

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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Mammoth Spring, Arkansas

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NO ROOM FOR JESUS

Marion Farley Dallas 17, Texas

The birth of Jesus is a very simple story, one with which many, many children are familiar.

Even though one of the greatest events in all history, it is told in the simplest language.

Joseph and Mary lived in the little town of Nazareth, and since Augustus Caesar had decreed that everyone should be taxed, it was necessary for each to go to his home town to be enrolled for taxation purposes.

Joseph, being of the lineage of David, was obliged to go to Bethlehem, the city of David. (this being a fulfillment of the prophet (Mich 5:2)

When he and his wife Mary arrived, all available rooms at the inn had been taken, forcing them to lodge in a stable, Christ being born in it, and laid in a 'manger.'

Significant is this fact, concerning the beginning of the life of the 'Kings of Kings, and Lord of Lord's!' which characterized many events throughout his earthly career.

Even at an early age, king Herod tried to destroy him, by having possibly hundreds of little children slain in and around Bethlehem in an effort to kill him.

For a number of years, while he lived in Nazareth, we do not hear much of him, except when he accompanied his parents to Jerusalem at the age of twelve, at which time he astonished the lawyers and scribes by asking them questions, and also by answering theirs, concerning matters of a religious nature.

There was no room for him in his home town of Nazareth, on one occasion when he had read to the people out of the prophets concerning himself they wondered at his 'gracious words,' and yet were provoked at the great truths he presented, insomuch they

tried to kill him. (Lk. 4:28,29).

At another time when he had driven the evil spirits out of two men, suffering them to enter a herd of swine at the spirits request, causing the swine to perish in the sea, the whole populace of Gadara came out and asked him to leave their coasts (Matt. 8:34.)

Similarly he was rejected by the Samaritans, (Lk. 9:53).

These prove that the world as a whole did not want him.

He was a homeless wanderer, he had no place to 'lay his head' (Matt. 8:20,) and not even enough money to pay taxes. (Matt. 17:27).

The world as a whole has no room for him today, very few businesses have any consideration for him, the same is true with most educational programs, and societies of our land.

Many churches of today have no room for him.

Too many times his truth is rejected, and its stead, the 'doctrines and commandments of men' have taken its place.

We know that he would not be welcomed into their midst if he were present, for all who have rejected his Word, have rejected him.

There is as great need, if not greater, for him today as ever before, man has always wanted to substitute his wisdom for that of his Maker, and has perverted His worship.

Until men are willing to return to the New Testament for their authority in all matters of religion, perversion will continue to exist.

Let us resolve to 'make room' for Christ in our every walk of life, whether it be spiritual or physical, for it is a settled fact, if we have 'no room' for him here, he will have no room for us in mansions in the sky.

THE CHURCH AT SALEM

It was impossible to determine the exact date as to when the church at Salem began to meet for worship. Brother J. B. Caldwell could remember of a few brethren meeting in a rented store building back before World War I. In 1925 the present building was purchased from the Christian church and worship has been carried on continuously for the last thirty two years. Mart Carruthers and Carl Cunningham were some who helped to establish the church.

Preachers who have held meetings here during the past thirty years are: Rue Porter, Clarence Wilkerson, Albert Hall, Everette N. Fields, Perry Blue, Norman Cooper, Oscar Hays, Frank Puckett, Arthur Newman, Leroy Miller, W. E. Bingham, Frank Gould, Harlin Hurd, Boyd Morgan, a Brother Davis and others who names we were unable to get.

The church at present has an average attendance of around one hundred and thirty present each Lord's Day. Brother Leroy Miller of North Little Rock, Arkansas preaches on Sundays and Sunday night, driving each week from his home. Brother York, Barnett, Bob McCullough, and Eary Tucker serve as leaders, as the church does not have Elders at the present time.

In recent years a remodeling job has been carried out on the building which has seen the addition of two class rooms, rest rooms, baptistry, and paint job.

Brother W. L. Totty of Indianapolis, Indiana will hold a tent meeting at Mammoth Spring during the latter part of July, of next year.

Brother Hillard Storey recently sailed for Italy to continue his work in Naples. Brother Storey formerly lived in Fulton County for some time. Several of the country congregations are sending monthly support to him.

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SALVATION

We hear a lot said about salvation from sin, and how salvation is brought about. I think it well I call your attention to men's conception of salvation from sin in the light of God's eternal truth. So often men will find a statement in the word of God where salvation is attributed without considering all that is contained in the statement. So often one condition is named with all the other things contained in the condition. For instance it is stated in the scripture that God is the saviour of all men, especially of those that believe. 1 Tim. 4: 10. Who would have the audacity to contend that because it is stated that God is the saviour men and women can be saved without Jesus Christ, or faith, repentance, confession, etc. Thus God has named all things contained in the scripture for men and women to do to obtain salvation is included in God's word. Christ said in Jno. 6: 37-38. All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. Whatsoever Christ received from the Father he make known to his disciples. Jno. 17:8. Hence when the term is used that God is the saviour it includes all of the commandments or will of the Father. Matt. 7:21. Many of the Pharisees said that God was their Father, and they professed that they believed in God Jno. 8: 41. But Christ declared unto them that he was to make

them free. Jno. 8: 36. Though they declared unto Christ that God was their Father, Jesus said unto them, if God were your father, ye would love me; for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Jno. 8:42. Thus the Father saves no one apart from Christ or the means he has left in bringing about salvation.

