

Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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The Cause Of Christ

The cause of Christ consists not in pompous parades, in the flying of flags, in the blowing of bugles. It consists not in honors bestowed by men or the institutions of men. It is not to be identified with an illustrious ancestry, with an elaborate ritual, with magnificent structures. The cause of our Lord should not be confused with the policy of appeasement with evil in any form at any price for any purpose. It does not pose as an impartial judge when truth is ravaged; nei ther does it seek a position of neutrality when innocence is on trial. It is not to be confounded with big speeches, with fine argument with intellectual acument. The cause of Christ is not to be identified with the disposition of that man who trusts in himself that he is righteous, setting others at naught. It is not to be confused with an inordinate desire to ferret out the faults and failures of others, to drag the fallen before public gaze, to crush the ourcast. No, the cause of our Lord is not to be identified with any of these things.

The cause of Christ is the cause of truth, the cause of righteousness, the cause of pity and compassion. It is to be identified with the spirit of evangelism--the unconquerable urge to proclaim the story of redeeming love in those places where the Savior has not been named. It is to be found in the open hand of charity, in the tender arms encircling children, in the soul of the sympathetic stranger bending over the bruised body of an unfortunate victim. The man who loves the cause of Christ deals tenderly with mothers and little ones. The cause of our Lord cannot be divorced from the cause of personal purity, the unstained garment of the risen life. It cannot be separated from the sincere soul who seeks to worship the Father in spirit and in truth

In the broken and contrite heart, in the plaintive voice crying, "God, be thou merciful to me a sinner," is the cause of Christ to be found. In the soul of that man who says, "I do not condemn thee; go thy

way; from henceforth sin no more," is the cause of our Lord to be found. In the heart of him who defends God's truth in the spirit of meekness, who gain victories and yet retains the grace of humility, is the cause of Christ to be found. In the mind of that man who stands for righteousness first, then peace, knowing that true and last peace must have righteousness as its basis, is the incomparable cause of our Savior found.

"And what more should I say? for the time will fail me": if I say all that could be said or should be said. But let this final word be spoken: the cause of Christ is identified with a crown of sharp thorns, with a path sprinkled with tears and blood, with an old rugged cross, with a willingness to die that others may live, and praise God, with a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Frank L. Cox

OUR GUIDE THE APOSTLE DOCTRINE

There must be in everything an accepted standard, a source of final authority. It should not, therefore, seem strange that our Lord would give a standard of measuring right and wrong, a final authority from which there is no appeal. The first congregation of disciples, who were added to the church when they were saved. (Acts 2: 47) "Continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine." (Acts 2: 42) This divine example, wrought under direction of the Holy Spirit, should be sufficient to show that the church today must also abide by the "Apostles Doctrine", the Gospel of Christ.

The fact that we are under the apostles doctrine means that we are not under the law of Moses, the law that God gave to the Israelites at Mt. Sinai. Certainly we cannot be under two different and conflicting laws at the same time. The divine record is clear in that we are no longer under that law. As we study the third chapter of Galatians, we note that those who "are of the works of the law are under the curse." (Verse 10) "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law. (Verse 12) "No man is justified by the law in the sight of God." (Verse 11) "The law is not of faith." (Verse 12) "But be-

fore faith came, we were kept under the law. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. (Verse 23-25) The law in this context is the law of Moses.

It is very clear then, that Christ has established His New Covenant, and that he has taken away the Old which served its purpose as God directed the lives of the Israelites by that law. We study the Old Testament today with profit in learning of God's dealing with men in ages past. We see in it and the doctrine of Christ the fulfillment of God's divine plan, but we do not obey or follow the Old Law. Since we are not under the law of Moses, the prophets, nor John the Baptist, we are under the law of Christ. Christ is the heart of the Bible, whether we see him in the promises of the Old Testament or see his glorious work in the New Covenant. When Jesus came teaching, it was said of Him: "Never man spake like this man." (John 7: 46)

Christ gave His doctrine to the apostles, and He commanded His apostles to "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. (Mark 16:15-16) Christ promised that the Holy Spirit would guide the apostles into all truth. (John 16: 13) This promise was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost as revealed in Acts 2. We must therefore, abide in the apostle doctrine because it is the doctrine of God.

