

# Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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## In The Days of Thy Youth

Clovis Ragsdale

In the stages of the human lifespan the period of youth, often referred to as the "teen age" is the most critical of all. It is during this time that more lives are wrecked than at any other. Some of life's most important decisions must be made during these critical years. The choosing of a vocation, the amount of education one is to receive, and often times a companion are some of the more important problems that face young people in these trying years. In most cases young people are handicapped by a lack of experience and wisdom which can only be attained with time.

But by far the most important decision facing every boy and girl is whether to become a Christian early in life or to put off until a later time this most serious matter. The answer to this problem can be solved if one will take the advice of a man who possessed wisdom beyond measure. Solomon said in Ecc. 12:1, Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.

We should remember God in our youth because he made us and upholds us and when man sinned he gave his son as an atonement for sin. We need to realize that we shall have to give an account to God for our lives. Rom. 14:12 states that everyone shall give an account of himself to God.

It is much easier to build a Christian life which begins in youth before one is hardened to the ways of sin. Our influence will be greater if we become a Christian when young. The person who lives a sinful life for many years

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Your continued support of the paper is a constant source of inspiration. May God richly bless your efforts to help in His Vineyard. We ask your prayers on behalf of our efforts with the paper.

and then becomes a Christian has to prove himself for a considerable period of time before his influence for good begins to be accepted. There are many wonderful opportunities for Christian boys and girls to set the right examples in conduct before their friends and influence them to do good.

Finally one should obey the gospel early in life because we have no guarantee that we shall have a long life here upon this earth. Many persons die early in life by accidents, wars, and disease. It is a terrible thing to die unprepared to meet the judgment. In summing up life, Solomon said, that to fear God and keep his commandments was the whole duty of man. Why? Because God would bring every work in to judgement, whether it be good or whether it be evil. Ecc 12:12,14.

## News Items

The Lord's work in Winona, Mo. has reached a critical stage. During the past month the folks there have been required to give up the room in which they were meeting. Recently they met in the home of one of the members, and will continue that way until conditions improve. As we have pointed out several times the saints there are few in number, and need all the help and encouragement they can get. If conditions improve, we will have to help them. Nearly every member there has obligated themselves to the extent of fifty dollars to purchase a lot. This is above the call of duty, but they do it because they love the Lord, and want to be sure the Lord's people have a place to meet. Several churches have agreed to help them with a modest building. Now is the time. They aren't asking for a 15,000 to 50,000 dollar building. All they want is a place of their own, be it ever so modest. The future will provide for itself. By the time you read this they will probably have the lot, and will be ready to start on a building. They have a small amount they have been keeping for that purpose. If you are able to help them, do it now. They can obtain building material at wholesale prices. Much of the labor will be donated. Send contributions, no matter how small, to: Mr. Doris Weaver, Winona, Mo.

Due to the failure to order enough copies of the paper printed last issue, a few failed to get their paper last month. We sincerely regret this. More copies have been ordered. And, everyone should receive their paper this month. The mailing list continues to increase, and your warm response and contributions have been a major factor.

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Clovis Ragsdale  
Wesley Hylton

## Worship of the Church

Wesley Hylton

Acts 2:42 tells us that the first converts to Christianity took part in acts of worship. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayer. Three acts of worship are mentioned. These along with two more go to make up all the acts of worship that a child of God is to engage in.

These five acts of worship are: 1. Partaking of the Lord's Supper. 2. Singing. 3. Praying. 4. Preaching the gospel. 5. Giving of our means. To say that one is more important than the others is to rest on assumption. It would set forth the false assumption that while there are some that we must do there are others that are not absolutely necessary. They are not listed above in the order of their importance. They are all important.

Two of these acts we engage in on the Lord's Day, the first day of the week (Sunday). They are the Lord's Supper, called the communion, and giving of our means. In so doing, we follow divinely inspired examples. See Acts 20:7 and 1 Cor. 16: 1, 2. The other three are to be engaged in as desired. Following is a brief summary of each.

