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"The Churches of Christ Salute You" Rom. 16:16
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Mammoth Spring, Ark,
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"SALVATION BY GRACE"
B. G Hogan, Conway, Ark.

"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.

The word grace means favor and in this instance the unmerited favor of God to man.

We all should be interested in the grace of God, both in the material realm and the spiritual.

It is by God's grace that we live, move and have our being. All that we have in this life is an expression of God's grace. All material blessings, the sunshine, the rain, the beauties of nature, the soil and the elements contained therein, are all expressions of God's favor to mankind and for these we should be very grateful realizing that we do not merit this manifestation of love toward us.

But it is in the spiritual realms that we are most concerned, Man is saved by grace. All who believe the Bible realize this, and there are many other passages which teach that man never attains goodness sufficient to insure his salvation. Without this favor we would be eternally damned. How grateful indeed we should all be for the wonderful love God has for us.

But will all be saved who have been offered God's grace? Is grace the only thing that need concern us? Paul says, in Titus 2:11, "or the grace of God which bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men." This grace brings salvation - not

grace that gives material things.

The Bible teaches that many will be lost. Jesus said, "He that disbelieveth shall be condemned." We see then that man's faith or belief has a part to play in his salvation.

In fact the very text we are studying declares as much, for by grace are ye saved through faith. It suggests two sides to the plan of salvation, God's side and man's side.

Paul said to the Romans, (Rom. 5:2) "We have access by faith unto this grace. That this grace is truly given to all men and is capable of saving all men cannot be denied. It is sufficient to save every man who lives, or has ever lived, upon the earth. By grace—thru faith, it is by grace we are saved but faith is the means by which that grace is reached. Food saves our physical being from death, but only they who eat have this blessing.

Then we see that God's grace is not bestowed unconditionally.

Jesus taught his disciples to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." Man must do the eating if he would reap the material blessing of food which comes by God's grace.

To get this point more clearly God gives the soil, the elements therein, the moisture, the sunshine and the seed. This is God's grace.

Man must appropriate this by planting the seed which God has given him and by cultivating and harvesting the crop. This man does by faith. I think, to no one, is this more evident than to the farmer. It is a work

by faith from beginning to end. Faith in the seed, faith, that there will be a seed time and a harvest, faith that he will reap what he sows.

Note in the spiritual realm: God gave his son to die for us that we through his sacrifice might have life and that more abundantly. God sent the Holy Spirit that the word might be revealed in all its simplicity and purity. This is God's grace. This is God's part in the redemption of mankind.

In this same chapter the apostle Paul tells these Ephesians. "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world."

This is the condition of every responsible person today who is out of Christ. But by God's grace, or favor he has planned a way of escape.

The Gospel is God's power to save Paul tells us in Romans 1:16.

Man must believe that Gospel, for without faith it is impossible to please God, or come to him. Heb. 11:6 Paul also declared in Acts 17:30, that God now commands all man everywhere to repent—that lives must be reformed and in Matt. 10:32-33 Jesus said he would deny before the Heavenly Father, those who refused to confess him before men.

Paul tells us in Gal. 3:26 27 that we are baptized into Christ.

To briefly summarize, God in his grace to man, gave his son,

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EDITORIAL

We are very conscious of traffic signs and signals, as we travel our modern highways God has his signs to guide us as we journey in the "strait and narrow way". To disobey means disaster. Jesus has all authority. He says "GO" in the great Commission. Mt. 28: 18-20 It is our duty to go and not to wait. He told us why when he said the fields are white unto harvest. It is ever regretful that the laborers are so few. Our duty is to obey and teach as we go that others must obey.

We are to stop when the commands of God stop. 1 Cor. 4:6. We must abide in the doctrine staying in his way 2 John 9.

We must beware false teachers and false doctrine, trying the spirits to see if they are the spirit of God or the spirit of error. God's sign says to prove all things, hold fast to that which is good.

We are warned not to forsake the assembling. Heb. 10:25. The signs teach us to eat and drink at

his table in his kingdom Luke 22 and teach us when to do it. Acts 20:7. All points of worship are plainly put and the warning is that they worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.

"Pray without ceasing". Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store." "Be thou faithful unto death and thou shalt receive a crown of life." Are all posted to guide us in the way. To ignore these signs means spiritual disaster and shipwreck to our faith as we travel toward eternity.

Heed the signs.

Boyd E. Morgan

"THE EARLY HISTORY OF CHURCH OF CHRIST IN FULTON COUNTY"

Vester Williams—Day, Ark.

The Church of Christ had a membership of 765 in Fulton County at the beginning of 1953.

