

Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID

VOLUME 9 - NO. 2

MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK.

JUNE - 1967

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

Attack is the reaction; I never think I have hit hard unless it rebounds.

News and Notes -

Brother Cliff Stewart, who has an article in this issue of the Fulton County Gospel News, is moving back to work with the Gospel Hill congregation near Pottersville, Missouri. We pray for the success of the work there and look forward to having him write for the paper from time to time.

There will be a Gospel meeting at the Salem, Arkansas church of Christ June 11-17. Brother Hillary Storey will do the preaching. Brother Storey has been a missionary to Italy. You will enjoy hearing him preach. Services are at 8:00 p.m.

Brother Don Fike will be the speaker in a meeting July 3-9, at Sturkie, Arkansas.

June 14-21 is the date of the meeting at Mammoth Spring with brother W. A. Bradfield. Brother Bradfield is from Henderson, Tennessee where he has been with Freed-Hardeman college for a number of years. He is well known for his evangelistic work throughout the country. During the meeting, we will also have a Vacation Bible School. This is to be on Thursday and Friday, June 15 and 16, and Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, June 19, 20, and 21. In the Vacation Bible School, brother Bradfield will teach a special class for adults on personal evangelism. Meeting time of the VBS is 10:00 a.m. For the preaching services

in the evening we will meet at 8: p.m. every night except Sunday. Sunday night we will meet at 7:30 p.m. as usual. On Sunday afternoon, June 18, at 2:30 we will have a special service for the young people. In this service brother Bradfield will speak on PROBLEMS FACING YOUNG PEOPLE. Be sure to tell your young people about this meeting and bring a lot of them that you can get together.

Gatewood, Mo., will have a meeting June 23 - July 1. Dwight Holland will be the speaker.

BECAUSE HE WASN'T KILLED

In honoring the memory of their son who was killed in World War II, the parents gave a sizable check to their church. When the presentation was made, a mother whispered to her husband, "Let's give the same amount for our boy!"

"What are you talking about?" asked the husband. "Our boy didn't lose his life!"

"Ah!" exclaimed the wife, "that's just the point! Let's give it as an expression of our gratitude to God for sparing his life!"

George Herbert prayed, "Our Father, Thou hast given us so much. Do please give us one more thing...a grateful heart!"

Truly God has been so gracious to all of us. In no way can we express our gratitude other than to give of ourselves, our talents, our time and our treasure.

Heber Springs Bulletin.

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Mammoth Spring, Ark. 72554

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Rosa Ragsdale
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The Case for Higher Education

BILL GRADDY,

North Little Rock, Arkansas

Perhaps no other word in the English language is more abused than the word education. Education can be bad, good or excellent. There are two kinds of education, formal and informal. One may be truly educated in one or both. If one is to be educated, he must be exposed to at least one of the ways. "Since experience reveals only the path that it has traveled", one needs to become acquainted with both.

It is a sad commentary that the "issues" of the church have to be equated with higher education. This is a supreme example of abuse and a lack of true education. Money itself is not the root of all evil. 1 Tim. 6:10. Education itself is not the root of all evil. The misapplication of both is the root of the trouble. It is true that education misapplied can lead to two extremes - ignorance and superiority. The failures of many men have been because of ignorance and superiority. The failures of many men have been because of ignorance as well as superiority. In both cases, education was not at fault but the lack and misuse of

a needed art by the practitioners.

It must be admitted that the principle of true education is desirable. Proverbs 1:5. Also, it must be admitted that the abuse of education is undesirable. However, let us never confuse the principle with the abuse of the principle. "Let's give the baby a bath, but do not throw him out with the bath water." The abuse of education comes with many examples. Such as: the educated man may become an educated fool. He may allow his education to deceive and delude him. He may develop a superiority complex; become obnoxious, harmful, and a misguided bigot. On the other hand, he may refuse to learn and become jealous of those who have tried to get an education. Seeing that he cannot compete and handle the task at hand, he becomes offensive, negative, and truly he has just enough education to be dangerous. It is a truth with rare exception, that those who do not have a formal education are generally jealous and envious of those who do; elders, preachers, song leaders notwithstanding. Some preachers rant and rave from the pulpit and pen of the digressive intellectuals only to cover up their lack of education. Some elders are more subtle as they work like termites to cut-asunder any who are smarter than they are. This is an evident token of a lack of education and certainly a lack of Christianity. Both extremes are sinful.

