

Fulton County Gospel News

Black Bottom

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID

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MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK.

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What Must I Do to Become a Christian

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The first steps for happiness are the church steps."

What If - -

Leo Powers
Ruston, La.

Amos was a "herdsman, and a dresser of scyamore trees" when the Lord called him to go and prophesy to Israel. (Amos 7:14). What if Amos had said, "Lord, you know I would like to go and do as you have asked, but my flocks and my trees demand all my attention, and I just cannot leave them now. Ask someone else to go, Lord. I'd be glad to go, but I just can't get away now." Do you suppose the Lord would have accepted such an excuse?

When Paul, along with Barnabas, was at Lystry, the Jews became so furious with his teaching that they stoned him, leaving him outside the city as dead (Acts 14:19). What if Paul had said to the Lord when told to go to Derbe the next day, "Now Lord, you know that I would like nothing better than what you have asked, but I have a terrific headache, and my back has been bothering me since that stoning yesterday. Barnabas can do just as well without me. Send him on ahead, and let me come later when I feel better."

Would the Lord have been satisfied with such reasoning?

Prior to his crucifixion Jesus was in Gethsemane pouring out his heart to the Father in prayer (Mt. 26:36ff). What if our Lord had prayed, "Father, you know I am ready to go to the cross to save mankind, if there is no other way to do it. But Father, it is too chilly to hang on that cross all day tomorrow half naked. Couldn't we get it over with quicker? Isn't there some other, more convenient way? Couldn't we put it off to some later day?" Would God have saved you and me through the blood of Christ if that had been the case?

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God spoke to Moses out of the burning bush, commissioning him to lead Israel out of Egypt. (Ex. 3 - 4). What if Moses had said, "Why me, Lord? I am not a good speaker, others can do it so much better than I. Get someone else, Lord." He did, didn't he? And the Lord did not accept Moses' excuses did he?

Isn't there a lesson in all this for us? Instead of hiding behind excuses, some of them lame, some of them downright ridiculous, let us take the Lord at his word. Let us recognize the sound judgment of the Lord. Let us resolve to do to the best of our ability exactly as the Lord would have us do.

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CHURCHES OF CHRIST
IN THIS AREA

EDITORS:

CLOVIS RAGSDALE
RICHARD ENGLAND

The Christian and His Brethren

Bill Richardson
612 E. Fourth
Mountain Home, Ark. 72653

The question of the Christian and his brethren actually covers either directly or indirectly the whole field of the Christian life. It involves the Christian and his relationship to God, because God demands that we treat our brethren as we should before he will accept us as faithful children. The way we treat each other is the way we treat God.

In our relationship to our brethren we either let our light shine or put it under a basket. So often we bring the church into disrepute because of our treatment of each other. What a tremendous force for good our relationship will have if people are forced to say: "Just look at those people in the Church of Christ. Notice how much they love each other."

When we mistreat a brother we destroy something in ourselves. The result of strife, friction, ill will and anger is self-destruction. Being on the right side to start with does not help the matter. These are evil, destructive forces

and the one who is guilty of them always loses. There is never a winner in a quarrel.

WE ARE BRETHREN

GOD IS OUR FATHER. We must never forget this. When He forgave our sins he took us into his family. Now we are brethren. David would not harm Saul, because Saul was the anointed of the Lord. You and I should be extremely careful of our treatment of those anointed by the Lord. My brother is a servant of Christ.

LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER

"With a pure heart fervently" (1 Pet. 1:22). We should study 1 Cor. 13 and see the Lord's definition of love. Then we should ask ourselves some soul-searching questions to try to determine how much or how little love is really present in our lives. Am I willing to suffer wrong and to suffer long? Am I kind? Do I envy? Am I proud? Do I behave myself unseemly? Do I selfishly seek my own? Am I easily offended? Do I believe evil reports about my brethren? Love would solve our problems before they ever arise. Why can't we love each other? God loves us. He does not love us because we are perfect, but in spite of our imperfections. Why can't we learn to love like that? I believe we can.

FORGIVE

The Father has forgiven us. We should forgive each other. Love does not hold a grudge. Why should it be difficult for us to forgive? Love will go much farther than half way to meet a brother and forgive him. It won't sit and wait for the brother to come to us. That is pride, and love is not proud. That is stubbornness, and love is not stubborn. Love is meek and humble. It finds a way!

TOGETHERNESS

The idea of togetherness is strong in the New Testament church. Early Christians worshipped together, prayed together, ate together, worked together and often died together. They loved each other and were one in thought and in action. This spirit of togetherness must be strong today. Together we must worship and serve our God in the local congregation.

Together we must work to evangelize a lost world for whom our Savior died. Together — with one another and with God.

Which Way Are We Going?

By L. F. Mills

Moral and spiritual direction is more important to us than physical direction. Direction, when pursued, whether on the highway or on the seas, leads to a destination. You take direction to arrive. It is the set of the compass and the turn of the helm that determines the port at which you arrive. Even an aimless pleasure or sight seeing drive through the countryside must take a final turn of direction if we are to arrive back home.

How true this is to life and our spiritual experience. A most illogical statement is frequently heard, "All roads lead to heaven, it doesn't matter which one we travel". How untrue this statement! If all roads lead to heaven, then no road leads to hell! Solomon wrote "There is a way which seemeth unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death". (Proverbs 14:12). Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me". (John 14:6) This is spiritual direction! It is a definite way leading to a destination. You are the pilot of your ship of life; Christ is your compass and his gospel is your chart. The reefs and shoals that bring shipwreck to your faith are clearly marked. You are the driver on the highway of life. Christ is the builder of that road and his gospel the road map. He tells us that there are two ways and they end in different destinations. "Enter ye in at the strait gate: For wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13-14). Now, both of

Repentance Is In The Plan

By Bill Graddy
North Little Rock, Ark.

