

# FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

Mammoth Spring, Arkansas

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soly Days. 'Blotting out the

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March, 1957

## LECTURESHIP TO BE HELD AT WELCOME HILL CHURCH OF CHRIST

Beginning March 25 and continuing through the 30th—the speakers will be:

25th — Vance E. Greenway, Paragould, Ark.

"What Advantage has the Christian"

26th — Donald L. Smith, Hardy, Arkansas.

"What Church Members Must Do To Go To Heaven"

27th — Arthur C. Blackwell, Mammoth, Spring, Ark.

"The Eldership"

28th — Emmett Smith, Paragould, Arkansas.

"The Demands of Christian Love"

29th — Cecil Wilson, Pocahontas, Arkansas.

"The Church as Jesus Saw It"

30th — Leroy Miller, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

"On This Wise Ye Shall Bless"  
Services will begin each evening at 7:15 p. m.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Mr. Ben M. Ramsey, Kansas City, Mo. .... \$1.00

Mike Baley, California, ... \$2.00

Mrs. Bridges, West Plains, Mo. .... \$1.00

Mrs. John Gordon, Pocahontas, Arkansas ..... \$1.00

W. S. Forest, Knobel, Arkansas ..... 1.00

Bro. Earl E. McCord of Corning, Ark. is in this area teaching singing schools. Brethren, if you need a singing school, Brother McCord will be glad to hold you one.

If we could only forget our troubles as easily as we forget our blessings!

## CHRISTIAN EXAMINATION

Clovis Ragsdale

Paul, in his second letter to the brethren at Corinth, chapter 13:5, said examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates. Here Paul suggests a self examination for all Christians. We are familiar with the examinations used in our public schools to test the standings of children in their quest for knowledge. That at the close of the school year a final examination is held for the school term. We can compare this with the christian life, for the word of God teaches that there will be a final day in which we shall all stand before the judgment bar of God where our book of Life shall be opened and we shall be judged from this book which contains the deeds done in the flesh and that our final destiny as to where we shall spend eternity will be decided. To be prepared for that time Paul suggests that we should have examined our selves while we are here in this world where we can take measures to correct any thing that we might find lacking in our lives.

What kind of a grade would you make in the following questions?

1. Do I live a clean pure Christian life?
2. Am I willing to help others in need?
3. Do I love my fellowman?
4. Do I attend church services regularly?
5. Do I study the Bible often?
6. Do I give the Lord a portion of my time and talent?
7. Do I give as I am prospered?
8. Do I pray often?

## MAMMOTH SPRING MEETING TO BEGIN MARCH 30

The meeting will begin here at Mammoth Spring the 30th of this month and go through the 7th of April. Bro. Boyd Morgan of Corning will be the speaker. Make preparation to attend this meeting. Bro. Morgan is an outstanding gospel preacher. You will be benefited to attend this meeting.

9. Am I interested in the saving of the souls of others?
10. Am I humble in the sight of God and man?

We should concern ourselves with whether we could pass the above test, for if we are failing in the above mentioned things, then we would fail to reach heaven when we take that great final exam. What can we do if we are not making a passing grade? First, we can pray God to forgive us of our mistakes and then redouble our efforts to do better in the future. If we have never become a christian then our grade will be zero at that last day and will have no hope whatsoever of Heaven. What is it that we must do to become a christian: Hear the word of God, believe that word, repent of past life and desire to do better in the future, confess the name of Christ before men, and be buried with your Lord in baptism. This puts us into Gods family, the church, and then we are to live a diligent life in his service until death takes us from this world. Then we are assured that Heaven will be our home. We can be sure that it will be worth our very best effort. It is worth the effort of every person in the world.

Only what we have wrought into our character during life can we take away with us.

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Editors—  
Arthur C. Blackwell  
Clovis Ragsdale

## MUST ONE BE A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH TO BE SAVED

This is a question that is asked almost every day. Is it necessary for one to belong to the church or can one be saved without being a member? Of course, we want all to understand that we are talking about accountable folks, those that are responsible for their conduct. It will not do to bring up the babies and idiots as they are not responsible. I do not believe this question would be asked if all understood the meaning of the church. By the term church is meant the collective body of Christians. Hence, it would be impossible for one to claim to be a Christian without being a member of the church. If one can be saved, the church does not contain all the saved. Then the Lord will save more than he has promised to save. All will agree that the Lord will do what He has promised. Jer. 4:28. For this shall the earth mourn, and the heavens above be black; because I have spoken it, I have purposed it, and will not repent, neither will I turn back from it. If the Lord will not repent of what He has purposed to do, then how can any claim to be saved without being a member of the church. You that claim salvation outside the church claim salvation apart from the saved, Acts 2:47, pleasing God, and having favor with all the people, and the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. No one can

truthfully claim salvation outside the church the body for that is what will be saved. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and He is the saviour of the body (the church). Eph. 5:23. Where is the passage that teaches one is saved outside the church? For one to claim salvation out of the church is to claim salvation out of Christ. Who is ready for such a conclusion, when the record declares all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. Eph. 1:3.

