

Rosa Ragsdale
city

Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID

JUNE - 1963

MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK.

VOLUME 4 - NO. 6

Meeting Schedule

GAMALIEL, ARK.
June 15-21, Doyle Kinder

WHEELING, ARK.
June 24 - July 3, Don Deffenbaugh

WILLIFORD, ARK.
June 25 - July 3, Doyle Kinder

ALTON, MO.
July 28 - Aug. 4, Brad Brumley

VALLEY STAR
July 18-26, Doyle Kinder

CAMP, ARK.
Aug. 12 - 19, Harvey Elder

AGNOS, ARK.
July 30 - Aug. 9, Doyle Kinder

HATFIELD
Aug. 7-16, Wesley Hylton

GOSPEL HILL
Aug. 12 - 19, Doyle Kinder

PILOT
June 12 - 19, Eugene Polvado

MAMMOTH SPRING
July 29 - Aug. 7, Owen D. Olbricht

BUFORD, ARK.
June 24 - 30, Joe Hazelbacker

LIBERTY, ARK.
Aug. 26 - Sept. 4, O. L. Gris-ham

NEW LIBERTY (near Elijah, Mo.)
Sept. 23 - Oct. 2, O. L. Gris-ham

ENGLISH BLUFF
June 23 - 29, Harlin Hurd

PREACHING AND PRACTICING

"It is not what we eat, but what we digest, that makes us strong; not what we read, but what we remember, that makes us learned; not what we gain, but what we save, that makes us rich; and not what we profess, but what we practice, that makes us good Christians."

From the Life Line

There is no use trying to carry the ball until you learn where the goal is.

Progress Report

The Elders of the church in Mammoth Spring have selected Bro. Willard McNeese of Springfield, Missouri to build the new meeting house. Brother McNeese has built a number of buildings in and around Springfield, including the church building in Strafford, Missouri where he worships. He is a faithful Christian and a brother to Glen McNeese who recently worked with the church in West Plains, Missouri. His father is Earl McNeese who donated a portion of his farm to a group of brethren on which they built Happy Hollow Camp. We are happy to say that Brother McNeese expects to begin building in the very near future. It may be that by the

time you receive this paper, construction shall have already begun.

Acknowledge Contributions - -

Mrs. F. N. Fletcher, Williford, Ark. \$ 2.00
Ralph Bean, Gamaliel, Ark. 1.00
Riley Henry, West Plains, Mo. 5.00
Mrs. Bill Wilkening, Koshkonong, Mo. 1.00
Ab Lewis, Clarkridge, Ark. 1.00
Olin Slinkard, Garfield, Ark. 2.00
D. D. Collier, Hardy, Ark. 2.00
Agnos church of Christ 5.00
Wheeling church of Christ 5.00
Salem church of Christ 5.00
English Bluff church of Christ 5.00
Morriston church of Christ 5.00

PLEASE HELP !!

We still have not received enough assistance for the mission work in South Carolina. Brother Burl Curtis is working there to establish the church. They are in great need and have asked us in this area to furnish only \$600.00 on the purchase price of a lot on which to build a meeting house. It is understood that there are many appeals for worthy works throughout the world and that each person cannot help them all. The Fulton County Gospel News does not carry many appeals for money but we feel that this project should be of special interest to this area seeing that brother Curtis has preached here a great deal.

If each person who receives this paper could help in the amount of 50c, we would more than make up our part. Some might be willing to send \$1. knowing that others will send nothing. Please help us in this matter. Send your contribution to Clovis Ragsdale, Mammoth Spring, Arkansas or to Northeast church of Christ, P.O. Box 5423, Station B, Greenville, South Carolina.

- Richard England

Fulton County Gospel News

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**CHURCHES OF CHRIST
IN THIS AREA**

**EDITORS:
CLOVIS RAGSDALE
RICHARD ENGLAND**

Why the Bible Alone is Sufficient

Clovis Ragsdale

Most people who believe in God believe that the Bible is the word of God, but few people actually believe that the Bible alone is sufficient. Let us notice some of the attitudes people take toward this book which annually outsells all other books.