The tragedy of our time is that so many, even those of our number have turned away from the doctrine of Christ as revealed by the apostles, and have turned to their own wisdom to follow practices that are foreign to God's word. Our plea must remain not only to those in the denominational world but also to any of our brethren who stray to the right or to the left, for all men to go back to the apostles doctrine, to have no other rule of faith and practice except that which is in this doctrine. This is right and cannot be wrong.

--Charles D. McLendon, Evan.

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By Faith

"By faith" is a prepositional phrase that tells HOW we are justified, (Rom. 5:1) live (Rom. 1:17) walk, (2 Cor. 5:7) and stand. (2 Cor. 1:24).

This prepositional phrase is an adverbial modifier which modifies the verbs justified, live, walk and stand in the above passages. If the phrase is exclusive then the theory of justification or salvation by faith only is true but if it is inclusive then the theory of justification or salvation by faith only is not TRUE! I don't know of any way to determine as to whether or not it is an inclusive or an exclusive phrase than by appealing to the word of God. Then to the "Law and testimony" let us go.

1. By faith Noah built an ark. (Hebrews 11:7).

2. In building the ark Noah did ALL that the Lord commanded him. (Gen. 6:22)

3. Therefore, the prepositional phrase "by faith" when used relative to the building of the ark included and obedience to every COMMANDMENT that God gave in reference to its construction.

If this phrase includes an obedience to used relative to justification, the Christian life, walk and stand? If not, why not?

In the eleventh chapter of Hebrews reference is made to many old Testament examples that illustrate the faith that saves or justifies. Let us be consistent and follow the examples set forth in the Bible instead of the CREEDS and THEORIES of men. It will be much safer to please the Lord than to please men.

1. ARGUMENT: "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." Gal. 3: 24.

2. REASON: "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Gal. 3: 26-27.

In the above passages Paul says that the reason why we are children of God BY FAITH in Christ is BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED INTO HIM. This should settle the matter with all men that believe the BIBLE.

"YE SEE THEN HOW THAT BY WORKS A MAN IS JUSTIFIED, AND NOT BY FAITH ONLY"—James 2:24.
—Freeny Saunders

Let Us Reason Together

God spoke to his people in Isaiah 1:18, and ask that they "reason together" with Him. God created man with this ability and He expects man to use reason in all matters, especially those things that pertain to his soul. Therefore let us "reason".

GOD IS STRICT WITH LAW BREAKERS

More than six-hundred-thousand of God's chosen people could not enter into the land of promise because they did not BELIEVE it necessary to OBEY God's commands, Heb. 3:19. WILL HE NOT ALSO BE STRICT WITH US? YES IN-DEED! Listen to Him! In speaking of the fate of the disobedient Israelites, He then tells us, "Take heed brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God". Heb. 3:12. Please note, these people, DEPARTED FROM God, they could not depart from some place which they had never been. We too, CAN DEPART from God. We too, can NOT depart from some place which we have never been. Therefore, we too, CAN FALL! IF IT COST THE BLOOD OF JESUS TO FORGIVE OUR SINS, DON'T YOU THINK THAT SIN IS IMPORTANT TO GOD?, 1 Pet. 1:18-19.

