

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

Mammoth Spring, Ark.

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BE NOT ASHAMED

II Tim. 1:7-8

Orbie Robbins — Elizabeth, Ark.

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear: but of power and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord nor of me His prisoner: but be thou partaker of the affections of the gospel according to the power of God. II Tim. 1:7-8.

In these statements Paul gave some good advice, not only to Timothy, but it would be applicable to all Christians. He necessarily infers that it is possible for some to be ashamed.

So we need to question ourselves as to the following matters and see whether or not we are ashamed. 1st: Be not ashamed of God. Because in Him we live, move and have our being. Acts 17:23. Every good and perfect gift come from Him. Jas. 1:17.

All glory belongs to God. I Pet. 4:11. Therefore since we are indebted to God for our very existence. We should not be ashamed of Him, and strive to glorify Him in our manner of life and service as Christians. Eph. 3:21.

2nd: Be not ashamed of Christ. We will not be ashamed of Him at the judgment. Rom. 14:10-12. Therefore, we should not be ashamed of Him here.

The Lord said whosoever shall be ashamed of me and my words in this sinful and adulterous generation, of him shall the son of man be ashamed of when he cometh in the glory of His Father with the holy angels. Mk. 8:33.

If we are ashamed of him he will say in the last great day depart from me I know you not.

3rd: Be not ashamed of the Gospel. We are usually not during a big meeting, when our zeal is running high. We are not usually ashamed when with the majority.

Paul was not ashamed of the gospel even tho he was in the minority. For I am not ashamed of the Gospel

of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth: to the Jew first, and also the Greek. Rom. 1:16.

Even under persecution for preaching the gospel, Paul could say I am not ashamed. II Tim. 1:12.

Therefore, when we are persecuted for upholding the gospel we should not be ashamed. Paul said, Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. II Tim. 3:12.

4th: Be not ashamed of the church because it is the body of Christ. Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18.

Christ gave His blood for it. Acts 20:28. He is the saviour of the body. Eph. 5:23. It is a glorious body. Eph. 5:27. For these reasons we should not be ashamed of the church.

We should show that we are not ashamed of it by doing all that we possibly can in order to its growth, by preaching the gospel, and by letting our manner of life be such as becometh the gospel. Phil. 1:27.

5th: Be not ashamed of the name. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evil doer, or as a busy-body in other men's matters.

Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed: but let him glorify God on this behalf. I Pet. 4:15-16. Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by which ye are called? Jas. 2:7.

Paul was not ashamed of the name Christian. When he made his defense before King Agrippa in the climax of his sermon, Agrippa said almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but all that hear me this day, were both almost and altogether such as I am, except these bonds. Acts 26:28-29.

To demonstrate that there are not ashamed of the name Christian, we must follow Christ in our manner of life and service. I Pet. 2:21.

6th: Be not ashamed of the word. Mk. 8:33.

In order to not be ashamed of the

word we should study it. II Tim. 2:15. Walk by it. Ps. 1:1-2. Obey it to be saved. Jas. 1:21. Practice it to be holy. Jas. 1:22-25.

7th: Be not ashamed of the hope in Christ.

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and 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. I Pet. 3:15.

Be not ashamed of this hope because heaven is our home in the afterwhile depends upon it. Jno. 14:1-3; Heb. 6:18-19.

Eternal life depends upon this hope. Lit. 1:2; Mt. 25:46; Rom. 8:24; I Cor. 15:19.

In conclusion, be not ashamed of anything that is of God.

That which is of God will stand and last forever.

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. Mt. 24:35.

"I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR THINKING"

I don't understand your thinking. You were once a faithful Christian. When the church assembled, we never wondered if you would be present. When some problem concerning the work of the church was being considered, you were among the most interested. You seemed so happy in the knowledge that Jesus died for you and you were a child of God. You found spiritual stimulation and real joy in studying the Bible with others. We all noticed how you made Christ first in your life and were so proud of you for serving so willingly and faithfully.