For one to claim salvation out of the church (body) is to claim salvation without being reconciled to God. And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body (church) by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby. Eph. 2:16.

All will admit that for one to be saved from the wrath of God one must be reconciled to God. Hence the record plainly declares that one's reconciliation to God takes place in the body (the church), and he is the head of the body, the church; Who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell; and have made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled. In the body of his flesh through death to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight. Col. 1:18-22.

Those that claim salvation out of the church claim salvation in their alienation to God, and also in their wicked works. Are you that believes one can be saved without being a member of the church ready for this? Only those that have been reconciled to Christ and God are members of the body (the church). These that are members of the

church are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God. Eph. 2:19.

Thus, the conditions have been given in God's divine word that makes one a child of God. These conditions or commands must be obeyed if one is freed from sin. The very act that frees one from sin makes one a member of the church. The record declares: 1. One is baptized into Jesus Christ. Rom. 6:3-5; Gal. 3:26-29. 2. One is baptized for the remission of sins. Acts, 2:38. 3. To be saved. Mark 16:16. 4. Into the body (the church) 1 Cor. 12:13, and 5. Into the death of Christ. Rom. 6:3-5. 6. To have one's sins washed away. Acts 22:16. All that have heard the word of God and believed it with all of their heart, repented of all past sins, confessed the name of Christ before men, are subjects for the act of baptism that will make all who obey it a child of God, a member of the church, the body of Christ, the saved.

—Arthur C. Blackwell

## THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST SALUTE YOU, ROM. 16:16

Does the Bible teach universal salvation? It does if one denies baptism a place in God's plan of salvation. But why, one may inquire. We admit that baptism was not required for God's people prior to the gospel age. But since the last will and testament of Christ has gone into effect baptism is essential to salvation.

If baptism is not essential now, then all men are going to be ultimately saved. Read Paul's language in I Cor. 1:11-13. "For it hath been declared unto me of you, by brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?"

Here some of these individuals were claiming to be of Paul; some claimed to belong to Apollos; some claimed to belong to Peter; and some claimed to belong to Christ.

Now if it were possible for any of them to belong to these men, what were the conditions that brought about this relationship? First, we see that if one belongs to Paul it was necessary for Paul to be crucified for him, and secondly it was necessary for that individual to be baptized in Paul's name.

Alright, the facts would have it that Paul was not crucified for any one. Therefore no man could possibly belong to Paul upon that basis. Secondly, no man could belong to Paul because no man was baptized in his name. Thus, there are two conditions set forth in this passage which assure us that we belong to Christ.

In order to belong to Christ, he must of necessity be crucified for us. Then in turn we must of necessity be baptized in Christ's name. Now this is the thing, Paul is arguing here in this passage. Paul was never crucified for mankind, neither has anyone been baptized in Paul's name. Therefore it is impossible to belong to Paul.

But Christ was crucified for mankind, and if mankind wants to belong to Christ they must be baptized in his name. Now remember these two conditions. Christ was crucified for all, but if baptism is not necessary then all belong to Christ upon the one basis only, i. e. his crucifixion. Friend, are you prepared for this?

You who deny baptism a place in the plan of salvation have unwittingly affirmed universal salvation.

Don Flanagan

Going to church doesn't make anybody a Christian any more than taking a wheelbarrow into a garage makes it an automobile.

You want to make good somewhere, but why not make good where you are.

## THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST SALUTE YOU ROM. 16:16.

No. 2

What Holy Days should Christians keep? Let me answer emphatically, NONE: Absolutely none. This includes Christmas the supposed birthday of Christ. Jesus Christ kept the last Holy Day of the law of Moses. It was the last one to be kept by faith. Consequently, for one to keep Holy Days today keep them without faith. Nowhere do we read where Christians are obligated to keep any Holy Day. But ye do read where it is sinful for Christians to observe Holy Days.

To those Christians who had been converted from heathenism and Judanism Paul writes: "How be it, then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods, But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, wherunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, months, and times and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain."

Notice please that Paul said that the Galatians wanted to turn again to that from which they were converted. Which was rendering service to Idols. Which service caused them to "Observe days" (Holy Days) and months (Holy Months) and times, (Holy seasons) and years, (Holy years). Thus Paul here points out that Holy Days observance is essentially tied to idolatry. Friends if Holy Day observance was idolatry to the Christian of the first century, why is it not idolatry to Christians today?

Paul said: "I am afraid of you." But why Paul? Because you are observing Holy Days. I wonder what Paul would say to folks today who observe Holy Days such as Easter, Christmas, Good Friday, the Sabbath etc?

The apostle warns the Colossians not to continue in carnal ordin-

ances which demand that they observe Holy Days. 'Blotting out the hand writing of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; and having spoiled principalities and power, he made a shew of them openly triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon or of the sabbath days: (Col 2:14-17.)

Language could be no plainer. Holy Day keeping is expressly forbidden. This applies to Christmas with equal force. If these Christians were forbidden to observe Holy Day then Christians today are likewise. If not, why not?

Paul is not here condemning social or civil holidays. But rather, religious ordinances and Holy Days not commanded. Is Christmas commanded?

