

Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK.

OCTOBER - 1966

The Eldership

No. 4

In this lesson we continue our study of the eldership of the Lord's church. We are not discussing the qualifications in the exact order in which they are given. We shall however discuss all of them before we finish the series of lessons.

I invite your attention now to a study of one of the qualifications about which there is a great deal of confusion, even among brethren. I do not purpose to be able to solve all the problems that exist. I do believe the Bible holds the answer to every problem we face. In Titus 1:6 we are told, "That an elder must have FAITHFUL children not accused of riot or unruly. Paul says, "Having his children in subjection with all gravity. It is generally agreed that this means they must be faithful to the Lord (members of the church). The reason for their being members of the church or faithful is given. In I Tim. 3:5 Paul says, "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God? It certainly follows, if one cannot teach his children in such a way that they will obey Christ and become Christians, how can he teach the Lord's people weightier matters of the law.

However, there are two positions which I believe to be extreme concerning this qualification. There are those who say a man does not have to have any children to serve as an elder. They say Paul meant, that if he had children they must be Christians in order for him to serve as an elder. Again I say Paul meant exactly what he said. If a man must have the other qualification, then he must have children that are believers.

The other position that some take is, that a man with only one child who is a Christian can't serve as

SEPTEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

CHURCHES OF CHRIST:

English Bluff	\$5.00
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an elder. They say Paul meant more than one child when he used the term children. I believe this idea to be false. The term children in this verse is generic, it covers one or more than one. If Paul had used the term child in this verse some would say, a man with more than one child could not serve.

I want to call your attention to two verses of scripture to show how child and children are used interchangeably. In Deut. 25:5 Moses said, "If a man die having no child his brother is to take his wife and raise up seed unto him. In Lk. 20:28 the Sadducees came to Jesus questioning him about marriage. They quoted Moses statement in Deuteronomy to try and trap Jesus in his teaching. They said, Master, Moses wrote unto us, if a man's brother die, having no children, his brother is to take his wife and raise up seed unto him.

Paul guided by inspiration used wisdom when he used a term to cover in a general way this qualification. We must be careful not to place some interpretation upon God's word that he did not intend for us to place there. I ask you humbly to consider this matter

NEWS OF THE AREA

The Thayer church of Christ began a new radio program on October 2 with Paul Watson doing the speaking. The time of the program at 8:15 a.m. on Sunday and at 7:45 a.m. Monday through Friday. The regular program which has been on the Thayer-Mammoth Radio station for over 13 years continues at the same time of 9:00 a.m. on Sunday and 11:45 a.m. Monday through Friday. The station is KALM, 1290 kc.

The church in Mammoth Spring suffered a great loss in the untimely death of brother Eugene Hurtt. Brother Hurtt was one of the most interested and willing servants the Lord had in our town. We mourn his passing and extend our hearts deepest sympathy to the entire family, especially to his wife, Edith, and his daughter, Marilyn Kay. Brother Hurtt was 33 years old.

We still do not have the zip code number of many people who receive this paper. We MUST have this shortly if you are to continue to get the paper. Look at your name and address on this paper and see if your zip code number is there. If it is not, please drop us a card TODAY and let us know what it is. The post office department requires that we have this on every address by the first of the year. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

ALSO, any new names added to the mailing list MUST have the zip code number. If you send us a name for the mailing list, make sure that you have the zip code with it. We cannot send them a paper without it.

further.

James Knight
Pineville, La.

There is one thing about ignorance — it causes a lot of interesting arguments!

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CLOVIS RAGSDALE
RICHARD ENGLAND**

Milk and Meat

That there is "milk" and "meat" of salvation is evident from "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat." Heb. 5:12. Christians are to grow unto maturity, full age, and completeness. Jesus said, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." The word perfect

does not mean sinlessness, but it means complete, mature, full grown. Therefore, those who are not growing as they should are in the "milk" stage of Christianity and those who are growing and maturing are in the "meat" stage which is pleasing unto God. but not only is the individual to grow and develop into man-hood spiritually, but a congregation must ever strive to be full grown. This fact is evident from the seven

churches of Asia. "Milky" Christians were told to repent. Rev. 2:5. We may choose not to become a Christian, but once we decide to become a child of God of necessity we must grow and develop to the extent of our ability or rest assured we will die. We cannot re-

main in the infant stage as a Christian. Why do we have those who remain in the infant stage? Why do we have undernourished children of God. The Hebrew writer said, "For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness; for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." Heb. 5:13-14. In the animal kingdom we have runts because they are not properly fed. I wonder if the name is not true in the spiritual kingdom? Have we

been fed "milk" when our need was "meat?" Or, have we been fed a milk passage of Scripture which is indeed a meat passage? Examples: In Luke 6:46, Jesus said, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Have we applied this passage of Scripture only to obeying the gospel? We preach faith, repentance, confession and baptism, rightly so, and apply this passage saying, why call me Lord, Lord, and refuse to repent and be baptized?