The first preacher to preach in Fulton County was E. N. George and at about this same time Abb Montgomery, William Weir, William Miser and Marion Williams began to preach in the County.

The first church house built in the County by members of the Church of Christ was a hewed-log house erected at Pilot on Myatt Creek in 1880.

The oldest congregation now in existence is at Agnos. There was preaching services held in this congregation as far back as 1858 and it is possible that meetings were held at an earlier date. In 1858 the Agnos congegation held services as the then Joe Tucker farm because there was a good spring or well to furnish water for both people and animals, and at that time this farm was about the center of the neighborhood. The Joe Tucker farm is generally known today as the Joey Nick-

les place but is now owned by William Manry.

At an early date S. C. Garner established a Bible School at County Line for the purpose of training preachers to supply the Churches of the County with able preachers. This school continued for about ten years. It can be said without much chance of refutation that some of the most able preachers of the entire Church came from this school.

As to others who have labored as preaching brethren for the Church in the County Joe H. Blue has preached for the longest period of time 56 years. Others who have labored for the cause have been such men as J. E. Billingsley, William Spiller, B. M. Lemmons, J. G. Welch, John G. Blue, William Lambery, Dr. Collison and Dr. Walker.

"SALVATION BY GRACE"

Continued from page 1

the Gospel, the Holy Spirit. Man appropriates that grace by hearing the gospel. Believing the Gospel, Repenting of his sins, Confessing Christ before men and being baptized. Thus by grace thru faith.

A praying knee and a dancing foot doesn't grow on the same limb.

WELCOME HILL NEWS

We had two baptisms in our meeting with Bro. Hogan. Mrs. Harry Berry and Mrs. Rachel Swain. We are very happy over the results of the meeting.

We inyite all to our bible study Wednesday night at 7:30.

Bible study Sunday 10 a. m.

Preaching 1st Sunday, Bro. Berry: and Bro. Woodward the 4th.

CHURCH HISTORY

by
Clovis Ragsdale

We closed last month's article with a description of the "dark ages", a period of time in which Catholicism had been successful in keeping the light of God's word hid from the peoples of the earth. Today we want to discuss how the Bible was returned to the common man once again.

Two events were instrumental in bringing about the end of the dark ages. First the printing press was invented in the late 15th century. The first use of this new invention was to print the Bible in book form. Large numbers of Bibles were printed and passed out to an eager world. When people had opportunity to study God's word, they began to see that what they had been calling religion was not the same thing that was to be found in the Bible, and they began to rebel against the Catholic church. The second event was the work of Martin Luther, a young German who studied to be a priest and was given opportunity to go to Rome and meet the Pope and the hierarchy of the church. While in Rome, Luther became aware of the corruption that existed in the Catholic church and he was bitterly disappointed in what he found, so much so, that when he returned to Germany he became the leader of a movement to reform the Catholic church. This began the "reformation period". Luther did not propose to establish a church, he merely wanted to correct the things he thought was wrong with Catholicism.

Other men such as Twinkl, Huss, and others, had somewhat similar ideas and all began to speak out against the teachings

of Rome. The result was tremendous. Catholicism reacted violently with excommunication and with the sword. Bibles were burned by the thousands and hundred's of thousands of people lost their lives. A church court was set up called the "inquisition" which tried great numbers of people who dared oppose Catholicism. This court had the power to put those found guilty to death. Those who broke away from Catholicism were called "Protestants," the word coming from the meaning of those protesting against Catholicism. The Protestants began taking up arms to protect themselves from the fury of the popes. Many wars sprang up, all fought in the name of religion, and millions perished from the great conflicts. The thirty years war in Germany was one such war, and we are told that one-third of the population of that country were killed in the struggle which began in 1617 and did not end officially until the peace treaty of Westphalia was signed in 1648.

In the meantime America had been discovered and large numbers of people from Europe migrated to America, many of whom were seeking a place where they could worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience. It is easy to see why these people were willing to brave the dangers of a new and unsettled country. Europe was aflame with the terrible conflicts in which the Catholics were attempting to put down those who opposed them. The fact that America had been discovered just as these events began to take place, would seem to be more than just co-incidental. In it we can see the providence of Almighty God taking hand.

In our next issue we will study

how the "Restoration" period began here in America in which the church of the New Testament was once again fully restored to a civilization.

HEARING

Lemuel Martin—Welcome Hill

Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing, by the work of God.

Some will say!

1. Who is to hear? In Rev. 2:7 "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

2. What are we to hear? In Matt. 17:5 "While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; Hear ye him". We are to hear Christ, we are to hear his apostles, and those that preach his word. Rom. 10:14, 15.

