

Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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NEWS

Brother Clovis Ragsdale preached at Shiloh Cemetery on Sunday afternoon before Memorial day.

Brother Fred Eaton of Williford will be moving to Black Oak to preach for the congregation there.

Mammoth Spring conducted their first Vacation Bible school May 21-26. Two days saw 100 in attendance. The school was a big success.

Gospel Meetings

CAMP, ARK. June 26-July 5, Lowell Blasingame, Grenada, Miss.

WHEELING, July 2-11, Frank Gould.

HART, ARK. July 10-19, Eddie Dye.

BURKS CHAPEL, July 29-August 9, Lowell Blasingame.

STURKIE, July 13-23, Frank Gould.

HATFIELD, MO. July 6-15, Boyd Morgan.

JEFF, MO. July 25-August 2, N. W. Starling, San Marcos, Texas.

SALEM, ARK. August 21-30, Brad Brumley, Henderson, Tenn.

PROBLEMS FACING THE CHURCH:

Christian Education

Clovis Ragsdale

The age in which we live demands that young people get a college education in order to be successful in this world. The trend toward this fact is becoming more noticeable each year. A college education is as essential now as a high school education was a generation ago. A few may be able to rise above the handicap of not having a college diploma, but they are the exception and not the rule. This places a grave problem on Christian parents. To send a boy or girl to a state school is taking a chance that the spiritual life of the child will be endangered. The only safe course is to send them to Christian Colleges. Often times this is difficult because they are too few and often times too far away. In some fields our Christian colleges are handicapped such as in agriculture, engineering, and in medicine, to name just a few.

The answer to the problems above is easy to state and hard to practice. Build more and better schools. But it takes money to build a good Christian College. More money than most of us realize. The New Testament pattern of worship nowhere authorizes taking money out of the church treasury to support a college. Any effort along this line should be opposed by everyone who believes in a "thus sayeth the Lord" for what we do and practice. This we can do—we can regularly send private donations to these schools, we can encourage others to support them, and we can willingly pay somewhat more for the education of our children in schools of this kind with the realization that they will receive a better education as well as one that builds them spiritually.

Christian education, like a good car, costs more. But it is worth more.

This writer had the privilege of attending a Christian College at a much later age than do most people. As a youth I attended a non-christian school. The differences are many. Secular schools stress preparation for this world. The Christian school prepares for this and for the life after death by teaching Bible to every student every week. The teachers are christians who are extremely dedicated to their work, often working for much less pay than they could obtain in secular schools. The students are, for the most part, members of the church. Their ideals are above that of worldly minded youth. Because past graduates have gone into the world and made a name for themselves as honest and conscientious citizens, far above average, Christian boys and girls have an advantage in getting responsible jobs in the business world.

The church today is growing fast. We need more preachers to proclaim the gospel. More workers are needed in foreign fields. Leaders are needed in most congregations who have ability to speak and teach in public. A Christian education helps to train workers for these jobs.

More members of the church will graduate from High School this year than in any previous year in the history of the world. Many will be going on to college, but the majority will not be going to a Christian college. As long as this situation continues, the church will be faced with a problem.

WHAT ARE YOU IN?

In the church, members divide themselves into four groups.

1. The FEW who make things happen.
2. The MANY who watch things happen.
3. The other MANY who have no idea of what has happened.
4. The OTHER FEW who try to keep things from happening.

WHERE DO YOU BELONG???

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EDITORS —

Clovis Ragsdale
Boyd Morgan

FORGIVENESS

Fred Eaton

In Matt. 19; 21; 22, the conversation between the Lord and Peter teaches us a lesson on forgiveness, that none of us should overlook. "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times." Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee until seven times; but until seventy times seven."

The lesson the Lord is putting forth in this passage is, to keep on forgiving no matter how many times our brother asks.

Too many times we are prone to say, "sure, I'll forgive you, but I will not forget." Or, "Yes I'll forgive you, but just don't let it happen again, or NO MORE forgiveness. This is not forgiveness from the heart. In Matt. 19,35, we read "So likewise shall my heavenly father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses." If we do not forgive those who trespass against us, how can we expect God to forgive us.