Man can become educated and keep his balance. Man can lose his balance by not being educated, formally or informally. Higher education, if it is true education, can and will agree with the Bible. Admittedly, we see much abuse in the educational world today, but it was there yesterday and it will be there tomorrow. (Before we say too much about our teachers, let it be remembered if we ever amount to much they will have had some part in it.) As in the past, so in the future, let us learn, become educated, to know the difference between the true and the false, the principle and the abuse of the principle. Let us never resort to the extreme of saying that

Contributions -

CHURCHES OF CHRIST:

Agnos	\$ 5.00
Delhalf	5.00
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higher education is at the root of our troubles, neither let us refuse to learn what is at the root. Let us become aware of these abuses, fully discerning them through sound Bible principles that we may be able to meet them in a Christian like way. In order to do this, we must be able to present the Bible in an effective way. Teaching is the transportation of ideas from one mind to another, therefore, it requires a certain amount of education and skill. The qualification to be "apt to teach" implies LEARNING, formal or informal. But, it takes some degree of knowledge before teaching can take place!

Because we see so much abuse of money today are we ready to stop giving upon the first day of the week? No. Neither should we take extreme positions relative to education. "O consistency, thou art a jewel". The Case for Higher Education is, as in all other subjects, "Give the baby a bath, but do not throw him out with the bath water".

"Many a man who loves the front seat at a ballgame, gets the back seat at church.

Little minds are toned and subdued by misfortune, but great minds rise above it.

- Washington Irving.

Thoughts About the Bible

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE DO?

O. L. GRISHAM, Mishawaka, Ind.
Since God's word is eternal and given by divine inspiration, a most important question for our consideration is: "What does the Bible Do?"

1. First of all, we are told in the Bible that we are made free from sin, when we obey the truth. Jesus said, ". . . If ye continue in my word, truth shall make you free." (Jn. 8:31, 32) Paul wrote to the Romans in these words: ". . . God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine, (or teaching), which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." (Rom. 6: 17-18) Please notice; they were made free from sin, after they obeyed the teaching delivered unto them. The gospel will save every person who will believe it and obey it. In Rom. 1:16, we read: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Jesus said, "He that believeth and is immersed shall be saved." (Mk. 16:16)

Secondly: We shall be judged by the word of God, the Bible. We read the words of Jesus in Jno. 12: 48: "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." Again we read the words of inspiration, as penned by John: "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Rev. 20:12, 15) If our lives do not correspond

with the things which are written in the word of God, we can only expect to suffer the consequences. Are you willing and ready to be judged by God's word?

Then we may ask the question: **WHAT IS THE BIBLE TO US?**

1. The Bible is the basis of all moral law. The ten commandments. The sermon on the mount. It is the sustenance of our constitution. The Bible is the Beacon Light of Justice and Mercy and Freedom. The Bible is the light that never fails. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." (Psa. 119:105)

2. Secondly: The Bible is our only spiritual map that guides our feet from earth to Heaven. Jesus said: "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (Jo. 14: 6) The WAY OF JESUS is revealed in the Bible. There is no other book to follow.

A. Jesus said, ". . . For if ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die by the word of God." (Rom. 10: 17) The only way we can have saving faith is by hearing the gospel, the word of God.

B. Jesus said again: ". . . Except ye repent, ye shall all perish . . ." (Lu. 13:3) Peter wrote: "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (II Pet. 3:9) To repent, is to turn away from wrong doing, and turn unto God in obedience.

C. Jesus also said: "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." (Mt. 10:32)

D. Jesus said again: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be condemned." (Mk. 16:16)

We trust that you will read and study the word of God and obey its teaching.

Traditions - -

"Tradition usually means laws and regulations handed down from

one to another. Some traditions are good and some are bad. Paul told the church at Thessalonica, "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word or our epistle." (II Th. 2:15) Then in 3:6, "Now we command you brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourself from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the traditions which he received from us." However, in Mk. 7:7-9 Jesus said, "Howbeit, in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandments of God ye hold the traditions of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, full well ye reject the commandments of God, that ye may keep your own traditions."

What is the difference between these two traditions? The difference is truth. Paul told the Thessalonians that they were to keep what they had received from him. He, of course, was INSPIRED. Thus, what he delivered unto them was the word of God. What Jesus condemned was the doctrine and commandments of men.

