

*H. C. McFann
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If Possible Live Peaceably

By: Bro. O. L. Grisham

One of the reasons that true Christians are the happiest people on earth is that they are "peacemakers." Yes, peace is something that is made, not just something that happens without cause. James said, "The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace." (Jas. 3:17) There are many such statements in the Bible: "...And be at peace among yourselves." (I Thes. 5:13) Thus, the attainment of peace is a state of mind, harmony, and unity among yourselves." (I Thes. 5:13) Thus, the attainment of peace is a state of mind, harmony, and unity among ourselves. An old preacher said to a young preacher, "Don't just seem to be, BE! So being at peace is a thing that we must all work at to accomplish it in its most beautified form.

The word "blessed" is elsewhere translated "happy." This is the word Jesus used to describe the person who is the peacemaker. Thus, "Happy is the person who is the peacemaker, for they shall be called the children of God." But, let each of us keep in our minds constantly, that we must work at making peace. Jesus prayed for peace and harmony among His followers. (Jno. 17:17-24) He also said, "...That in Me ye might have peace." So in Christ is the peace we are all longing for. We can have that peace, if we will only obey the Will of God, so Jesus can then dwell in our hearts.

Paul said to the Galatians, "...But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." (Gal. 5:15) This is the contrast of the "beatitudes"; The spirit of envy,

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bitterness, strife, and division that some times exist among Brethren, for the simple reason — they are not trying to be at peace, or not trying to make peace!! David said, "...How beautiful it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity..." To dwell together, this requires some effort on the part of us all. If each of us will busy ourselves; praying, working, thinking about the good things we can do for the Master, about the wonderful assistance we can render to each other, and just learning God's will, and doing it, we will have no trouble in being at peace among ourselves.

Paul said, "If it be possible, as much as in you lies, be at peace with all men." (Rom. 12:18)

One of the most beautiful saints in God's Household is the peacemaker. Let us ask ourselves this question today — Am I this beautiful saint? A peacemaker reconciles man with man, man with God, prevents strife and quarreling. It doesn't come naturally. It takes some effort, prayer and labor to make one's self into a peacemaker.

God has promised great reward for effort. "They shall be called the children of God." These are the people who imitate God, who is

News Notes . .

We wish to thank all the congregations and individuals who have contributed to the support of Fulton County Gospel News during the past year. It will be necessary for this support to continue during the coming year if the paper is to remain in publication.

Our thanks to all who have contributed articles for the paper. Please keep sending your material as we often are short of articles.

One was restored at Williford during December.

If you are planning a change in address, please notify this paper, else you will not continue to receive the paper.

This month is the tenth anniversary of Fulton County Gospel News, allowing for one year in which the paper was out of print.

the God of peace. (Rom. 15:33) He sent His son who is the "Prince of Peace." Isa. 9:6) The gospel we preach is the gospel of peace.

(Eph. 2:17) God blesses and makes happy the peacemaker. Truly there can be no real peace until men are reconciled to God.

What about the peacemaker? "There are six things which Jehovah hateth...a heart that deviseth wicked purposes, feet that are swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among Brethren...(Pro. 6:6-19).

"Peace, perfect peace,
In this dark world of sin;
The blood of Jesus
Whispers peace within."

The Sword of the Spirit won't cut us if we don't open it.

Some members are like dead limbs on an apple tree - they bear no fruit but are just sap suckers.

Fulton County Gospel News

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CHURCHES OF CHRIST
IN THIS AREA

EDITORS:
CLOVIS RAGSDALE
RICHARD ENGLAND

Hell - -

Clovis Ragsdale

The above four lettered word is one of the most morbid words in our language. When we meditate upon its meaning and how it may affect us all we cannot help but feel uneasy and melancholy. Many refuse to think upon the subject. Others try to explain away the possibilities of any such place existing. But what does the Bible teach about Hell?

The word is found about twenty times in the New Testament. It is used about half of the time to designate the place called "Sheol or Hades" which means the place of the dead. The rest of the time it refers to "Gehenna" the place of punishment. Some of these passages are, Matt. 5:22, 29, and 30. Also, in Matt. 23:33, as well as in Revelations 14:11 and 20:10. We are concerned with the fact that the Bible teaches that God will judge man at the end of this world and all who have lived unrighteously will be cast in Hell where they will be punished through eternity. In the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew there is found a description of the Judgement. In verse forty one, the Lord said unto those who are represented as goats, or as

being one his left hand, depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. After explaining why they were to depart from the presence of the Lord, he stated in verse forty-six that they were to go into everlasting punishment. Thus the Bible teaches that we will be punished in Hell and that it will be forever. This refutes the idea that Hell is just being banished from the presence of God. Not only are we banished from his presence but we are tormented or punished, and that will be endless. Rev. 14:11 and again in chapter 20:10.

Some will insist that God is too good to deal thus with his creation. Heb. 10:31 states that it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Fearful that is, for those not prepared. It has long been said that Hell is a prepared place for an unprepared people. God has warned his creation that he expects them to meet certain conditions of obedience. He has also warned that if we fail to meet these conditions we can expect to be sent to Hell. Would God say something and not keep his word? In Titus 1:2, and in Heb. 6:8, it is said that God cannot lie. In order for there to be no Hell then God has lied in his inspired word. Surely no one believes that he has or ever will go back on his word.