Now all this is changed. You are unfaithful — neglecting all those things which are important and necessary to every Christian. The assembly of the saints has long been forgotten. The work of the church seems to be no concern of yours. Your appreciation of Christ's supreme sacrifice has been destroyed by cal-

Continued on back page

**Welcome Hill Church of Christ
Supported by Moten, Welome Hill
and Union Hill churches**

**Editors: Clovis Ragsdale and
Boyd E. Morgan**

EDITORIAL

We can be thankful to see brethren availing themselves of every avenue to spread the gospel. It is encouraging to see the Williford brethren make plans for the common good of all. A gospel meeting is wonderful. Wonderful because the truth is presented and it is the truth that frees. To plan and conduct a gospel meeting of the air will reach thousands. It will get the truth out and do it in a hurry. We cannot weigh the good that can be accomplished. You may wish that you or the group with whom you meet could do the same. You can. It takes a little effort, some thinking, and some money. For us of this vicinity the cost is \$25 per day. That makes eight days cost \$200, or ten days \$250. The Williford brethren are paying this bill and are prepared for it. They are holding this meeting on the air concurrently with their meeting in the church building. It just may be, too, that more 'outsiders' of their own community will hear the truth as they present it on the air, than hears it as they present it in the church building, besides they will be able to share it with many other communities.

Well, word is going around of a five year old preacher not yet six, who was saved when he was four and a half years old. I have never subscribed to the theory of infant damnation. Neither did I know that the religious sect (a branch of Holiness belief) for which he preaches subscribed to it. But we learn every day. I cannot see how people could teach that a child of four and a half tender years could be a sinner and lost and stand in need of salvation. Of course, I am not the judge, but Jesus Christ is, and I recall his words "Except ye be converted and become as little children (He didn't say how little of course, but I always figured four was little B. E. M.) ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Certainly when a four and a half year old child is converted, it would be difficult to see how He could become as a little child, since he already is one. And I never did see a four year old that I figured was a man and accountable to God. Children are just safe. They are not sinners.

I have been requested to explain James 5:14-15. This belonged to the miraculous age, before the Bible was completed. The letter (epistle) of James was written before the perfect law of liberty was given. In fact, it became a part of that law. There were nine spiritual gifts given then. Read I Cor. 12. Healing was one of them. The people to whom James wrote were admonished, "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." This is not a command for us today to keep for none of us have the gift of healing. We believe in God and God is able, yet, God is not dependent on miracles to bless his people. The laws of nature are divine and God can bless us and our sick for whom we pray with his divine means through his natural laws. We ought also to do all for ourselves and our sick that we can. The oil here was even of a medicinal the Good Samaritan. There would value as was the oil in the story of be no wrong in gathering over our loved ones (even with the elders, and I would encourage it) and praying God on their behalf, but it would be sinful to withhold from them the proper medicines for their care. God can bless the means that are used to help the ill, and comfort the weary and worried. We need not expect or hope for an immediate miracle of resurrection to the daily walks of life. Pray for the sick and do all you can for them. God never does for people what they can do for themselves.

—Boyd E. Morgan

YOUTH AND CHRISTIANITY

Clovis Ragsdale

If someone asked you the question, "Why do you believe the Bible?"

what would your answer be? There are many, many reasons that could be given as positive proof that the Bible is for sure a divinely inspired message from heaven. I would like to call attention to a fact that was taught in the Bible long before man discovered it for himself.

When the Bible was written it was universally believed that the earth was flat. Almost all men thought that if one should travel in the same direction far a long period of time he would come to a place where he would fall over the edge of the earth. It was not until America was discovered that this idea was discarded. The Bible taught long before that the earth was round. Isaiah 40:22, speaks of God as sitting upon the circle of the earth. Probably the strongest argument is found in Luke 17:34-37. Here Christ was teaching of his second coming. "I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left." This suggests that the end of time will be during the night time in some places, and at mealtime in some places, and in the day time in others. We do know now that the difference in time over the earth will make this true. Man had not yet learned this when Luke quoted the words of our Saviour. At the time these verses were written, they would seem to contradict the thinking of men, but the inspiration of the Holy Spirit guided these men in writing the Bible and we do not have to doubt that the things they wrote were so.