**1. THE LORD'S SUPPER.** This act of worship was instituted as the Lord sat with His apostles at the last Passover. Read Lk. 22:7, 20. It represents His broken body given for us, and His blood shed for the remission of our sins. Paul stated it beautifully in Acts 11:26, "For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do show the

Lord's death till He come." Regarding our attitude toward it he said, "Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat . . ." This points out the seriousness with which we should prepare ourselves to partake of the Supper. It can be partaken of unworthily, and will bring condemnation to those who do so. Not only does the Bible authorize this act, but history abundantly bears out the fact that the early disciples followed the divine example. Multitudes today fail to do so.

**2. SINGING.** Eph. 5:19, Col. 3:16 and 1 Cor. 14:15 all point to this act of worship. We are to sing with the spirit and with the understanding. We are to sing and make melody in our hearts. This cannot be done on a mechanical instrument. Instruments "are not" authorized in the New Testament.

**3. PRAYER.** This is something we need to be ready to engage in at all times. Christ prayed frequently. He is our example. Paul tells us to "pray always." That is, be in a prayerful attitude at all times.

**4. PREACHING THE GOSPEL.** Christ said, "Preach the gospel to every creature." The gospel is the good news concerning salvation made possible for us through the sacrifice of our Redeemer. Simple stated it contains facts to be believed, commands to be obeyed, and promises to be enjoyed. The facts are that Christ died, was buried, and arose the third day. The commands are to hear the gospel, believe it, repent of sins, confess Christ before men, and be baptized for the remission of sins. The promises include remission of sins, gift of the Holy Spirit, and eternal life in heaven.

**5. GIVING.** This is perhaps one of the hardest commands to keep. We are to lay by in store on the first day of the week. 1 Cor. 16:1,2. We are to purpose in our hearts beforehand, then give cheerfully, and bountifully. The Lord's work cannot be carried on without money. Therefore, He expects His people to give. We see those in religious error giving to propagate error, and doing so zealously. Are we willing to let them be more generous in spreading false doctrine than we are in proclaiming the Truth.

## What Then??

When all the great plants of our cities,  
Have turned out their last finished  
work;

When our merchants have sold their  
last yard of silk,

And dismissed the tired, weary clerk;  
When our banks have taken in their last  
dollar,

And declared their last dividend;  
When the Judge of the world says  
"Close for the night",

And asks for a balance, — **What  
THEN?**

When the choir has sung it's last an-  
them,

And the preacher has said his last  
prayer;

When the people have heard their last  
sermon,

And the sound has died out of the  
air;

When the Bible lies closed on the altar,  
And the pews are all empty of men;

When we all stand facing the record,  
And the Great Book is opened, —

**WHAT THEN?**

When the actor has played his last  
drama,

And the mimic has made his last fun;  
When the film has flashed it's last  
picture,

And the billboard displayed it's last  
run;

When the crowds seeking pleasure have  
vanished,

And come out into darkness again;  
When the trumpet of all ages is sounded

And we all stand before God, —

**WHAT THEN?**

When the bugle's last call sinks in  
silence,

And the long, marching columns  
stand still;

When the Captain has given his last  
orders,

And they've captured the last fort  
and last hill;

When the flag has been hauled from  
the mast-head,

And all wounded soldiers checked in;  
When a world that rejected it's Saviour,

Is asked for a reason, — **WHAT  
THEN?**

—Author Unknown



## From Our Readers —

EDITORS NOTE: A few months back we mentioned Bro. Carl Bryant, and the work he is doing with the colored brethren in Caruthersville, Mo. We have received the following letter from him. The letter explains itself.

Eastside Church of Christ  
Carl Bryant, Evangelist  
110 Adams, St.  
Caruthersville, Mo.

Dear Brother Hylton:

I hope all is well and the Lord's work there is moving along in a fine way.

I realize I should have written you long ago, no excuse, please forgive me.

I thank you very very much for publishing the article for us. It has brought some results. About the 28th of October we received a check for \$50.00 from the Church of Christ, Garfield, Ark. sent by Bro. W. T. Gaylen. May God bless them.

