will do so at less cost for upkeep and repair. The Christian who faithfully attends every service, and takes advantage of all opportunities, will be an effective instrument in furthering the Lord's work. His usefulness and influence is felt by all. He is a blessing.

The neglected implement becomes increasingly less efficient at doing its job. The diminishing returns from such an implement make it a constant source of trouble and irritation. The Christian who tries to maintain friendly relations with the world will find himself less and less interested in spiritual things. Just as rust eventually overcomes the machine, the inactivity of a Christian leads slowly but surely to his being overcome by the ways of the world.

"I've been intending to go see him." We usually hear this remark from those who could be very influential in getting others to come to church. The world is full of people that could be led to Christ, if someone they have confidence in would take an interest in them. Neglect, on the part of those who could do the most good, is leaving many seats empty in our buildings. It doesn't take long to visit someone, and speak a few words of encouragement. But this vital aspect of Christian influence is overlooked by the great majority.

The sad story of those who intended to obey the gospel is frequently told. They didn't intend to put it off too long. No doubt, they felt that other opportunities would come their way. So they neglect the most important step that they could possibly take. King Agrippa was almost persuaded. Felix waited for a more convenient season that, far as the Bible is concerned, never came. Such admonitions aren't put in the Bible just to fill excess space. They're there for a purpose! If God gives us examples of those who waited too long, surely we ought to profit from such warnings.

In days gone by the voice of God thundered, "Why will ye die, O Israel?" He didn't want them to. His offer of mercy was ever before the people.

Historical Note

The church at Agnos, Ark. was started, the best we can learn, some 75 or 80 years ago by Brother Tucker, Brother Billingsley, and Brother Nicholas.

Brother S. C. Garner, Brother Douglas, Brother Forrest, Brother C. L. Wilkerson; Brother Armstrong; Brother Joe H. Blue; Brother Frank Gould, all of these brethren have held meetings for the church here in time past. And many other brethren that cannot be recalled. Brother Boyd Morgan held our meeting last year.

A. C. Estes

Editor's Note: The above names and information will probably bring back a lot of fond memories to the folks in that area. May the Lord continue to bless them in days to come.

Why not send us information that you may have regarding the history of the church where you attend. Those who labored in the past may be gone from our midst; but their memory lives on. Their unselfish devotion to the Cause of Christ and the sacrifices they were willing to make, have made it possible for us to proudly hold aloft the banner they carried so well. May God grant us the courage and the determination to go ever onward; being mindful of our responsibility, and the effect our lives will have on those who come after. And furthermore, may the lives of those gone on before ever be a source of inspiration in doing our duty, and a source of courage in the time of trial.

Contributions Acknowledged

Beulah Hackney, Ash Flat, Ark. .. \$1.00
L. D. McAbee Thayer, Mo. 1.00
Ora Mills, Kansas City, Kan. 1.00
Allen Cone, Wheeling, Ark. 5.00

In the last issue (Feb.) we showed a contribution from Bro. Orbie Robbins. We want to correct the address given. Bro. Robbins is in Elizabeth, Ark. instead of Ash Flat.

We appreciate these contributions very much. It indicates your interest in carrying the gospel to others. We want also to commend the churches in Wheeling, Welcome Hill, Union Hill, and Ash Flat for helping make it possible for you to receive the paper each time.

JONAH cont. from page 1

you will hear someone say, "I am going to wait and see." Then instead of helping them to live the way they should and giving them the encouragement they need, they will watch like a vulture for them to make a mistake so that they can criticize. Do you know any Jonahs. Are **YOU** a Jonah?

NEWS ITEMS

Work is progressing nicely on the addition to the building in Mammoth Spring. The brethren nope to have it finished in time for the Lectureship.

Bro. Don Smith preached at the church at Agnos the last Thursday night in Jan. He is to go back the fourth Thursday in Feb. Bro. Hyton preaches there on the second Thursday each month. Good interest is being shown in the services.

Bro. Hylton has preached for the church at Jeff twice since last report. He also has preached for the good people in the community about three miles North of Myrtle, Mo. Services were held in the Betheny church building. Very good attendance and interest. The nearest Church of Christ is at Jeff.

DANGER cont. from page 3

If we pass up the next opportunity to do the Lord's will, we don't have a written guarantee that another will come our way.

The Highway Department does everything it can to insure safety on the highways. Nonetheless, carelessness and neglect continue to take their toll. When long holiday weekends roll around, the National Safety Council repeatedly warns us of the hazards involved in driving on the highways. In spite of their efforts, death still rides the highways. Many have failed to take advantage of the wonderful salvation that God has made possible. He is not willing that any should perish. He repeatedly warns of the dangers involved in delaying our obedience. Disregarding His mercy, thousands pass into eternity unprepared. We are appalled at what is termed, "the senseless slaughter on the highways." On the other hand, indifference seems to be the attitude toward the multitudes that need to be taught, so they will not be among those that pass into eternity unprepared.

A Second Look At The Book Of Job

Bob Hilburn

This year (1959) is being observed by atheists as the "Darwin Centennial", celebrating the 100th anniversary of the publication of Charles Darwin's book, "The Origin of Species". Darwin was a devoted atheist, and this book presented his theory of the organic evolution of man. In this theory he tells us that man evolved through the different species of animal life, and that his nearest known relative existing today is the gibbon ape. In connection with the celebration of the anniversary of Darwin's theory, atheists are working in an all-out campaign to disprove the inspiration of the Bible; which would in turn tear down the faith of millions in the eternal existence of God.

Since Peter instructs us to "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear", (1 Pet. 3:15) we need to make a determined study of the evidences which the Bible presents in behalf of its inspiration. It is our intention in this series of articles on the book of Job to weigh the evidence presented therein in an effort to prove that the Holy Scriptures are truly the inspired word of God. To prove this is to eternally disapprove the claims of the atheists.

The book of Job has long been considered by many as being the oldest book in the Bible since most scholars have set the date of its writing at about 1520 B. C. If this book is accurate then it proves the **existence** of God, and once this fact has been established, then Paul's claims that the **scriptures** are **inspired** of God (II Tim. 3:16-17) are acceptable. Again, if the existence of God can be proven, then we can accept the Genesis account of the creation as being true.

Within the book of Job there are a number of scientific facts which could have been conceived at that time only in the infinite mind of God. In the article next month we shall begin an investigation of these facts and show beyond reasonable doubt that they could not possibly have been the result of any other source than inspiration.