Jumping at Conclusions—

A man sitting at his window one evening casually called to his wife, "There goes the woman that Charley Brown is in love with." His wife in the kitchen dropped a plate she was drying, ran through the house, knocked a lamp over, and looked out the window. "Where, where," she cried. "There" he said, "that woman in the blue suit on the corner." "You idiot," she hissed, "That's his wife." "Yes, of course," he replied.

You are cordially invited to attend the meeting at the church of Christ at Williford, Ark., April 9-17 and hear Bro. W. L. Totty each evening at 7:30.

Jeff church of Christ has either a Bible class or preaching services each Monday night. Bro. Boyd Morgan is assisting them in this work. Attendance has been very good and the response of the students of the Bible is heart warming. If you would like to know more about the Bible, spend an hour each Monday evening with the Jeff brethren beginning at 7:30.

Good news from Viola. One Sunday last month 80 were present. In addition to preaching two Sundays a month and a singing each first Sunday, they have been having some good Bible classes. The debate drew large audiences and was well worth while. Bro. Junior Huett of Elizabeth has been helping some with Bible class. They have purchased an electric pump for the well to furnish water for the baptistry and drinking purposes.

A BAPTIST'S IMPRESSION

Edward T. Dahlberry, minister of the Delmer Baptist church, visited with the Central church of Christ in St. Louis, Missouri, recently where Bro. Myers preaches. He gave his impression of the visit over KSD on the "Protestant Hour", and mailed out copies of his impression to all those interested in the radio and television audience. Here in part is his letter: "I had a very interesting experience during my vacation this summer. One Sunday when I was not myself preaching, I walked over to the nearest neighboring church close to my home. Now this church was very different from my church. It is a church that does not believe in church choirs, such as the beautiful quartet we have listened to this morning. For example, it does not believe in any instrument of music. In that little church that I visited that morning, there was not an organ or piano in the whole church building. Now, you might say when you hear about this church like that, "Well, they must be queer, fanatical-type people to introduce old fashioned ideas like that into the middle twen-

tieth century, but on the contrary, that was one of the most inspiring church services that I ever attended. The church was crowded to the doors with a youthful congregation, and the singing, which was led by a well-trained young man, with great quietness and dignity—the singing was of superb volume of praise to God, and until the time for the sermon, the minister took no part in the service. Eight capable young laymen, fine looking men, read the scriptures, offered the prayer, gathered the offering, and even administered the Lord's Supper. It was a perfect demonstration of the priesthood of believers, and I felt myself veritably in the fellowship of the First Century Church. I went home inspired, saying to myself, "It was good to be in the House of the Lord today."

EVERYDAY RELIGION

Marvin Ed Berry — Welcome Hill
Many people have only a "Sunday religion". Some have only a "Big meeting religion." Others have only a "Summer religion". Some have "once in a while religion." Some people think that going to worship is just somewhere to go. Christianity is more than just a Sunday religion. Religion is to be a daily religion with Daily prayer.

Must pray always. I Thess. 5:17.
"Pray without ceasing."

Pray according to the will of God. Jno. 14. Daily study.

Study to be approved of God. II Tim. 2:15. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the work of truth."

Desire the truth. I Peter 2:2 "As new born babes desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby."

Grow in grace and knowledge. II Peter 3:18 "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever."

The truth makes us free. Jn. 8:32. "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Daily Exhortations:

Should teach. Matt. 28:19-20 "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded

you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Invite people to worship:

Warn and persuade daily. Acts 20:31. "Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."

Daily Ministrations:

Practice pure religion. James 1:27. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to their affliction, and to keep himself visit the fatherless and widows in unspotted from the world." Help the poor. Acts 6.