The work here looks very promising and we hope we can get more of God's people interested in helping to support the preaching of the gospel to the colored people. There are thousands of colored people here in the Boot Heel of Missouri, and it is my hope and desire, and belief, that by the grace of the Almighty God and His people we can stay here and work until this church is strong enough to support itself and help to evangelize this section of the state. If possible you may print this letter, or as much as you think necessary. One of our great needs is a decent meeting house. We now have \$896.54 building fund. The Eleventh and Carleton Ave. Church of Christ of this city is helping with the work among the colored here. They give \$12.00 per week to help the preacher and \$10.00 per month to the building fund. We sure would be grateful if some other churches would help us with our building project, just one contribution would help, or there may be some who would like to send a donation each month, any amount will be appreciated. Brethren please remember your poor colored brother who is often hindered (by someone) from doing good because of the color of the skin.

Bro. Hylton I enjoy your paper very much. Maybe this dollar will help to let someone else enjoy it.

May God bless you in your labor of

love.

Sincerely,  
A Brother in Christ  
Carl Bryant

Send all donations to above address marked Building Fund.

## They Knew Some Things

He knew the Gettysburg Address, the Constitution, too,  
He knew who fought at Valley Forge, who shot Dan McGrew,  
He knew the faults of our government, and the size of the nation's debt;  
But he didn't know the Word of God, just hadn't heard it yet.  
He knew of football's leading teams, just who might win the pennant;  
And the big league's baseball stars—could name them in a minute.  
I'll tell you he could "run 'er off", never missed a difficult word.  
But he couldn't name to save his life, the disciples of the Lord.  
She knew the Arthur Godfrey chat, could speak it to a "T",  
She knew the history of her Maltese cat, and her Spaniel's pedigree.  
She knew about Ma Perkins and How Portia Faces Life,  
She figured how Young Widow Brown might be John's Other Wife.  
Lorenzo Jones' inventions had put her through the mill,  
But she got a heap of comfort by following Just Plain Bill.  
She gave a lot of time and thought to Helen Trent's romance,  
But when it came to Bible drill, she didn't have a chance.  
They read the gossip columns, and listened to the news,  
But they thought about religion from other people's views.  
But don't blame them when death has come if they're unprepared to go,  
For they were kept so busy with a million things below!

—Selected

The Christian life is a life of service, however, if we should judge by the lives of some professing members, that service is very limited! The Christian life is not intended to be a "heaven on

## The Nature Of God's Revelation

One who is a good judge of character can pretty well tell what a man is by what he says and does. Our only knowledge of the Omnipotent Ruler is determined by what God has said and done. In I Cor. 2:11, "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God." It is impossible for one to know the thoughts of another unless he is told. So it is with God and man. We would have had no way of knowing God's Will had His Spirit not written and preserved "the Word which is able to save your souls." Jas. 1:21. Since God not only requires, but deserves more glory than we can ascribe unto Him, it was to our great benefit and His Honor that we be adequately informed.

God has spoken to man in earlier times and in different ways. His accommodative message has always been understood by man. By accommodative language we mean that God put his message in a language, the nature of which was familiar to man. For example, God described Heaven "as having streets of pure gold." Rev. 21:21. The cautious Bible student observes that there will not be any earthly material in the spiritual and everlasting kingdom, therefore there will not be an ounce of gold in heaven. Since this is a precious metal in the eyes of humanity, God used these expressions to excite us in the greatest possible way. The difficulty does not lie in our understanding of the text, but what we desire to do with the Word. May God help us to have a genuine reverence for and an obedient heart toward "His commandment which is life everlasting." John 12:50.

— Selected

earth" experience, in which we recline on beds of ease and luxury, having the pleasant things of life handed to us on a silver tray. It is a life of denial (of self), of service to God, of sacrifice, and devotion. Only those who have a sincere love for God and His righteousness are willing to make the effort.

**ARE YOU?**

## To What Church Are We Added?

Acts 2:47

In Mt. 16:18, Christ said He would build His church. In Col. 1:18, we read He is the head of the body, the church. Eph. 1:20,23, Which He wrought in Christ, when He raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.