Yes we BELIEVE all the wonderful things God has done for man and the great blessings he has promised! Then WHY do we not BELIEVE that these blessings carry the price tag God has

placed on them? We MUST OBEY GOD TO BE SAVED, Matt. 7:21. IS THIS UNREASONABLE? WHY SHOULD IT BE? The same Book that tells us that God LOVES us, tells us to disobey Him is to be LOST, Mark 16:16. Is this unreasonable? Is it not God who is sinned against? Is it not God who gave His Son? If it is TRUE that Christ died for our sins, is it not also TRUE that we MUST OBEY GOD TO HAVE THESE SINS FORGIVEN. Let us reason: If one is true the other is also! We can not believe one and reject the other, for both are TRUE! —Glynn Purdy

NEWS

January was a good month for us here in Mammoth Spring, with an average attendance of 241. Also three were Baptized into Christ.

There will be a lecture program here in Mammoth Spring, Arkansas, March 24, through 29. Speaker to be announced.

If you haven't time to do it right, when will you have time to do it over?

It is far better to understand a little than to misunderstand a lot.

Nowadays the hand that rocks the cradle usually gets a dollar an hour.

Beware of half-truth, you may have told the wrong end.

ARE YOU WILLING

To close your book of complaints and to open a book of praise?

To believe that other men are quite as sincere as we are and treat them with respect?

To ignore what life owes us and to think what we owe to life?

To stop looking for friendship and to starting being friendly?

To be content with such things as we have and stop whining for the things we have not?

To enjoy the simple blessings of life and to cease striving for the artificial pleasures of today?

To forget what we have accomplished and to mediate on what others have done for us?

To cease looking for someone to help us and devote ourselves to helping others?

To accept Jesus Christ as our Savior and let our life be an outlet for his joy, love and peace.

Do You Use Profanity

My earthly father, Skelton D. Henry, who passed to his eternal reward on May, 2, 1935 at the age of 80, was a true Christian. Among his Christian characteristics was his Christian language : free from even "mild" swearing or profanity. Today, one can hardly work with another (even with some few "church members") without hearing "mild" or "strong" cursing, from the women often as also from the men. Are there "members of the church" who almost pride themselves in evil speaking? (Perhaps when talking with people who are not Christians.) This article is written to encourage anyone who may have fallen into a wicked, sinful habit of profanity to repent of such, and to ask the forgiveness of our Heavenly Father, and to avoid evil speaking in the future. This article will be required to be utterly frank in detail, so that a repentance of evil will result in a reformation of any habit of evil language.

Having engaged in business for over 35 years, we know that many people, some "church members," are more careless in using profanity when other who are not "church people," although in Matt. 5:35,36, RSV, we read: "But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is His footstool, or by Jerusalem, ... and do not swear by your head, ... Let what you say be simply "Yes" or "No" ; anything more than this comes from evil." Haven't you heard such words as gosh (god), Heck (hell), etc?

In Titus 1:5-13 the Apostle Paul writes : "This is why I left you in Crete, that you might amend what was defective, and appoint elders ... For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless, he must not be arrogant or quick tempered.. but be hospitable, a lover of goodness, master of himself, upright, holy and self-controlled; he must hold firm to the sure word as taught, that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to confute those who contradict it. For there are many subordinate men. empty talkers and deceivers ... they must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for base gain what they have no right to teach..... Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound doctrine. Bid the older men to be temperate, serious, sensible, sound in faith, in love and in stead-

fastness. Bid the older women likewise to be reverent in behavior, not to be slanderers or slaves to drink; they are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be sensible, chaste, domestic, kind and submissive to their husbands, that the word of God may not be discredited. Likewise urge the younger men to control themselves. Show yourself in all respects a model of good deeds, and ... sound speech that cannot be censured .. so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior."

Unfortunately, the use of profanity (and semi-profane expressional) is common in business. Some use it for emphasis, others because their vocabulary is limited, and still others because of a mistaken idea that it relieves emotional tension. Actually, it does nothing for the speaker and usually offends the listener. Some business men have employees that use such offensive profanity that it is necessary to collect money from them when the employees use profanity in business dealings. Eliminating profanity from the sales and managerial contact created one of the many facets of the precious gem that is good public relations.