Not long ago there appeared in a public magazine an advertisement, which stated "Why the Bible Alone Is Not Enough". They stated that the article would shock some people who believe that the Bible is the sole, complete, and final authority for Christians in matters religious. Their argument stated that because people were badly divided on what the Bible taught and because Christendom is divided into so many segments there had to be an authority to interpret the Bible. That authority of course was the Roman Catholic church.

The denominational world do not believe that the Bible alone is

sufficient. They substitute the ideas and opinions of men for matters that are plainly taught in the Bible. This is the same as saying, "God we know you said to be baptized for the remission of your sins, but we believe that you are saved before baptism and wouldn't sprinkling do just as well," "Yes Paul told the Corinthians that division was sinful, but we want to thank you for the many churches, and that we can go to the church of our choice." "We believe that twice a year is enough to observe the Lord's Supper, though the Bible does say that Christians in the early days of the church observed the Supper on the first day of the week." This attitude is accepted on many other plain teachings in the Bible that men will change to suit their own notions. This attitude toward the Bible is the same as that of our Catholic friends who frankly admit they do not believe the Bible alone is sufficient.

Writing upon this subject in a nationally known magazine, a religious writer said that the church of Christ was the most Bible Bound group to be found in our country. To me this was a high compliment indeed. Many look down on those who are willing to take the Bible alone. They say that we are "old-fashioned", that we are narrow, and are bigots.

I am sure that many would like to know the truth of this matter. Let us hear what another man said upon the subject. He was divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit. As such he wrote the greatest portion of the New Testament. Paul said in 2 Tim. 3:16, 17, all scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. Again he said in Gal. 1:8, but though we're an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you then that which we have preached, let him be accursed. As if to give emphasis to this statement, he repeated this pronouncement in the next verse.

Does this sound like the Bible is not sufficient? Paul said it furnishes us unto ALL good works. That God would curse all who preached any other.

The answer is simple. The Bible says that it is sufficient. Man says that it is not. I am glad to accept what the Bible says, even though men may say that I am Bible bound and narrow. In an age when men are departing farther and farther from the teachings of the Bible the church of Christ is pleading for men to return to the Bible and the Bible alone as the sole authority in all matters religious.

Once Delivered

By Richard England

The doctrine of the New Testament was given with the intention that it be followed by all men of every level of social development, educational attainments, monetary possessions, and civilized environment. Before the New Testament, God had dealt with individual families and then with one separate nation. Today, God sends His commands to all men everywhere. Since the faith has been delivered, men have spread over the entire face of the earth, and have risen to new heights of civilization and education. There is no question but what man knows more today of his own physical and mental composition, the world in which we live, the universe which surrounds us, and the possibilities which lie before us than has ever been known. But with all this, the Bible is not outdated and "old fashioned". The principles which are set forth in the doctrine of Jesus Christ, are just as applicable to our hurried way of living as they were in the day they were first spoken by our Lord. His doctrine does not contain peculiar characteristics which would apply only to those of His time. But, on the contrary, it is always up to date teaching us the way of hope for a better life after death. With all the gaining of knowledge, man has never found

that the things of Christ might be better if changed. Because of this extremely obvious, yet profound, fundamental truth, we are further assured that the Bible could not be the product of any human mind. Knowing it to be from God we "exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." (Jude 3)

But They Won't

Recently I read a paragraph which can be the beginning of some much needed thinking. A man needed a gardener and got a letter from a man named Smith. This gentleman said "John Smith has an excellent knowledge of gardening. He can manage a vegetable garden wonderfully and he can bring an ornamental garden to perfection." And he went on through the list of what the man could do. As the other gentleman read the letter he said, "That's the very man for me: he can do the very things I want." He got to the bottom of the page, and turned it over, and on the other side there were three words... "But he won't."