We find this statement in Eph. 4:4,5. "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." 1 Cor. 12:20 tells us, "But now are they many members, yet but one body." Thus, we can see that the one body, composed of obedient believers, is the church.

In Jn. 10:1, Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up by some other way, the same is a thief and a robber." In verse 9, Jesus further adds, "I am the door, by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."

The blood of Christ was the purchase price of the church. Acts 20:28. "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." Only those redeemed by this blood will be saved. This one body, the church, is the only one that Christ has promised to save. Eph. 5:23, "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church, and he is the saviour of the body."

We enter this one body, the church, by baptism. 1 Cor. 12:13, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body."

## The Greatness Of the Church

Acts 20:28

Orbie Robbins, Elizabeth, Ark

First: What is the Church?

1. God's House - 1 Tim. 3:15
2. Spiritual House - 1 Pet. 2:5
3. God's Habitation - Eph. 2:20-22
4. God's Family - Eph. 3:14-15
5. House of Christ - Heb. 3:6
6. Body of Christ - Eph. 1:23 Eph. 4:4

1 Cor. 12:27 Col. 1:18

Second: How great is the Church?

(1) Christ gave himself for it, Eph. 5:25. Husbands love your wives as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it.

(2) Christ built it — Jesus said upon this rock I will build my church— Mt. 16:18.

(3) Christ purchased it with his blood. Paul said to the Elders of Ephesus Feed the Church of the Lord which he hath purchased with his own blood, Act. 20:23.

(4) Christ is the Savior of the Church. As the husband is the head of the wife even so Christ is the head of the body, Eph. 5:23.

In Eph. 1:23 Paul tells us that the church is his body, and the body is the church, Col. 1:18.

(5) Christ is the only head of the church. Eph. 1:23-24 Eph. 5:23-24 Col. 1:18.

T. is would eliminate the Pope or any other man as being the head of the Church.

(6) Sinners are reconciled unto God in the Church— 2 Cor. 5:19 Eph 2:12-13

The doctrine that the church has nothing to do with the Salvation of man, and that one can become a child of God and join the church later is false teaching. Since we are reconciled unto God in the church or one body.

(7) God is glorified in the church. Unto him be all glory in the church thro' out all ages by Christ Jesus. Eph. 3:21.

We might do many good works through human organizations but we cannot glorify God through them. For Jesus said every plant which my heavenly Father hath not planted shall be

rooted up Mt. 15:13 and David stated except the Lord build the house they that build labor in vain. Paul said to Timothy that the church is the house of God 1 Tim. 3:15.

(8) God adds to the Church. The Lord added to the Church daily those that were being saved Act. 2:47.

God adds only the saved to the Church. The same process that make one a Christian, also makes them a member of the Church - Act. 2:38-41-47.

No example given where anyone was ever instructed to join the Church of your choice.

(9) We Commune with Christ in the Church — Lk. 22:29 1 Cor. 10:16 1 Cor. 11:26-29.

Impossible to Commune with Christ in some denominational Church.

(10) Christ is high Priest over it — Heb. 10:21 Heb. 4:14 Heb. 3:1.

Therefore we cannot approach God without being a member of the church.

(11) The Church is the bride of Christ. Rom. 7:4 Eph. 5:23-25 2 Cor. 11:3

Christ has only one bride or Church. Therefore the church as his bride should wear his name.

If demoninationalism was Scriptural then Christ would be married to a multiplicity of wives which would place him in spiritual adultery and would make him a polygamist.

(12) We are saved in the church — 2 Tim. 2:10 2 Cor. 5:17 Eph 5:23 Rom. 8:1-2 Isa. 46:13.

Since all these different things point out the greatness and importance of the church then why not become a member of it in order to be safe.

Better be safe instead of sorry in the Judgement.

Because the Lord will present the Church to his father God at that time, Eph. 5:27 1 Cor. 15:24.

### NEWS

Brother James A. Bruce is now preaching at Liberty Hill on the second Sunday in each month. Also, at Morriston on the fourth Sunday.

Brother Orville Buchanan preached at Winona on the second Sunday in January.