Daily Cross Bearing:

Must follow Christ. Matt. 10:24. "Then said Jesus unto his disciples. If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow me."

First seek the kingdom. Matt. 6:33. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you."

Set a good example. Matt. 5:16. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

A daily religion will bring daily results. Only a daily religion saves. Christianity must be practiced every day.

THANKLESSNESS

Albert Porterfield, Poplar Bluff, Mo.

Certainly there is a chance of one becoming over egotistical or "big headed" because of some degree of success in life; whether altogether due to his own efforts and initiatives or 100 per cent luck and good fortune—or even thro the untiring efforts of a friend.

Dispicable as such an attitude must be, it cannot compare with the attitude of thanklessness for the many blessings of life, meager tho they may seem.

We have but to look round about us at the untold sufferings and miseries of the less fortunate; both in the physical and spiritual world to know and appreciate the greater more important things of life.

Be thankful for the opportunity to labor toward higher goals.

If you were hopelessly crippled, sick (or dead) then you couldn't even do that!

Think — then THANK God!

"JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES"

A review of an article entitled
"WHO ARE BORN AGAIN"?

By Don Flanagan, Hardy, Arkansas
—The Watchtower Nov. 15, 1954

In the first paragraph the Watchtower suggests that the subject of the new birth has been little understood, down through the centuries. With this I whole-heartedly agree. I am persuaded, after having read this article, that the "Jehovah's Witnesses" know as little about this subject as the other sects in Christendom. But listen to the Watchtower: "Many religious teachers today hold to the view that if one is not 'born again,' there is no salvation. In other words, being 'born again,' they say, is the only way to salvation" By this statement the Watchtower affirms that one can receive salvation without the new birth. I am one of those religious teachers who holds to the view that one **MUST BE BORN AGAIN** to be saved. See Jno. 3:3. Jesus said: "Except a **MAN** be born again..." The word "man" is a generic expression, and means "any man", or 'anyone', or "everyone." See the "Jehovah's Witnesses" New World translation. It says: "...Unless anyone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Thus by their own translation we have proved that **ALL MEN** must be born again if they expect to receive salvation.

In paragraph two, referring to the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus we read: "Note carefully that, in discussing this matter, Jesus did not say that all who would gain everlasting life must be 'born again.' Rather, what he said was that unless one was 'born again' he could not see the 'kingdom of God.'" But the Bible teaches that when one receives life (by promise) he then and there enters the kingdom of God. All who receive everlasting life receives the kingdom. But the Watchtower has some receiving the kingdom and others receiving everlasting life! A believer is born again (I Jno. 5:1). But when one is born again he enters the kingdom. (Jno. 3:3-5). Therefore, all believers enter the kingdom. But again: A believer receives everlasting life. (Jno. 3:16). But believers are born of God. (I Jno. 5:1) and born again people enter the kingdom. (Jno.

3:5). Everlasting life and the kingdom of God cannot be separated. One has everlasting life in the kingdom of God, or he does not have it at all!

In all this the Watchtower is trying to get us to accept their absurd position that God's people are divided into two classes. The first class is the "kingdom class" with a specific and limited number of only 144,000. The rest of God's people are what the Watchtower calls the "meek class", the number being unlimited. The Watchtower says that only 144,000 are born again, the rest need not be born again, for they receive salvation in some other way.

Again in paragraph two we read: "Jehovah also purposed that a limited number, taken from among mankind, would reign with Christ Jesus as associate kings." Then in the same paragraph the Watchtower assumes that the "little flock" mentioned in Lk. 12:32, and the number 144,000 mentioned in Rev. 14:1-3 are the same, to whom God gave the kingdom. Thus the conclusion drawn by the Watchtower is that this number, 144,000, are the only ones who need the new birth. You notice that the Watchtower said that this number is taken from "AMONG MANKIND". But Rev. 7:4 says the men from whom this number was taken were "all the tribes of the children of Israel." They were therefore Jews. But the Watchtower implies that this number was taken from both the Jews and Gentiles.