Christian speech, whether in the home the "church building," or business, is desirable, yes, a must for a Christian. If you have been using profanity of any degree, may the Lord bless you with a sincere effort to quit wicked, evil speaking that you may have a Christian influence. Let not even the word "gee" be used in your speech, as a swear-word as it doubtless is a 'round-about' way of taking the name of Jesus in vain.

In the New Testament James 5:12, we read : "But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath, but let your yes be yes, and your no be no, that you may not fall under condemnation."

SWEARERS

Swearing, profanity, does not profit you or me, or anyone! Someone quotes an old writer as saying ' "Most sinners serve the devil for pay, but swearers serve their devil gratis, whom he rewards BY DRAGGING THEM DOWNTOWNTHE HELL."

A swearer calls on God to damn his soul, or damn the soul of any "enemy," or a friend, or a neighbor if one of these has displeased the swearer. This is a very evil habit, and God says in Exodus 20:7: "thou shalt not take the name of thy Lord in vain."

A swearer may say, when reproved:

"Oh, it is just a habit." Will God permit a swearer (man or woman) to plead as an excuse fro this sin, that "this is just a habit" like stealing or murdering? Of course, insulting, sinful, filthy language dishonors God,our loving Heavenly Father. He loves all men, but "The Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." (Exodus 20 : 7)

Overcome this evil habit of swearing, cultivate a reverence for God by genuine repentance, confessing your sins, by acknowledging Christ as your Savior, and be buried with Christ by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, you too might walk in newness of life. Then, your sins forgiven, yield yourself to God as one who has been brought from death to life, that sin will no more have dominion over you.

For ready reference, the following passages are appropriate and applicable to this subject :

Psalm 34:21 : "Misfortune is the death of wicked men, and haters of good men are doomed; but the Eternal saves his servants' life, none who take shelter with him shall be punished."

Read all of 34,Moffatt's Translation,if possible.

Psalm 36:1-4: "An impious spirit inspires the ungodly man; there is no fear of God before his eyes. He flatters himself that his iniquity will never be found out. His words are mischievous and deceitful, he plans some mischief as he lies in bed, and then he takes a course that is not good, he loathes not evil."

Psalm 52:3,4: "Evil you prefer to good falsehood to honesty; you revel in deadly speech, you and your sly tongue."

Isaiah 5:20: "Woe to those who call good evil, and call evil good."

Jeremiah 2:19: "Your own wickedness will punish you, your apostasy will chastise you."

Amos 5:15 : "Hate evil and love Honesty."

Matthew 12:36,37: "I tell you, on the day of judgment men will render account for every careless word they utter; for by

your words you will be condemned."

Romans 12:9: "Let love be genuine,hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good."

3 John 11 : "Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good."

Matthew 5:22b: "Whoever says,'You fool' shall be liable to the hell of fire."

May all who read this avoid evil speech, and let their language by Christian at all times.

JAMES S. HENRY

SHALL IT BE MURDER. OR RESURRECTION?

By Joe Goodspeed

The medical profession is becoming increasingly aware of the psychological factors of death. Consider the case of an 85-year-old man. He had had bronchitis and emphysema for many years, but was making satisfactory adjustment to these. He was getting the best of medical and nursing care in a hospital well-equipped to provide for him. What is more, he was alert and active.

But on a Thanksgiving Day, after he arose early, dressed and groomed, and readied himself for a visit to his son's home for a happy family celebration, no one came for him. The hours dragged. He kept asking the nurse if there had been any phone calls. There hadn't been. Finally he accepted the obvious.

The next day he started keeping to himself, avoiding doctors, nurses, and other hospital staff workers and even patients to which he had been earlier attracted. Within a few weeks, he was dead.

Dr. Avery D. Weisman, a Harvard psychiatrist, and Dr. Robert Kastenbaum, a psychologist, have been conducting a broad study of patients at the Cushing Hospital in Framingham, Mass., a state institution for the aged. They have published their studies and have come forth with the conclusion that many of the aged of this hospital did not die from physical causes at all. They rather died from neglect, loneliness, and apathy. They had no reason to live. They had no one for whom to live. And so they died.