But let us observe now the meat of this passage and see if we are short. Relative to false teachers, members who are drunkards, those living in adultery, and withdrawing fellowship...Do we not have the same Scripture to obey in regard to these as we do in obeying the gospel? "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" What do you say Lord? "Now we command you, Brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which ye received of us." 2 Thess. 3:6; 1 Cor. 5:11; Lk. 16:10. In Matt. 7:21-23 we have the same teaching relative to those who say and do not. We may plead with the Lord if judgment that we taught the plan of salvation scripturally, we worshipped upon the first day of the week in spirit and in truth, but we did not "live by every word" and we allowed these drunkards, adulterers and false teachers to live unchecked in the congrega-

tion. Again, we should employ the Scriptures and remember, "Why call ye me Lord, Lord," and "not everyone that saith, but he that doeth". Let us not become pharisaic and offer "anise" and "cummin" and omit the "meaty" things of word of God! Remember, 77-percent of the New Testament was written to Christian people. Why baptize an individual and fail to teach him "all things?" Which are we the more guilty of; applying these two passages to the "milk" of the word or to the "meat"? The church at Thyatira had allowed Jezebel to teach false doctrine and seduce the Lord's servants. Rev. 2:18-26. Here was a congregation of the church of Christ who permitted a little false leavening to be taught? What should this church have done? Yes employed the "meat" of the word by "cutting off" that branch. It is a sad day for brethren when they pay so little attention to the meat of the word. We, of all people, who have taught so hard that we can understand the Bible, rightly so, and practice it so little especially in the area most needed, should take notice. And, "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Let us feed a balanced diet.

Bill Graddy

WHY ROME FELL—

1. The rapid increase in divorce; the undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home.
2. Higher and higher taxes and the spending of public money for free bread and circuses for the populace.
3. The mad craze for pleasure.
4. Building gigantic armaments when the real enemy was within, the decadence of the people.
5. The decay of religion.

Gibbon "Deline and Fall

If you now realize that you were wrong yesterday, you are much wiser today!

To work out life's problems, we need to add love, subtract hate, multiply good and divide between truth and error.

What Must I Do to Become a Christian

HEAR— "If any man have an ear, let him hear." Rev. 13:9 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Rom. 10:17.

BELIEVE — Except ye believe that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." John 8:24 "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb. 11:6

REPENT — "I tell you, nay; but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Lk. 13:3 "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent." Acts 17:30

CONFESS — "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 10:32 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Rom. 10:9

BE BAPTIZED — "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Mk. 16:16 "Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38

"THEN THEY THAT GLADLY RECEIVED HIS WORD WERE BAPTIZED: AND THE SAME DAY THERE WERE ADDED UNTO THEM ABOUT THREE THOUSAND SOULS." Acts 2:41.

The supply of cheap advice far exceeds the demand; therefore many are willing to give it away!

A little oil of courtesy will save a lot of friction.

Perilous Times

CLOVIS RAGSDALE

In previous articles we studied of periods of time in the history of man in which sin seemed to ebb and flow much like a tide. Periods of righteousness were followed by periods of sinfulness. We voiced concern about the present time. Seemingly, we are heading into a period of time in which sin will predominate in the hearts of men. Paul speaks of such a time in second Timothy, chapter three.

In describing the sins which would be prevalent in such a time, he mentioned in verse four that men would be "traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." These words are very descriptive of people in our times. To be heady, and high-minded, aptly describes people who place undue emphasis on social standing and family position. It is the opposite of humility, a trait which was so becoming of our Lord, and one in which christians are commanded to emulate. 1 Peter 5:5. The attitude of high-mindedness even creeps into the church. JAMES states in no uncertain terms in chapter two that we are not to cater to men of high estate. "My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; and ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, stand thou there, or sit under my footstool; are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts." There is no place in the church for rank or caste. We are all one in Christ Jesus.

The last phrase in verse four of 2 Tim. 3 speaks of being lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. We believe we are correct in saying that more pleasure is available to more people than ever before in the history of man. This is true in the more enlightened nations of the earth. This is so true in our own United States. In my opinion

this is the biggest problem facing the church at this time. Not only does pleasure jeopardize faithful christian living, it hinders sinners from even becoming christians, making it doubly hard to convert people from the ways of the world. One of the reasons gospel meetings are not as productive as in the past is that people don't have time to attend a meeting. They are too busy looking at TV, attending social functions, picture shows, and many other forms of entertainment. Not all entertainment is sinful in itself. Notice Paul said lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. Let us illustrate by the act of fishing. Nothing wrong with going fishing, unless it becomes more important to one than loving the Lord, then it becomes sinful. Some christians go fishing when they should be in worship and it is evident which they love the most.