Before leaving paragraph two let us notice their assumption that the 144,000 and the "little flock" are the same. Who is the "little flock" of Lk. 12:32? The Jews are. Jesus said: "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: Them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." Here he was speaking to the Jews. "This fold" and "little fold" are identically the same. The expression "other sheep" refers to the Gentiles. Read Mat. 10:5-6. "Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Thus, the expression "other sheep" of Jno. 10:16 means the Gentiles of Mat. 10:5. Therefore Watchtower is wrong when

it says that the "little flock" has reference to the definite number 144,000.

Jesus said in speaking of the "little flock" and the "other sheep" that they would become one, and there would be one shepherd over them. But when was this to take place? Eph. 1:12-16 is our answer. Here we see that the Gentiles (other sheep) and the Jews (little flock) are made one in Christ Jesus. Hence there is no distinction between God's people. Watchtower is definitely wrong when it tries to make a difference, and thus divide God's people. Jesus is the Great Shepherd over his one fold, the church, the kingdom of God. (I Pet. 2:25; Heb. 12:20). Paul said in Gal. 3:26-28 "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

More on this later.

NEWS

A Gospel Meeting of the Air will be held over Radio Stations KALM, Thayer, Mo. and KWPM, West Plains, Mo. for eight days beginning April 10 and continuing through April 17. Bro. W. L. Totty of Garfield Heights church of Christ, Indianapolis, Ind. will do the preaching. While Bro. Totty will be in a meeting at Williford, Ark. during this time, the gospel meeting of the air will not be a tape recording of the Williford meeting. The radio program will be presented live each day and originate in the Thayer station studio. You may hear the radio meeting and attend the meeting at Williford and hear different sermons. The time over KALM (Thayer) will be 9 to 10 a. m. daily. The time over KWPM (West Plains) will be 7:30 to 8:30 p. m. daily. Sunday time will be announced over the radio when the meeting begins and over the Mammoth and Thayer churches' regular program at 9 a. m. Lord's Days.

BUT THEY HAVE REJECTED ME

I Sam. 1:8

Marion Farley — Dallas 17, Texas

The Israelites had been ruled by Judges for some 350 years prior to the time of this scripture.

God had blessed the children of Israel. He had led them by the hand out of the land of bondage, had destroyed their former captors when they had endeavored to overtake them and return them to slavery. He had guided them with a cloud by day, a pillar of fire by night, given them manna and quails for food, had not allowed their clothing to wear out and had protected them on every side from their enemies. During the lifetime of their great leader, Joshua, the descendants of Jacob followed Jehovah.

Since they had witnessed God's wonderful protecting power on so many occasions, they were more than willing, just before the death of Joshua, to make a solemn vow in his presence to follow the Lord God, and turn neither to the right hand or to the left.

But, the history of them will show that it was not long after the passing of the leaders which outlined Joshua, until they began to allow themselves to be drawn away from Jehovah, and began to worship the idols of the nations round about them, and the remnants they failed to drive out or utterly destroy, as God had commanded them, knowing, and even warning them this very thing would happen if they failed in this.

Presently their enemies began to vex and afflict them on every side, then God would raise up a deliverer, or judge, to protect them from their oppressors.

But this arrangement did not meet with their approval, and more than once they asked for a king, that they might be like the nations around them, that he might go out before them and fight their battles for them, had they remained satisfied and loyal to Jehovah, there would have been no need for a king to fight for them, but, they wanted to be like "other people."

It was under the leadership of Samuel, the last judge that ruled Israel, and when he had become old and not able to go out with them as

before, that the people asked again for a king. Samuel took the matter to God through prayer, knowing it was not the Lord's will that they have a king to rule them. He asked God what he must do about it. Then it was that the Lord told Samuel the people had not rejected him, but, says He, "they have rejected me, that I should not be king over them." Samuel was then instructed to warn them about the kind of king they would have, he would take their sons and daughters to be his servants, their lands for his use, and because of the oppression they would suffer, they would cry unto Jehovah, but he would not hear their cry, but regardless of his solemn protests, they insisted on a king.