Consider the implications of these facts to us as Christians. In the first place these facts pinpoint the great truth emphasized by Paul when he said to some low-achieving Christians, "Awake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead, and Christ shall shine upon you" (Eph. 5: 14). Paul is telling them, "If you aren't really motivated to live, then you are already dead." Dr. Maxwell Maltz stated, "To the degree we deny the gift of life we embrace death."

Don't you agree that life is really not measured in heartbeats but in heartthrobs? As Christians, we have so many things to "turn us on," so many of the Lord's tasks in which to be busy, so much self-development yet to achieve, so much to learn, so much service to others for which yet to qualify. If we join hands with the Lord in dedicating ourselves to the great project of building a better world, if we find some specific, realistic, immediate goals and some remote ones too, both in serving

others and in developing ourselves, then we will never, never have such a flat sky that it cave in on us. It is said of some God-fearing people in Luke 2:38, "They were living in expectancy. . ." (Goodspeed's Translation). The Christian is not justified in committing the gradual suicide of psychological death. He has too much for which to live, too much going for him, too much to which he is pledged.

Also, think of what these facts imply of our need to show Christian love and kindness of others. The doctors has it that many see no need to live when others fail to show love and concern for them. Isn't it true that we may commit soul-murder when we pass by on the other side?

"The unkind word we might have kept, Who knows how hard it pierced and stung? The word we had no sense to say, Who knows how grandly it had rung?"

Myriad are those who are crying out to us, "I am hungry, not for bread, but for love and kindness. I am thirsty, not for water, but for an awareness that others really care. I am in a prison neither county state, or federal, but a cold cell which separates me from life and love. You didn't put me here, friend, but perhaps you can liberate me with a little Christian concern. I am a stranger in a cold world because I have never really found the way home to God and the warmth of His house. Can't you show me the way? And my body and soul shiver in the cold nakedness of my bare existence. . ."

Brethren, we can not, we dare not, pass by on the other side of those in our own homes, across the way, beside us on the job, or shut tightly in a sick room in our city.

The great lover, John, put it this way: "But whoso hath this world's goods and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" (1 Jno. 3: 16).

Perhaps John is thinking primarily of food and clothing when he speaks of "this world's goods." But his later expression, "Shutteth up his compassion," lets us know that he is dealing with a much broader principle than supplying food and covering. We are all limited in the amount of food and clothing we can provide for others. But the reservoir of love need never run dry. Kind words, thoughtful expressions, encouraging remarks, taking time for a visit—these cost us so very little especially when compared to their value to those we serve.

But if we can be accessories to soul-murder by neglect, then we can give life, we can give hope, we can, as it were, resurrect those who are all but dead by

being an extension of God's great hand of love.

GATHERED FROM HERE AND THERE

Those who complain about the way the ball bounces are often the ones who dropped it.

Everybody knows how to express a complaint, but few can utter a graceful compliment. It's a matter of practice;

Wealthy people miss one of the greatest Thrills in life—paying the last installment.

Curiosity is one of the permanent and certain characteristics of a vigorous mind. --S. Johnson

When a youth starts sowing his wild oats, its time for the parents to start the THRASHING machine!

Better watch your temper! Remember the emptier the pot, the quicker it boils.

There is plenty of difference between a "wise guy" and a "Wise man".

When the day is done, you frequently discover that not much else is.

We like the man that comes right out and says what he thinks when he agrees with us.

AN ORDINARY MEMBER

FAITH

Doubt sees the obstacles;
Faith sees the way.
Doubt sees the darkest night;
Faith sees the day!
Doubt dreads to take a step;
Faith soars on high;
Doubt questions. "Who believes?"
Faith answers, "I"!

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