We are told in 1 Peter 2:21, "For even hereunto were ye called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that ye should follow in his footsteps. No greater example can be found, on forgiveness than that which is found in a study of the Lord's attitude toward forgiveness.

In the story of the woman that was caught in "the very act", he said, "Neither do I condemn thee", go thy way and sin no more. Do we have that attitude, NO! Our attitude is, "look what she has done", leaving the impression or insinuation that just because the woman made a mistake, she will continue making the

same mistake, or, that God does not require us to forgive her no matter how penitent she may be.

There is the man who has stolen some goods. He repents. Do we forgive him? Again No! That man stole, and once a thief, always a thief. No, he's lost, and it doesn't make any difference if God does forgive him, I or we can't. Brethren, when we reach this state, how can we ever hope to remain in the divine favor of God?

We read in John 8:7 the words of the Lord when he said, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." Again he said, Matt. 7:3 "And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is thine own eye." Read the words of Paul the apostle, Rom. 2:1 "Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man whosoever thou art that judgest; for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

The Lord from the cross prayed, "Father forgive them" Can we do less? Stephen, Acts 7:60, prayed, "Lord lay not this sin to their charge. "Can we do less?"

For anyone to refuse fellowship, or forgiveness to one who has once failed but has truly repented, and are showing by their actions, that they are trying to live as God wants them to, is the very height of hypocrisy and the one who has this attitude, is not worthy of the name Christian.

We read Gal. 6:1, "to restore such a one in the spirit of meekness, considering ourselves, lest we also be tempted

We must remember that regardless of how evil a person has done, we ourselves also could be guilty of the same sin. And if we are not willing to forgive, we ARE guilty of the SAME thing.

Widows Indeed?

Boyd E. Morgan

Indigent widows (widows indeed) are a charge of the church. Verse sixteen is plain as regards the Christian individual who has widows. He is to relieve the church of the charge of the obligation to care for them. Verse four says "But

if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God." Verse eight says, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." Verse sixteen says, "If any man or woman that believeth have widows let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed."

How erroneous the interpretation that verse sixteen teaches that under no circumstances such widows are to be cared for by the church! How erroneous the idea to, "make the individual do it," Christ's gospel is not one of physical compulsion but moral compulsion. The church is charged with an obligation to relieve the suffering widow (in their affliction).

Suppose an individual will not do his duty to the church and relieve his suffering widow. What then? Shall she be denied the care of the church? The command is not that the church be not allowed to care for such a widow under any circumstance; but that the individual having such widows show piety and care for them in order that the church be relieved of the burden of the care. Actually the command is to not allow the church to have the burden by requiring the indigent. The church already has the burden if the individual does not.

Our anti-cooperation brethren err in their interpretation of these verses.

Quotable Quotes

"You ought not to carry a chip on your shoulder unless you work in a lumber yard."

"An upright man is never a downright failure."

"The marriage knot should not be a slip knot."

"Pick your friends, but not to pieces."

"When a man gets rich, God gets a partner or man loses his soul."

Mothers, Daughters —Please Read This

Doyle Kinder

We are now approaching the time of the year when some women begin to array themselves in scanty attire. Such as shorts, bathing suits and the such like. Before you drag out your "summer clothes" please read this article then pray about the matter.

Is it wrong to dress immodestly? Definitely, if we take the Bible as our standard, and that we must do. Paul said, "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in Modest Apparel" (1 Tim 2:9). Could anything be less modest than shorts, bathing suits etc.? Therefore a Christian will not be caught in such apparel. When Adam and Eve sinned and realized that they were naked, they made aprons from fig leaves (Gen. 3:7). Later however, God made them coats of skin and clothed them (Gen. 3:21). Evidently God was not well pleased with their clothing, hence he aided them in becoming sufficiently clothed. As God through Moses stipulated how the priests were to be dressed, He demanded that they wear "linen breeches to cover their nakedness" (Ex. 28:42). In the book of Revelation nakedness is pictured as a shame (Rev. 16:15). If any person is really interested in going to heaven, they will not see how close to evil they can come without committing an offense, but they will see how far they can stay away from wrong doing. As Paul said, "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thess. 5:22). Do you believe these truths? If you believe the Bible you do.