All who are familiar with the account of Saul their first king, will recall that these predictions began to come to pass according to the word of the Lord, and the people must have soon recognized their mistake in not being satisfied with God's way.

The account of their kings will show that they had very few who were righteous, that conditions grew from bad to worse, until finally the kingdom was divided and both divisions were taken into captivity.

All this was brought upon them because of their rebellious nature, wanting to have their own way, even Moses had called them a "rebellious and stiffnecked people." They disliked the idea of being in the minority.

The lesson as it applies to us: First, to not be too much concerned about what the majority do, and certainly not to the extent of disregarding the plain positive teaching of God's beloved Son in order to be popular or broadminded as it is often suggested. If we do, we can be sure that God will punish all who will not let His commands rule their lives. Secondly, our attitude should always be, "speak Lord, thy servant heareth. Command and I will obey". Had this been Israel's disposition, no combination of nations "could ever have overcome them. As long as they did obey, God fought their battles for them and they were victorious.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PAPER

Mrs. Elsie Rowden, Oxford, Ark., \$1; Fred Casey, West Plains, Mo., \$1; Ulman Nix, Hardy, Ark., \$1; Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Harris, Alton, Mo., \$2; Mrs. Johnnie Smith, Rook Falls, Mo., \$3; Name withheld, \$1; B. Humphries, Mammoth Spring, \$1; Name withheld, \$4; Roby Blue, Wheeling, Ark., \$1; Lena B. Hutchinson, Thayer, Mo., \$2; Fred Eaton, Jonesboro, Ark., \$1; H. G. McCarty, South Fork, Mo., \$1; J. A. Dubois, Thayer, Mo., \$1; Orville Dubois, Thayer, Mo., \$1; Willie Oldfield, Morrilton, Ark., \$1; Ransey Cotter, Geep, Ark., \$1; Agnos church of Christ, Agnos, Ark., \$5.

LECTURESHIP CHURCH OF CHRIST

WELCOME HILL

Three miles from Mammoth Spring, Ark., on Highway No. 9.

APRIL 2 - 7

April 2 — Don Flanagan, Hardy, Ark.

"Immortality of the Soul"

April 3 — Cecil Wilson, Pocahontas, Arkansas.

"The Cost of Discipleship"

April 4 — Laverne Stewart, West Plains, Mo.

"Enemies of the Cross"

April 5 — Cliff Stewart, Mountain Grove, Mo.

"Blessed are the Pure in Heart"

April 6 — Eugene Britnell, Tuckerman, Ark.

"Edifying the Body of Christ"

April 7 — Boyd Morgan, Mammoth Spring, Ark.

"Restoring the Spirit of New Testament Christianity"

Starting each night at 7:30
EVERYONE WELCOME.

The Mammoth Spring church plans a lectureship in the week beginning April 22. Preachers have been invited and announcements will be made as soon as confirmation of their acceptance of our invitation is received.

The Thayer church has employed Bro. Nathaniel Honeycutt of Warm Springs, Ark. to preach for them regularly each Sunday morning and evening. You are invited to attend any of their services and to hear Bro. Honeycutt.

Don't Understand... from page 1

ious neglect. You no longer hunger after the righteousness of God's Word. Christ is forgotten and forsaken. You have been reclaimed by your master—Satan.

You may try at times to make yourself believe that there were valid reasons for your quitting the church. The preacher was not all he should have been. Some who still meet are no better than you are. But, in your better moments, you know that nothing on earth is reason enough to justify giving up your heritage as a Christian. You have quit Christ and He has never wronged you in any way. You will be lost eternally unless you repent and pray God's forgiveness. There is no hope for you unless you summon the courage to confess your sins to your fellow Christians and ask their prayers on your behalf. You are aware of the truthfulness of these statements; and as yet you have not acted. I don't understand your thinking. Do you? The Lord and the church in your community need you—but not half as much as you need the church and the Lord.