3. How should we hear? With care Luke 8:18; Readily James 1:19; Honestly Luke 8:15.

4. What Kind of hearers are there? Those that do not understand. Heb. 2:1; Those that forget. Heb. 2:1; Those that believe Rom. 10:17; and, Those that remember. Luke 8:15.

5. Why should we hear? That we may be saved 1 Tim. 4:16; To believe in God. Rom. 10:14.

6. With what must hearing be combined? Faith Heb. 4:2; Doing James 1:22-24.

7. What is the result of the combination? Wisdom Matt. 7:24-27; Fruit Luke 8:1b; Blessings James 1:25; Association with Christ Rev. 3:20; and, Justification Rom. 2:13.

Brightening up the life of someone else will will put a fresh shine on your own.

"WHY JESUS CAME"

Orville Buchanan, Mam. Spring

In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth and all things therein: Gen. 1:1.

First God created the inanimate, that which is spiritless without life. Such as the trees, grass, flowers and herbs.

Second God created the animate things of the earth such as animals, like sheep, cattle and swine and last of creation was that of man and woman. That is which later grieved God. Gen. 6.

God made all this creation for man that he might be a caretaker of the earth for him.

Not only did he create all these things that man might live on the earth and subdue it. But he also had in mind a plan whereby if man sinned he would have a chance of eternal life with God.

Everything was at the command of man. Man was to love God and keep his commandment.

As sin came about one man Adam so is salvation by one man Christ Jesus. God said let us make man. The "us" was God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

"In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God" John 1:1.

Christ came into the world to take on himself every man's sin. While Christ was on earth he choose apostles to carry on the work after he was gone. When he ascended he did not leave the apostles alone but he sent them a comforter, the Holy Spirit to guide them into all truth. The Holy Spirit guided the apostles in all truth which is the word of God (the Bible) which we have today.

While Christ was teaching the apostles he made known to them that he would build his Church; and that his Church

would be built upon the rock. The truth of the statement that he was the son of God Matt. 16:18 He gave unto Peter the keys of the kingdom.

Peter used the keys to the kingdom on the day of pentecost Act 2:38. Since the Church belongs to Christ, he is the head of the body, the Church Col: 1-18 Therefore to be in the Church is to be in his body.

To be in the Church is to be where the spiritual blessings are. All these plans God had from the beginning that man might be fruitful, thoroughly furnished unto every good work.

"FOR" ACTS. 2:38

Boyd E. Morgan

Once while debating with a baptist preacher and while presenting the gospel plan of salvation I quoted Acts 2:38 where Peter commanded "Repent and be baptized everyone of in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ FOR the remission of sins". In his reply he stated "Watch him run for the rat hole." Of course I reminded that what he had called the "rat hole" had offered us security against false teaching and still remained in the Bible, and had never been disturbed. The point of course was and is is baptism essential to the forgiveness of our sins? The New Testament was written in Greek and here we present a group of translations of the Bible to see if the "FOR" means "in order to" or "because of".

These translators had translated the Bible in the truth of scholarship and not to fit their denominational theology.

Forty seven Greek scholars in the authorized version; King James translate "Repent and be baptized. FOR the remission of sins."

"Repent ye. and be baptized. UNTO the remission of your sins." American Standard Version, translated by 101 ourstanding scholars.

"Repent" replied Peter. "and be baptized with a view to the remission of your sins." Moulton's Modern Reader's Bible.

"Repent ye, and be immersed.. into the remission of your sins." The Emphasized Bible.

"Change your mind and be baptized. FOR a release of your sins." Modern English Bible.

"Repent", said Peter, let each of you be baptized. . in order to have your sins forgiven. ' Goodspeed's Translation.

"Repent, and be immersed everyone of you. . unto the remission of your sins." American Bible Union Version, a Baptist translation.

"Repent and be ye all baptized into remission of sins." Italian Translation.

"Repent ye and be ye all baptized in order to obtain the remission of sins". French Translation.

"Turn back and be baptized. . in order to the forgiveness of sins." Indian Translation.

The evidence in this matter leaves no doubt but that baptism is still "for the remission of sins," like the Bible teaches

If you are really honest and really seeking truth, go to your nearest library and consult every version available.!

But if you were baptized to get into a denomination, or because you thought you were already saved, then you have not obeyed Bible baptism. Satan ever counterfeits the truth. We invite you to "Repent and be baptized FOR the remission of sins."

We are rewarded for our good works; not our good intentions.-- Selected.