There are many people who could help make our Bible School program much stronger, but they won't. There are others who could make our Sunday night and Wednesday night programs what they should be, but they won't. They do not feel that it is necessary for them to attend. To them eating the Lord's Supper is about the only important thing God calls on us to do. They would not miss the Supper but feel no remorse of conscience if they miss everything else. They refuse to do anything else. They refuse to do anything for God that they do not feel is absolutely necessary. They serve because of fear and not because of love.

There are many people who could be a great help in the financial program of the church, but they won't. There are people who are willing to associate with peo-

ple indefinitely without ever mentioning Christ to them. They are not interested in supporting gospel meetings, or engaging in any other kind of work that will lead others to Christ.

The pathetic thing about all this is the fact that such people have never really found happiness in serving God. They withhold not only that which is good for others, but in doing so, refuse to do that which would bring to them personal happiness. Are you one who could, but won't?

—Cleon Lyles.

EXCUSES YOU HAVE NEVER HEARD

"Let's don't send the children to school today. They don't seem to like the teacher, and they say some of the children are not very friendly."

"Well, Boss, I wasn't at work yesterday because the children were out of school, and they wanted me to go visit, so I thought you wouldn't mind if I missed just one day."

"We just have to cut our expenses somewhere, so we will just stop eating so well and quit going so much and I will give up smoking."

"Don't believe I'll go to work today, it's raining."

"Tell the Browns we won't be over to eat with them tonight because I'd rather stay home and read the newspaper."

"I will never go to the basketball game again, because I just don't like one of the players even a little."

Asks a reader: "What do you think of an artist who painted cobwebs on the ceiling so realistically that the servant girl wore herself into an attack of nervous prostration trying to sweep them down?"

Editor's Note: There may have been such an artist, but there never was such a servant.

The advancement of righteousness has always been the work of an enlightened minority.

Our Obligations to God - -

By Richard England

That the Bible is from God and that it is the most outstanding book of all ages cannot be intellectually denied. One of the outstanding doctrines of the Bible is that of God himself. Even though the Bible was written by approximately 40 men over a period of about 1600 years, God's picture is constant throughout. He is pictured by all as loving righteousness, hating evil, seeing and understanding all things, and always being mindful of His creation. He is declared to be self-existent (Ex. 3:13, 14; Jn. 8:58; Rev. 1:8; 4:8) omnipresent (Ps. 139; Heb. 1:10, 12; Acts 17:27), unchangeable (Mal. 3:6; Num. 23:19; Jas. 1:17; Heb. 13:8), omnipotent (shown in Gen. 1, Jn. 1, Heb. 1 in that God made all things), omniscient (Heb. 4:13). He is said to be infinite in holiness. A demonstration of this is given to us in the life of Christ. In all of His life on this earth, He lived above all sin and none could convict Him of sin. God throughout the Bible is revealed as being merciful, longsuffering, and compassionate. He warns of death and gives opportunity to repent of sin. He warns the wicked of punishment if they do not repent (Gen. 6:11 Pet. 3:9; I Pet. 5:6).

That Satan is in the world leading people into sin is most evident. Those who will not serve him in immorality, he appeals to in another field. He has worked his way even into the world of religion. In the very beginning of the church we find Satan busily engaged in leading people astray. God tells us of this in His word and warns of many falling away because of false teachers (II Pet. 2:1-3). Satan, working through false

Anything we ask according to God's will is heard of Him, and this is the blessed confidence that we have in Him through Christ! (John 14:21-23; I John 5:14-15).

teachers, appeals to men with "great swelling words of vanity" promising "liberty" but is actually leading them into the corruption of which he is a part. When people do become Christians he continues to work in an effort to yet win them before they die. Sometimes he wins them and their "latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, the dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." (II Pet. 2: 9-22)