By Chris Clark

"SHALL BE BEATEN WITH MANY STRIPES"

"And that servant which knew his Lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes"—so said Jesus in Luke 12:47.

None of us—not even little children or the youngest babe in Christ—has any trouble understanding these simple words. When we learn that Christ in His Word has commanded us to do something, and we through carelessness or negligence fail to do His will, we can expect no leniency in the day of judgment. Heavy and great will be our punishment.

Nearly every day I hear someone say: "I know that I could and should do more visiting among the sick and the erring and the lost" or "I know it is the duty of every member to attend all the services of the church, unless providentially hindered, but we haven't been doing that". Surely you have heard some of your brethren say: "We are able to give more and I know that we should", but seldom do they raise their contribution.

Have you ever said, "You don't have to tell me that I should read my Bible and pray every day. I know I should?" But how about your actions?

Some of you never confessed the sweetest name on earth and haven't yet been baptized and yet you know you should. I believe you know what is required of you and you also know He doesn't want you to procrastinate. As the matter now stands, you are one who "knew his Lord's will and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will."

Surely you haven't considered what dangerous ground you occupy. How terrible to be "beaten with many stripes." —Glad Tidings, Semole, Okla.

THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

Clovis Ragsdale

The Gospel according to Matthew introduces us to the division of God's word known as the New Testament. The first four books of the New Testament, known as the books of the Gospels, give a detailed account of the life of Jesus Christ, while he lived here in this world in the form of man. When these books are studied they will produce faith in Christ as the son of God. The author of the book of Matthew was a man who collected taxes for the Roman government which ruled Judea in the time of Christ. He forsook this unpopular job when he was called by Jesus to become one of the twelve apostles.

The gospel of Matthew emphasizes that Jesus is the Messiah foretold by the Old Testament prophets. He quotes the Old Testament often and appeals to his Jewish ancestors, taking for granted a familiarity with Jewish customs, laws, and localities, to a far greater extent than the other writers.

Is it important that Christians study the gospels, for have they not already shown that they have faith by becoming Christians? Yes, we need to study for many reasons. How can we produce faith in the hearts of sinners without knowing about Jesus and his life here on earth. Matthew gives us a detailed account of the sermon on the mount which teaches the greatest moral lessons the world has ever heard. Great teachers and philo-

sophers of different ages have impressed the world with many wise sayings and advice, yet their efforts appear pale and insignificant when compared with the teachings of Jesus in the fifth, sixth, and seventh chapters of Matthew. Mat. 4 tells about the temptations of Christ. No man shall ever be tempted more than was Jesus, and he has left us an example of how to overcome these temptations.

Mat. 13 could rightly be called the chapter of parables, for in this chapter no less than seven parables are taught. These parables are valuable lessons for all today.

That the church was to be founded upon the statement that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God, is explained in chapter 16.

The crucifixion of Jesus is told in detail in chapter 27, and we are told of his resurrection in the following chapter.

The book closes with the giving of the great Commission, the marching orders to Christians for all ages.

It would be well for all of us to study this book in detail every year to promote even greater faith in our hearts toward the Christ, as is told to us by a lowly tax-collector who forsook his lucrative job to follow after him, and who eventually gave the eye witness account of many of his wonderful works and teachings.

SHORTS

"If day by day my faith is a little greater; If I can forgive a little quicker; If my desire to save the lost is a little stronger; and my hope of heaven is a little brighter; Then I know I am growing more into His likeness and more into His favor." —Selected

Men and pin who lose their heads are worthless.

Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible some people will ever read.

A man with a pet sin is much like a little boy with a dirty neck—neither one wants you to do anything about it.

You can have just enough religion to make you miserable.