Don Flanagan

## WHY ATTEND BIBLE SCHOOL

There are many good reasons for attending Bible classes conducted by the church, but the following are suggestive.

1. It helps the church. A congregation that has no Bible classes for its members will soon die. Then, we should support it with our presence.

2. We nearly always learn something when we attend the classes. We may not be conscious that we are learning anything of value at the time, but if a person never opened the Bible at home, yet attended all the Bible classes conducted by the churches, he would find that he had learned quite a bit in a little time.

3. Attending Bible classes has a cultural value. The man who confesses that he never attends the Bible classes, and never studies the Bible, admits that he failed in one of the most profitable of all fields of learning and culture.

4. Attending the Bible classes refines one's nature. Seldom do we find a person coarse and vile in his nature who attends Bible classes regularly. Nothing does more to improve one's mind, soul and spirit than a study of God's word—especially if this is done in company with other good people.

## WE WALK BY FAITH NOT BY SIGHT

Marion Farley ... Dallas 17, Texas

There are a great many things man knows in this life, among them is the fact that he exists, we know that we live here on this earth, and according to nature we must all die, for we see death and decay on every hand, we see absolutely nothing that time and the elements have no effect upon.

We know also that man is the most intelligent of all earthly creatures, that he feels and acts, that he has desires, joys, and fears, that he plans and executes those plans.

Also we know that he is sinful, even though we may wonder about the origin of sin.

We know too that he suffers, that he is a suffering being, by our own experience we all expect to suffer.

These are a few things that are not faith, but sight, only the things which are unseen are FAITH.

Is it too much to have faith in a living God?

When we consider the exactness of the earth's rotation, and that man as never been able to perfect a watch or clock that is nearly as accurate as it, or when we think of man making a grain of wheat that looks just like an ordinary grain, and tastes like one, yet he has not been able to put in it the germ of life, these and many others cause us to believe that there is a God who has set everything in order.

Since we have faith that there is a Supreme Being, it is only reasonable to believe that man has a spirit that survives the grave.

God has given man everything needful for his well being, such as rain, sunshine, food, clothing, and shelter, would it be reasonable to doubt that he has also made provision for his soul?

We learn from (Heb. 11:1) that "faith is the assurance of things hoped for a conviction of things

not seen."

Several Old Testament characters are fine examples of faith, Abraham walked by faith, believing God would take care of him in a strange land, and among strange people, he obeyed the call to leave his native land and kinsmen to go to such a place.

Moses had faith in the God of his fathers to help him lead a great multitude of people out from under the iron rule of Pharaoh in Egypt and to the promised land.

Noah had faith in God to the extent of building a great boat to save him and his family from the flood of waters he had said would come upon the earth.

God expects his children to walk by faith he has always required his chosen people to do this, all acts of worship and service of the Christian is by faith, but let us remember always, that "faith comes by hearing God's word." (Rom. 10:17).

We walk by faith when we willingly comply with His requirements with no questions asked, but when we begin to quibble about any one, or more of his commandments, we show a lack of faith, and indicate we are not willing to walk by the kind of faith the Patriarchs and Christ's Apostles possessed.

May we have more of the "FAITH THAT WORKS BY LOVE," love for Him who died to set us all free from the bondage of sin, that we may be "Children of God by faith."

Many a man has made a failure in life by determining to have his own way.

The man who is doing nothing usually finds it quite easy to find fault with the man who is doing something.

Some people have three kinds of trouble—all they have had, all they have now, and all they expect to have.

The person who honestly tries can never be counted a failure.

## THE CHURCH AT WHEELING

This congregation has one of the most interesting histories of any of the churches in the county. The exact date of the founding of the church was not known, but the church has existed in this community, which is located four miles south of Salem, since before the turn of the century, possible established between 1890 and 1895.

The congregation is noted for the number of gospel preachers that have come from its numbers. No other church in the county and very few in the state could boast of as great a number as can Wheeling. Joe H. Blue, C. L. Wilkerson, Perry Blue, Oscar Painter, Bob Painter, Oscar Hays, Owen Stroud, and Roby Blue, all have lived in this community. The preachers who have held meetings at Wheeling are among the best that the brotherhood has produced. Joe Warlick, Andy T. Ritchie, J. A. McNutt, Mathis Billingsley, E. M. Borden, Bynum Black, Ike Usery, S. C. Garner, Rue Porter, Curtis Porter, J. W. Chism, C. L. Wilkerson, Perry Blue, Frank Gould, Paul Keller, J. T. Lashley and M. S. Mason.

At the present time the church has a weekly attendance of about sixty persons. Serving as Elders are Jack Cochran, Perry Vail, and Iris Everette. Sam Campbell and Thurmon Crouch are the Deacons.

At the present time they are sending support to Hillard Story in Italy. In the past they have assisted in the establishing of a congregation at Bryon and other places.

The church possesses an adequate building and hopes are high for an increase in zeal and in interest in the Lords work at Wheeling.

He who has done a kind deed should be silent; he who has received one should speak it out.

If I cannot do big things, let me do little things in a big way.