The amount of pleasure is excessive in our nation. People of other nations speak of Americans of being "pleasure-mad". A christian must be careful that pleasure or the love of it does not overwhelm our lives and crowd out love for God and rob us of the time needed in his service. Our young need to be cautioned often of this danger. It is hard for them to realize that we live in an unusual time. Many older people can remember when pleasures were not so plentiful and were much harder to come by than in our present day.

A number of pleasures are sinful in nature and are specifically condemned by the Bible. We refer to such things as drinking, dancing, immortality, and gambling. No christian, at any time, under any circumstances, can engage in these sins and still remain faithful to his God. With the great amount of the above mentioned sins being practiced and with the prospect of even more in the future prompts us to believe that we are entering a period of perilous times. A time when the lot of a true christian will not be easy. A time when the light of a christian will shine even brighter because of the intense darkness of sin about us.
(to be concluded)

YOUNG CHRISTIANS

Felix Davis

Today our young people face a future that is uncertain. Many of them now at the tender age of eighteen are faced with the problem of making the important decision. "What must I do now, to prepare for the future? Should I get a job and work to earn money for college?" How can the youth at this age have a job where the environment is good for spiritual growth.

Parents can help them by assuring the boy or girl that they have confidence in the boy or girls ability to work. Then advise them to select friends who are of clean character. To find work suitable to their present educational ability, and help them get located near a church of Christ congregation or in diving distance of the church. While the boy or girl is young, with hopes for a bright future life; while the recent training of parents, the Bible teaching, and the memory of pure gospel preaching is still in the minds of youth, this is the best time to teach them the good of keeping in touch with the church in a new place and to make friends among christian young people.

Many young people can be won to Christ by the boy or girl who remains faithful in the service of the Lord and continues to meet with the church to worship God.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Heb. 10:25)

When young people remain faithful to the Bible Teaching also to the advice of christian parents, by their devotion to the Lord's work they set beautiful examples before their friends both christian and sinner. (Ecclesiastes 12:1).

Parents and adults are to help the young christians. If they ask for advice we should know some of the answers. As a mother goes about her work she can help son or daughter by answering Bible questions that they ask by having

them read the answers from the Bible. They will remember the Bible answers better after reading them so the mother gains more knowledge by reviewing. (2 Tim. 2:15)

While boys are very young and timid their fathers can help them develop proper attitudes toward life. The boy needs more knowledge on some subjects which his father can teach him in simple words by a description of God's creation of man and woman, the purpose of woman's creation, that she was given to the man for a help mate, that she should be respected as a lover, wife and mother. (Genesis Ch. 1, 2, 3.)

BRYLCREAM RELIGION

Brylcream advertises that a "little dab will do you." This also describes the religion of many people — A little dab is all they want. They give a little dab of their time, and a little dab of their money. Their influence for good is just a little dab, if any at all?

If none were sick and none were sad,

What service could we render?
I think if we were always glad,

We scarcely could be tender.
If sorrow never claimed our heart,
And every wish were granted,
Patience would die and hope depart—

Life would be disenchanting.
(Arthor unknown)

"The man who is busy rowing the boat has no time to rock it".

"Secret sins have a way of not staying secret."

"Life is a grindstone but whether it grinds a man down or polishes him up depends upon the kind of material he is made of."

One reason so many children are seen on the streets at night is they're afraid to stay home alone.

"The soul is dyed the color of its leisure thoughts."

"Seven days without prayer and Bible study makes one weak."

Baptism - -

Viewing a thing from the negative standpoint is a good way to understand and appreciate exactly what it is. Viewing baptism negatively should help us understand it better. What Baptism is NOT—

1. Baptism is NOT merely a physical act, but is a gesture of the heart. (Rom. 6:16-17; Acts 18:8)

2. Baptism is NOT the putting away of fleshly filth — but is an answer of a good conscience toward God. (I Peter 3:21)

3. Baptism is NOT a church ordinance — but is a command of the gospel of Christ. (Mark 16:15-16)

4. Baptism is NOT a christening ordinance — but is a condition of salvation from alien sins. (Acts 2:38)

5. Baptism is NOT a Christian duty — but is a condition of becoming a Christian. (Galatians 3:26-27)

6. Baptism is NOT a work of man's righteousness — but a command of God's righteousness. (Titus 3:5)

7. Baptism is NOT an outward sign of an inward grace — but is an act of obedience that washes away sins. (Acts 22:16; 2:37-38)

8. Baptism is NOT an act performed to show the world that we are saved — but is an act of obedience complied with in order to be saved. (Acts 2:38) (The idea of baptism to show the world we are saved is about like washing our feet to show — prove — we are Americans, or taking a bath to show that we have been healed of an ulcerated stomach!)

9. Baptism is NOT sprinkling or pouring — but is a burial and resurrection (Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:4-5)

HAVE YOU OBEYED YOUR LORD IN BAPTISM? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

"The fellow who toots his own horn shouldn't wonder why everybody dodges when he shows up."

"It is not wise to tell everything you know, but it is wise to know everything you tell."