In the face of what the Bible teaches on Hell, yet we have some who go about teaching to the contrary. In a recent poll of a well known magazine, 29 percent of those polled did not believe in either Heaven or Hell. Those who teach this doctrine qualify themselves as false teachers and those who believe this doctrine are in for a rude awakening in the judgement to come. Can we not say that the tenor of the whole Bible is: God rewards those who are obedient to his truths, and punishes those who are always disobedient to his wishes? Solomon said in Ecc. 12:13,14, Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every

work into judgement, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

"Special to Teenagers"

A college professor was teaching in class on young peoples' morals. He knew the necessity of impressing his lesson on the minds of each student.

The next morning before class the professor bought two dozen of the most beautiful roses he could find. There would be one for each boy with one left over. He picked the very prettiest rose out of the bouquet and passed it to every student, letting him smell of it and handle it. Then he took it and fluffed it up in his hands. He then put the handled rose back in the bouquet. He passed the bouquet around and let every boy take the rose he wanted. In the end, the handled, misused rose was left. "A boy may go out with a girl that's misused, but in the end he always desires to pick the one that's pure for his wife."

Selected...

TEEN-AGE COMMANDMENTS

1. Stop and think before you drink.
2. Don't let your parents down, they brought you up.
3. Be humble enough to obey, you will be giving orders yourself some day.
4. At the first moment, turn from unclean thinking.
5. Don't show off when driving, if you want to race go to Indianapolis.
6. Choose a date who would make a good mate.
7. Go to church faithfully. The Creator gives us a week: give Him back at least an hour.
8. Choose your companions carefully. You are what they are.
9. Recall, and obey the commandments of God.
10. If you do make a mistake, please be frank with your parents.

Why is the woodpecker so successful? He uses his head.

Misrepresentation

It seems to be common among men to seek to place the position of an opponent in as bad a light as possible. The result is that we occasionally misrepresent the teaching and practice of another.

In this way some charged Paul with teaching that we may do evil that good may result. (Rom. 3:8). Jesus was often misquoted, and what he taught misrepresented. At his trial false witnesses said, "We heard him say, I will destroy this temple made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands." (Mk. 14:58). Yet, a comparison of this witness' report of what Jesus said with Jn. 2:19 will show that the witness added somewhat to Jesus' actual statement.

Jesus said of John, to Peter, "If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but if I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee". (Jn. 21:22-23).

Some misrepresentations may be the fault of a speaker or writer who fails to make his point clear. at other times it may be the fault of the hearer or reader who pays too little attention. Far too often it is the result of malice. Surely prejudice could take no more malicious form.

Just here it might be well for us to take personal inventory. We often say, "So-and-so believes this-or-that." But do we know for a fact that they do? Or, has someone only told us this? Before we stigmatize someone with a particular doctrine or practice let's be sure we do not misrepresent them.

Frequently some are heard to tell "what the church of Christ believes". Yet, most of these have never attended a service with the church of Christ, nor read any literature written by our brethren. All they know is "secondhand trash". But it sounds so scandalous they like to repeat it, without

questioning the reliability of their source of information. I dislike to question the honesty of any person; but it is difficult to understand how some can hear what they hear and tell what they tell.

Cliff Stewart

JUDGE SAYS "GO HOME"

Always we hear the plaintive cry of the teenager, "What can we do? Where can we go?" The answer is "Go home."

Hang the storm windows, paint the woodwork, rake the leaves, mow the lawn, shovel the walk. wash the car, learn to cook, scrub the floors. Repair the sink, build a boat, get a job.

Visit the sick, help the poor, study the lessons. And then when you are through — and not too tired — read a book.

Your parents do not owe you entertainment. Your city or village does not owe you recreational facilities. The world does not owe you a living. You owe the world something. You owe it your time and talent and energy so that no one will be at war or in poverty or sick or lonely again.

In plain, simple words, grow up! Quit being a cry-baby. Get out of your dream world and develop a backbone, not a wishbone, and start acting like a man or a lady.

—Judge Philip B. Gilliam

Elders Are To Be Imitated

L. O. Sanderson
Amarillo, Texas

Every Christian is an example to others, and so are Elders to be "ensamples to the flock". (1 Pet. 5:3) And we are enjoined to "remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God; whose faith follow." (Heb. 13:7)

In these exhortations, we note certain duties of elders: (1) To rule, (2) to teach, and (3) to provide a good example. But, primarily, obligations are placed upon us: (1) To remember them — literally, to be mindful of them; (2)

Please, Daddy, Let's Go!

A little girl with shining eyes—
Her little face aglow,
Said, "Daddy, it's almost time
For Sunday School! Let's go.
They teach us there of Jesus' love
Of how He died for all
Those who on Him will call."
"Oh, no," said Daddy, "not today.
I've worked hard all week,
I'm going to the creek;
For there I can relax and rest,
And fishing's fine, they say.
So run along. don't bother me,
We'll go to Sunday School some day."