From another standpoint immodest clothing is wrong. When any woman causes a man to lust after her, BOTH have sinned. Christians are not only responsible for themselves but for others. Hence all must be very careful how they dress and how they act. Jesus said that it is a sin to lust after a woman (Mt. 5:28). Although, if the woman is partially to blame for the lusting she too is guilty (1 Cor. 9:11-13). We are not to cast a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in our brothers way (Rom. 13:14). Paul said it was better for him to die than any man take his glorying in vain (1 Cor. 9:15). David committed a terrible sin with Bathsheba, but he was no more guilty

than she was. For she exposed her naked body where she could be openly viewed (II Samuel 2). Remember, you ARE your brother's keeper.

We parents are responsible for the way we let our children dress. When a young girl is ill-clad her parents are to be blamed. We are to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4). Cornelius feared God with all his house (Acts 10:2). We are to train up our children in the way they should go (Prov. 22:6). Then at what age should mothers forbid their daughters to wear shorts? Maybe there is no set age. But one thing is for certain if we never let our daughters wear shorts we will never have to make them stop. If we do not want indecent men casting indecent looks at our daughters, then we must not let them mix with indecent people while dressed indecently.

Real beauty is not derived from physical appearance. Pretty is as pretty does. Deeds of kindness, sympathy, purity and unselfishness is what truly makes women beautiful. God is running a beauty parlor; He knows how to run it too. The adorning to be of the hidden man of the heart and not the outward (1 Peter 3:4).

J. Edgar Hoover said, "Don't ask for trouble, ladies, dress sensibly". It is not right, wise, smart, or modern to dress immodestly: and IT IS A SIN to do so.

When Is One A New Creature?

Orbie Robbins, Elizabeth, Ark.
2 Cor. 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away: behold all things are become new.

This scripture shows the importance of this question. That one must be a new creature to be saved, but how and when does one become a new creature? First to be a new creature one must:

(a) Be born again. Jesus said verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God. John 3:5.

(b) One must walk in newness of life. Paul stated, "Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Rom. 6:4.

(c) Must be in Christ. If any man be in Christ he is a new creature. 2 Cor. 5:17

(d) Must be free from sin and a servant of God. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. Rom. 6:22.

(e) Must have put on Christ. Paul stated in the Galatian letter. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Gal. 3:27.

The next question would arise. How does one do these things?

(a) The new birth is a birth of water and the spirit. Jesus said except a man be born of water and of the spirit he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. John 3:5. All will agree that the people on the day of Pentecost were born again, but they were commanded to be baptized for remission of sins. Acts. 2:38.

(b) One is raised from baptism to walk in newness of life. For Paul says buried with him in baptism raised to walk in newness of life. Rom. 6:4.

(c) One is baptized into Christ. Baptism is the only condition of obedience mentioned in the New Testament that will bring us into Christ. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Gal. 3:27.

(d) One must obey from the heart that form of doctrine then is freed from sin.

But God be thanked that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

Being then made free from sin ye became the servants of righteousness. Rom. 6:17-18.

That form of doctrine is pictured and obeyed in baptism. Rom. 6:1-5.

(e) One puts on Christ in baptism. Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death. Rom. 6:3. Again for as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Gal. 3:27.

Now in conclusion. Can one be a child of God, a new creature without? (a) The new birth? (b) Being in Christ? (c) Being free from sin and become a servant to God? (d) Putting on Christ? (e) New life?

The answer to all these questions can be given in one word. NO!

Therefore scriptural baptism is essential to one being a new creature.

Have you been scripturally baptized? If not you are not a new creature, or a Christian and you are yet in your sins.