After noticing in the scripture that God is the saviour, it is also stated that Christ is the saviour. To some that would be a contradiction in the scripture. But keep in mind that which is said of one is said of the other. In Luke 19:10 Jesus said, for the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. The way that God the Father has of saving one is through his Son (Jesus Christ). For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. Jno. 3:17. And when the angel appeared unto Joseph and said fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife; for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shall call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins. Matt. 1:20-21. Paul says this is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. 2 Tim. 1:10. The purpose of Christ coming into the world was to save people from their sins. And Christ came not to do his own will but the will of Him (Father) that sent me. Jno. 6:38. Therefore Christ is the means that is given of the Father in saving us of our sins, and bringing us to him (God the Father). Therefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that came unto God by him, (Christ) seeing he were liveth to make intercession for them. Heb. 7:25.

Some contend that because it is stated that Christ is the saviour, he must speak to them in some mysterious way and tell them they are forgiven of their sins. Friends Christ has done and said all that will ever be said to you and me in this world. For us to be redeemed from our sins we must do that which he has specified in his word for us to be forgiven. By our failing to comply to

the things he has given we will be rejected when we stand before him on the Judgment day. In Jno. 12:48 it is stated by the Son of God himself saying, He that rejecteth me and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him in the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. Only those that take him at his word and does that which he has commanded has salvation.

By Arthur C. Blackwell.

HOW TO WALK

By H. M. Davis

Some years ago, when walking regulations first became effective in towns and cities, I was talking to an old friend. We were standing on a street corner, when he suggested that we cross the street to another corner. White lines were plain to regulate foot-traffic. But he ignored the lines, and went diagonally across the street. A policeman blew his whistle and motioned for us to stop. He came to us and told us what the white lines were for. My friend said he had been here forty-six years, and now has to be told how to walk.

One of the first things military recruits must learn is how to walk. The drill sergeant uses many hours training them how to keep step with each other.

Paul says, "Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same things" (Phil. 3:16). All along the journey of life people are governed by some rule—some go by the right rule, others go by the wrong rule. This life is a problem to be worked out. Salvation is the correct answer. Only those who go by the rule revealed in the gospel get the correct answer. If we miss this, we miss the real purpose of our existence. If we have a problem in addition, and we try to solve it by the rule for subtraction, we fail to get the right answer. There is only one right rule for living, therefore we should be diligent in our search for it.

The Christian life is an individual matter. Each one must do his own walking—no one else can walk for him. And

it is impossible for him to walk for another. And remember that walking is not riding. It does not mean to be carried. All the deep concern about easy ways to go to heaven is vain.

Many walk with no objective—not going anywhere, just wandering around. The object of the Christian's walk is to reach a desired destination. The Bible is the only book that tells us how to walk in order to reach heaven.

TEN SUGGESTIONS FOR WASTING TIME

The brevity and uncertainty of man's life emphasizes the importance of time. Many men and women fill their days with too many wholly useless things, leaving no time for God and His church. The reason that many do not have time to do the work of the Lord is that they waste too much of their time in doing things which are not essential.

Here are 10 ways in which we can waste our time:

1. **Lack of Application.** "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise." (Prov. 6:6.)

2. **Lack of Organization.** "Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; He shall not stand before mean men." (Prov. 22:29.)

3. **Reading Cheap Literature.** "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." (Prov. 23:7.)

4. **Unwholesome Recreation and Entertainment.** "Abstain from all appearance of evil." (1 Thess. 5:22.)

5. **Meditating on Fanciful Injuries.** "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone; if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother." (Matt. 18:15.)

6. **Pondering Past Mistakes.** "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but th'is one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:13,14.)

7. **Worrying About What May Happen.** "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God,

in our everyday living. We have insisted that the truth must be followed in all things, and that to fall short of the truth was to fall short of pleasing God. I believe in this principle. I think it is correct. But now and then I wonder. What are we doing with it? How nearly right are we?

In the matters of faith, repentance, confession, and baptism, we have done well. Insofar as the name of the church is concerned, and insofar as the non-use of instrumental music is concerned we have done well. We have kept the faith in this matters.

But there are a few more things that attract our attention.

Take the matter of faithfulness in worship. There are few churches that cannot say concerning the membership roll, "Of course, there are some whose names are here who are not very faithful, some who only come enough to keep their names on the roll." What is the

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IF I WERE TOLD

If I were told that I must die tomorrow,
That the next sun
Which sinks should bear me past all
fear and sorrow
For any one,
All the fight fought
All the short journey through,
What should I do?
I do not think that I should shrink or
falter,
But just go on,
Doing my work, nor change nor seek to
alter
Aught that is gone;
But rise and move and love and smile
and pray,
For one more day.
—Selected.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE THIS?

- A church that is undenominational?
(1 Cor. 1:10).
- A church with no creed but the Bib-
(Eph. 1:22,23).
- A church with no creed but the Bib-
le? (2 John 9-11).
- A church with only a Bible name?
(Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 1-2).
- A church organized by New Testament
pattern? (Phil. 1:1).
- A church without any amusements
to draw crowds? (John 12:32.)
- A church with a divine vocabulary?
(1 Pet. 4:11)
- A church supported by the free-will
offerings of its members? (1 Cor. 16:2)
(No begging, rummage sales, pie sup-
pers nor amateur programs, etc.)

The meeting held at Mammoth Spring
by Brother Laverne Stewart resulted
in two baptisms and three confessing
faults.