Months and years have passed away

But Daddy hears that plea no more
"Let's Go to Sunday School;"

Those childish days are o'er.
And now that Daddy's growing old,
When life is almost through,
He finds some time to go to church
BUT WHAT DOES DAUGHTER DO?

She says, "Oh, Daddy, not today—
I stayed up almost all the night
And I've got to get some sleep,
Besides I look a fright!"
Then Daddy lifts a trembling hand
To brush away the tears
As again he hears the pleading voice

Distinctly through the year;
He sees a small girl's shining face

Upturned with eyes aglow,
As she says, "It's time for Sunday School

Please, Daddy, won't you go?"

to follow their faith — that is, to mimic, or imitate: and (3) by implication, to recognize their rule over us.

For the flock to imitate the faith of elders, they must have faith — a faith that is shown by works. In their task of keeping and demonstrating the faith, we must be mindful of them. Would not elders do more and present a better example if those under their oversight would rightfully esteem them?

The Gospel of Christ

ORBIE ROBBINS,
Elizabeth, Arkansas

The gospel of Christ has existed in at least five different phases.

1. In the mind of God — Eph. 3: 10-10.
2. In promise — Gen. 22:18.
3. In prophesy — Isa. 2:1-3
4. In preparations — Lk. 1:17.
5. In fact — 1 Cor. 15:1-4.

After the fall of man, God began to purpose or plan man's redemption. Eph. 3:11 — "According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus." Considering this, we see the gospel as it existed in the purpose or mind of God.

Next we see it in promise as stated in Gen. 22:18. "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." Paul says that seed was Christ in Gal. 3:16.

Then Isaiah prophesied of the gospel when he said, "Out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the Lord From Jerusalem." Isa. 2:3

When John the Baptist began his work the gospel then began in preparation. Mt. 3:2. "Prepare ye the Way of the Lord make his paths straight", and also Lk. 1:17 which states that his work was to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

The gospel next existed in fact after Jesus died, was buried and rose again the third day. 1 Cor. 15:4. "for I delivered unto you first of all how that Christ died for our sins, according to the scriptures, was buried and rose again the third day, according to the scriptures."

After having pointed out the different phases of the gospel, let us now consider the following question. What is the gospel? It is something God wants preached to every creature upon the earth, for Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned." Mt. 16:15-15, Jesus also stated that repentance and re-

mission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations beginning at Jerusalem. Lk. 24: 46-48.

The importance of preaching the gospel is shown in Paul's statement in 2 Cor. 9:16. "Woe unto me if I preach not the gospel of Christ." Paul also states in Gal. 1:7-8 that the curse of heaven is resting upon man or angel that would preach any other gospel.

The gospel is something of which God wants all to obey. Rom. 1:16. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth to the Jew first and also the Greek." Again Paul said, "the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven in flaming fire with his angels taking vengeance on them who know not God and obey not the gospel." 2 Thess. 1:7-8.

The gospel is good news or glad tidings, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things." Rom. 10:16.

The death and burial of our Lord alone did not bring good news to his disciples, but when he was resurrected, the good news or glad tidings were connected with these facts. This proves his divinity as the Christ and brought into existence a new living hope, which we can lay hold of through obedience to the gospel.

The gospel consists of (1) Facts to be believed; the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. (2) Commands to be obeyed which consists of Faith, Repentance — Changes the like, Acts for remission of sins. (3) Blessings to be enjoyed.

The commands of the gospel when obeyed turns one back to God in every way in which they are turned away from God.

Man is turned away from God in heart, in life, and in relationship. Faith changes the heart, Acts 15:8. Repentance — Changes the life, acts 11:18. Baptism changes the relationship, Rom. 6:3,4; Gal. 3:26-27. Since baptism as the final act of obedience to the gospel changes the relationship, it

brings us into Christ. We can then enjoy the blessings and promises of the gospel, for Paul stated in Eph. 1:3, for all spiritual blessings are in Christ. Which would include the following:

Redemption — Eph. 1:7
Salvation — 2 Tim. 2: 10
All Promises — 1 Cor. 1:20
New Creature — 2 Cor. 5:17
Reconciliation — 2 Cor. 5: 19-20.
Righteousness of God — 2 Cor. 5: 21.

New Life — Rom. 6:3-4.
Sanctified — Col. 1:2.
Forgiveness of Sins — Col. 1:14.

In conclusion have you obeyed the gospel? If not, then think seriously upon 1 Pet. 4:17-18. "The time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God; and if it first began at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God."

And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

NOTES !

A Christian is like a banana, when he gets away from the bunch he gets peeled.

Paul said to give as we are prospered, from the looks of the contribution, we are about to starve to death.

There is a way that seemeth right unto man - that is the way most men go.

Is your Spiritual Insurance paid up?

"Remember — If you can't write it down and sign it, don't SAY it!"

Concerning Religion, it is said. It is better to have and not need than to need and not have.

The Spirit and the Bride say come, I say, I will if I can't find an excuse.

"Smooth runs the water where the brook is deep."

"Trying times offer no excuse to quit trying."