In our "rush" to make disciples, let us not make them twofold more the child of hell than they were. Matt. 23:15.

Jesus said, "Go ye therefore, and teach (make disciples of ASV) all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever. I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you alway even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matt. 28: 19-20. From this we see that one must be TAUGHT before he is baptized. What must he be TAUGHT? Of course the gospel because it is God's power to save. Rom. 1:16. Questions. How much of the gospel must one

these do not lead to heaven. Which have you taken?

Another cliché, "It doesn't matter what you believe, only that you be sincere in what you do believe". Knowing the scriptures, no man can truthfully make such an assertion. There is "one faith". (Eph. 4:5). "We are saved by faith" (Eph. 2:8). Faith finds its right direction on only when it takes its reading from the word of God. (Romans 10:17, 1 Cor. 2) :4-5.

The only foundation we have for saving faith is laid in the scriptures. (Hebrews 11:1-3). Herein is the evidence and the guidance that will lead us into eternal habitations. Heb. 11: 13-16) Some who disregarded the scriptures made shipwreck of their faith and were delivered to Satan. (1 Tim. 2:18-20).

Determination to please God and to go to heaven following the direction of the scriptures brings one to a glorious destination; the true destiny of the soul. "Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34).

KNOW and be TAUGHT before he can be scripturally baptized or made a disciple? Since faith, repentance, confession, and baptism is the "plan", when it follows that one must KNOW this way and obey or execute it before he can become a follower of the Lord else why did He give it?

In explaining each step in the "plan", let us answer the two questions. FAITH will be had to a relative degree, but SAVING faith will "work-out" the remainder of the "plan". Faith leads to repentance. How much must one repent before he can become a disciple? From what must he repent? He must KNOW that repentance means give-up, surrender, turn his back on, put away, and start anew. This he must be TAUGHT else he would not KNOW how to repent. We suggest some things from which he must repent. Bad language, lying religious error, stealing, drinking alcoholic beverages, an adulterous mate, gambling, and etc. He must complete his REPENTANCE by STARTING that is, the drunkard must SOBER UP, the liar must stop his lying as the adulterous mate must be put away. The twofold definition of REPENTANCE is thus employed. When one has been TAUGHT and he KNOWS how terrible his sins are, his confession will be forthcoming. Having laid his sins bare, and KNOWING of a better life he is now ready to make known his faith and repentance, by "telling" men he believes in Jesus who is the Christ, Matt. 10:32. Now that he KNOWS because he has been TAUGHT of the end of sin, he desires most of all to have them forgiven. BAPTISM is for the remission of sins and this he gladly does because he has been TAUGHT and he KNOWS. Now he needs to be baptized. After baptism he is a new creature, and we must teach him "all" things.

"Some pay their dues when due;
Some, when overdue;
Some never do;
How do you do?"

"You can't live like goats and die like sheep."

News Notes - -

There will be a gospel meeting at the church of Christ in Morriston, Arkansas. James L. Neil will be delivering a special series on the Eldership. All are invited to attend during this meeting April 4 through 8.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Brother R. A. Robins. Brother Robins passed away recently after sixty years of labor for the Lord. His influence has been felt in many places and will continue for many years to come. He was an asset to the Lord's church.

THE LECTURE PROGRAM in Mammoth Spring begins in just a few days. The date: March 21 - 26. Services will be each evening at 7:30. If you are planning to come and need a place to spend the night, write Richard England, Box 184, Mammoth Spring, Arkansas 72554 and arrangements will be made for you to stay either in the home of some of the members of the church, or if you prefer, we will make a reservation for you in a motel. One family plans to bring their camper on on their truck and stay on the parking lot behind the church building. However you come; wherever you stay, DON'T MISS THIS LECTURE PROGRAM. Speakers and subjects are listed on the back page of this issue. You will notice that most of the articles this month in the paper are by the speakers that are to be with us that week.

If you know the dates of your meeting and the speaker, we would be happy to announce it in the Fulton County Gospel News if you will send us the information.

THANKS to all of you who are sending your zip code number. Shortly we plan to purchase an addressing machine and completely renovate our mailing system. At this present time Sister Rosa Ragsdale does the great task of addressing all the papers by hand. This requires a good deal of work, even without the zip code numbers. We appreciate her faithfulness in this work.

LECTURE PROGRAM

Church of Christ
MAMMOTH
SPRING,
Ark.

SERVICES

7:30 P M

MONDAY	<u>PARENTS' OBLIGATION TO CHILDREN</u>	JIMMY ALLEN
TUESDAY	<u>THE CHRISTIAN AND THE ELDERS</u>	LEO POWERS
WEDNESDAY	<u>THE CHRISTIAN AND CIVIC MATTERS</u>	L. F. MILLS
THURSDAY	<u>THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS BRETHREN</u>	BILL RICHARDSON
FRIDAY	<u>THE CHRISTIAN AND THE WORK OF THE CHURCH</u>	L. N. MOODY
SATURDAY	<u>PANEL TO ANSWER QUESTIONS</u>	GRADDY - WILLIAMS
		- ENGLAND -

MARCH 21-26 , 1966