Giving of Ourselves

Matthew 16:24

Orvis Grisham

Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me." Luke gives the account that this must be done daily. In denying self, requires **losing sight of ones self** and putting God first in everything. The Lord said again, "Seek first the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you." Mt. 6: 33. I wonder just what kind of church we would have if every member would forget about self, and become interested only in Christ, and his fellow man? If every member would simply put the Kingdom of God first, what kind of church would we have? I believe it is time we began to practice what we preach about putting the Kingdom first, and denying ourselves. If everyone would do this the old meeting house would not hold the members this congregation would have. We are told to "Look not on our own things, but look every man on the things of others." No, people won't think you are nosy if you show your Christian light to them. The only way the world will know that we are a Christian, is to act like a Christian before them. "Let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."

If we truly give ourselves in God's service, we will have a better contribution, better attendance and every other thing will be better. We as Christians must be willing to spend and be spent for the cause of Christ. If we are not, we just have not lost sight of self as yet. If we are just sitting and watching the work pile up around us, we are not putting the Kingdom first. If we expect the church to grow, all will have to put forth a greater effort.

May 18th, 1961
318 Grant Ave.
Dixon, Ill.

TO
Members of the Church of Christ

Dear Brethren:

This is an appeal asking for financial

help for the good brethren at Clarkridge, Arkansas. Their meeting house was completely destroyed in a tornado that swept the country side. There was nothing left but the foundation of the building. These brethren are sound in the Faith and have no hobby elements. They have about 75 membership with no building to meet in. I held a very good meeting with these brethren last year, and I am scheduled to hold another this coming August 7th. However, other arrangements may have to be made due to the circumstances. They have about \$300.00 to start work on their new building. This certainly is an emergency, and these brethren need and deserve financial assistance. Surely there is enough brethren and congregations to give these brethren help in getting another place to meet. We oft-times quote the words of the Apostle Paul, "We are labourers together with God." But, just how many of us believe and realize the import of these words? How many of us practice these words? Brethren this is not asking too much. This is simply stating what the Bible teaches. If we are to work together in the work of the Lord, and actually believe what we teach about the work of the Lord; then there is certainly one of the greatest opportunities that will never come our way. We just can't afford not to give these brethren financial help. A contribution of any amount will be received with appreciation. Send your contributions to Bro. Johnny Crawford Howardridge, Mo. c/o Church of Christ, Clarkridge, Ark.

Sincerely, O. L. Grisham

The Paradox Of the Cross

The cross of Christ is the greatest of all paradoxes. It was the most tragic event in the history of the world, YET the most wonderful thing that ever happened. It was the saddest spectacle man ever beheld, YET out of it came the greatest joy. The cross was Satan's greatest victory and Christ's most humiliating defeat, YET it was the most stunning defeat Satan ever suffered and the most glorious victory Christ ever won. CHRIST WON BY LOSING. HE CONQUERED BY SURRENDERING.

The cross was the greatest exhibition of divine justice in condemning sin,

YET the most wonderful demonstration of divine mercy in pardoning sin. It was the greatest manifestation of hatred for sin, YET His supreme proof of love for the sinner. The cross was the means by which God's justice condemned sin, and His mercy forgave it.

The cross was the darkest hour in history, YET it was the time of greatest light. Though the sun refused to shine and God hid his face from Christ, the cross was the means by which Christ really became the "light of the world." In the cross we see man's hatred for Christ, YET we see Christ's love for man. There we see human vengeance as they cry for His blood. YET we see divine forgiveness as Jesus prays, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

The cross portrays man's sinfulness and God's holiness; human weakness and divine strength. It demonstrates man's inability to save himself, and God's ability and power to do this for him. The cross, from the human standpoint, is foolishness; YET it is a revelation of the highest wisdom of God.

I Corinthians 1:18, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."

via "The Messenger"
Hardin, Ky.

WE MUST BE FAITHFUL

Faithfulness and devotion to Christ and His church is the first pre-requisite to teaching your lost friends and neighbors. One of the first signs of unfaithfulness is irregular attendance. Won't you then resolve to be faithful in your attendance?

When you miss, what do your brethren think? What do your friends think? What does Christ think? It discourages brethren, thus robbing them of a blessing they have every right to expect. It drives your friends farther away from Christ. It puts Christ to ridicule and open shame before the world. **Are you ready to assume all the responsibility for the harm your absence does?** You answer that question every time the church meets.

—Clinton Elliot