If you believe doctrines not found in the Bible you are following the doctrines and commandments of men. These traditions may be centuries old, but still false. Age doesn't make traditions true. The Bible itself is a testimony to this fact, for it is recorded in Jude 3, ". . . you should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." The one faith, for which Jesus died, was delivered once. It is complete and needs no present day revelations or additions.

May we urge you to seriously study your present religious beliefs in the light of the Bible. We are taught to "prove all things; hold fast that which is good." (I Th. 5: 21) In churches of Christ we are pleading for a return to simple New Testament Christianity. We strive to have only one creed - Christ; only one guide and authority - the Bible. We would like for you to compare these principles with your Bible. - Cliff Stewart.

What Shall We Do about False Teachers?

- RICHARD ENGLAND

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction." (2 Peter 2:1) Peter states a fact that there indeed will be false teachers in the world. Paul says the same thing in Acts 20: 29, 30: "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." Paul does give this additional information, that some of the "false teachers" will come from within the ranks of the church itself. The way to identify these men is by comparing that which they teach with that which the New Testament teaches. "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you that that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you that ye have received, let him be accursed." (Galatians 1:8,9) Truth is that which corresponds to the actual fact. That which God has done, is doing, and surely will do is the TRUTH. How God saves men, what he wants them to do in worship and service for Him, and what He will do for man by way of reward is the TRUTH. When the Lord promised the Apostles that the Spirit of truth would come to them, He also pointed out that He would guide them into ALL TRUTH. (John 16:13)

There is not one thing that God wants man to do, but what it is revealed in the Bible. If there were one small thing that man might do in order to be well pleasing to God that is not in the Bible, then the Bible does not have all the truth. If we should decide that

the Bible does not provide with ALL the truth, then how are we to determine how much of the truth was not included in the Bible? How can we find this supposed additional truth? How do we know that it is the truth when we find it? Further, if the Bible does not have ALL the truth, how do you know it has ANY of the truth? For it is certainly not the truth when it says it has all the truth, if indeed it does not have all the truth! What would make us want to believe any other of its reports? God fearing, Bible believing men believe that the Bible IS the truth, not just a part of it, nor that somewhere within its many pages is hidden the truth among many other things that are not exactly the truth, but that the Bible is THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH, AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH! That means that anything that is not in the Bible is not the truth. Therefore, if any man comes preaching anything that is not to be found on the pages of the Bible, that man is teaching something other than the truth. That which is other than the truth is FALSE! This makes it quite elementary that any man who teaches something that is not in the Bible is a FALSE TEACHER! The use of instrumental music in the church is not to be found in the Bible. The man that teaches that it is well pleasing to God to use instrumental music in the church is a FALSE TEACHER. That the Holy Spirit leads men is certainly to be found in the teaching of the Bible. But, that the Holy Spirit leads men today DIRECTLY (without medium) is NOT to be found in the teaching of the Bible. Therefore, a man that teaches that the Holy Spirit leads men today DIRECTLY (without medium, in ways in addition to the Bible) is a FALSE TEACHER! Now . . . what are we to do with FALSE TEACHERS? "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

for he that biddeth him God speed is a partaker of his evil deed." (2 John 9-11) Let us hasten to say that there are by all means fields wherein we may not be able to see "eye to eye". Many be the reasons for this. In the first place, there are those who have been schooled in denominational doctrines many years, then become Christians upon obedience to the Gospel of Christ. There may well be fields of study that they have not entered into because of a shortage of time since they became aware of their need of the TRUTH. Patience must be displayed in dealing with such people. Then there are those fields of study which might find certain disagreement among brethren where the outcome of the thing believed does not affect the obedience to the specific commands in this life. Such things are simply studied again and again as time and opportunity allows. In this category we would find such things as: was the thief on the cross ever baptized? Did the people who were baptized unto John's baptism have to be baptized again on Pentecost? What happens to the spirit of man at the instant of death? When we have found areas where weaker brethren lack sufficient information, it becomes our obligation to teach them as best we can. We are not to immediately "tag" them as FALSE TEACHERS because they do not agree with us in every point. Yet, we must remember, that surely something is meant by the passage quoted from 2 John 9-11. There is a time when this passage must be applied. A better understanding of the time can be reached if we read Romans 16:17 "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them". When that which is not in the Bible is believed by people and they teach this to others so as to cause "divisions and offences", breeches, departings, from the New Testament pattern of work and worship it is high time to apply the Lord's directed discipline to that man. Departures from the simple New Testament way cannot be tolerated by the Lord's people.