All people are either serving God or serving Satan (Matt. 12:30; Matt. 6:24). The very act of NOT serving God IS serving Satan. This is the way Satan wins many that he cannot entice into overt acts of sin. The serving of Satan is summed up by John as the "lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life" (I Jn. 2:15, 16). These are not, as some suppose, only acts of immorality. The flesh is capable of lusting for many things to satisfy itself. The children of Israel turned to idols as a fulfillment of fleshly desire. Some have a fleshly craving for trouble among brethren. But these are still lusts of the flesh. Some today give no other reason for their religious practices other than "I like it". Satan is well pleased with an attitude like this for his purpose is to deceive others into thinking that what God likes is based upon what men like; or that God's desires do not really matter. If our earnest desire is to please God and Him ONLY, then our most logical question would be: How can we please God? The reality of what pleases Him and the statement of that which is pleasing to Him is TRUTH. Truth is God's word and only God's word. Whether or not a thing is true religiously is determined entirely by what God has said about it. Now we see that it is just this simple: if God said it, it is true; if God did

not say it, it is not true. Do we have an account of what God has said: The answer to this is the statement with which we began this article. John 14:16, 17, 26 tells that the Lord promised to send one that would teach them "all things". John 16:13 says it with these words: "he will guide you into ALL truth." This promise was fulfilled beginning with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as recorded in Acts 2. Later, Peter wrote that God had granted to them "ALL THINGS that pertain to life and godliness." These things they preached, for Paul said (Acts 20:20, 27) that he had declared the WHOLE counsel of God. These men then wrote this down being directed by the Holy Spirit. John says in Jn. 20:30 that there is enough written to produce faith and LIFE in His name. In II Tim. 3:16, 17 we find that there is enough written to furnish us "unto every good work" and to make us "perfect". Therefore we see that in the written word there is enough to guide us in the doctrine of Christ and provide us with eternal salvation. It becomes our obligation to live by the written word and not to deviate from it. By doing so, and ONLY by doing so, we will be disciples of Christ. Jesus said in John 8:31 "IF ye abide in my word, THEN are ye my disciples indeed." We must of necessity ABIDE IN HIS WORD if we expect to be His disciple. To preach any thing else other than the word of the Lord as taught by these men who received ALL truth is to bring condemnation to ourselves. To follow any commandments instead of, or in addition to, those of the Lord is to pronounce judgment against ourselves. We will be judged by the word of the Lord (Jn. 12:48). We cannot set aside the will of the Lord for sentimental reasons and think that God will accept honesty and sincerity of purpose in lieu of faithful obedience. "He that saith I know him and keepeth not his commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him." (I Jn. 2:4) The blessings of the Lord fall on those who keep his commandments

(Rev. 22:13). Jesus said: "If a man love me, he will keep my words . . . he that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings". (Jn. 14: 23-24).

In John 8:32 Jesus says: "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." This implies that we are NOT free without the truth. We are servants of sin and Satan. But by means of the truth (and ONLY the truth) are we made free. The religious world in general does not believe this. It feels that it makes little difference whether or not the truth is preached. It assumes that we do not always have to believe the truth. In fact it says it is just as good to preach and believe a LIE provided that you THINK it is the truth. It teaches that it is not WHAT one believes but the WAY one believes it. People do not accept this absurd reasoning in anything except religion which is the MOST important thing in the world. What if a woman put poison into a cake truly believing it were sugar? Would that make any difference? All can understand that we must preach and believe nothing but the TRUTH.

Many are teaching doctrines that they admit are not in the Bible. For instance: infant baptism; instrumental music in the worship of the church; salvation on sincerity alone apart from obedience to Christ; it does not make any difference about the name one wears religiously; burning candles brings blessings; praying to many beings, other than God; and a host of other ideas. We must base our whole life on just what the word of God teaches us. We must believe what it says and nothing else. We must live by it and not according to the teachings of men. Who wrote the "church disciplines", "church manuals", and the "Confession of Faith"? Did God or man? If they teach more than is contained in the Bible, they teach too much. If they teach less than is in the Bible, they do not teach enough. If one of them should perhaps teach exactly the same, then it would be just another copy of the Bible.