

Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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Mammoth Spring, Arkansas

March, 1961

NEWS

Brother Charley White will begin a meeting at English Bluff on July 15.

Charlie Cavin preaches at Liberty Hill on the second Sunday in each month.

Brother Lowell Blasingame will conduct a meeting at Camp, Ark., beginning June 26 and continuing through July 5.

Brother Don Fike will begin a meeting at Viola on Sunday June 4.

Sunday evening Feb. 19 was a time of much rejoicing at Mammoth Spring when Bob Sinners was baptized into Christ. This brought the responses during 1961 to eight.

Fulton County is proud that we have Bro. Hillard Story among us and thankful for his devoted work. Hillard and Alma spent more than five years in Italy as missionaries and plan to return within two years. During that time they are working with churches in the area. Having them with us will be of such great value to us in causing us to realize the imperative need of supporting the Great Commission.

Most encouraging is the announcement that the Welcome Hill Church has resolved to support the Italy work thirty-five dollars per month. God will prosper work that requires such sacrifices and will richly bless those making the sacrifices.

The two churches in Walnut Ridge, Ark. have employed regular preachers. Bro. William P Smotherman is moving there from Sharon, Tenn. to preach for the Main St. Church and Bro. Landon Saunders is moving there from McDougal, Ark. to preach for the Free St. Church.

Bro. Orbbie Robbins underwent major stomach operation in a Calico Rock, Ark. hospital last month and is recuperating at his home in Elizabeth. It

has been necessary for him to cancel his appointments in February and possibly in March. . . . Jimmy Allen conducted an area wide youth rally on "Christian Education" in West Plains, Mo. Feb. 26 at 2:30 P.M. . . . Bro Doyle Kinder preaches each Friday night at Camp except the fourth Friday night when he goes to Agnos. . . . Bro. Boyd Morgan began a meeting at Trumann, Arkansas, March 6. . . . Bro. Hillard Story of Salem, Ark. is open for engagements to show slides of the work in Italy and to speak on the work . . . The Winona church has obtained a large tank for its propane heating system.

Church Cooperation In Spiritual Matters

Boyd E. Morgan

Objections are sometimes raised as to the scripturalness of cooperation in such matters as Fulton County Gospel News, sponsored by the Mammoth Spring Church and supported by contributions many of which are made by sister congregations.

The following principles are set forth for consideration in this matter:

Col. 4:16 "And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea."

Let us notice this passage in its particulars:

1. The letter of Colossians is a portion of the Word of God.

2. The passage does not say for Paul, an apostle and a preacher to cause it to be read in the church of Laodicea.

3. Reading the scripture is a work of the church. The passage will not allow this to be denied.

4. Reading the scripture was a work

of the Laodicean Church.

5. But the Church at Colosse was to HELP by causing it to be read in the church of Laodicea.

6. Colosse was therefore to help Laodicea perform her own (Laodicea's) work. This cannot be denied.

7. Then it is scriptural for one church to help another church perform the receiving church's work. Laodicea was the receiving church. Colosse was the sending church. This was a spiritual matter.

8. Since in the New Testament one church was authorized to aid another church in spiritual matters, therefore I conclude that it is harmonious with the scriptures for other churches to help Mammoth Spring in spiritual matters. The autonomy of no church is abused and no missionary society is involved.

Contributions Acknowledged

O. L. Grisham	\$ 1.00
Welcome Hill Church of Christ	5.00
Sitka Church of Christ	10.00
W. W. Horton, Ash Flat, Ark.	2.00
Fred Busch, Mammoth Spg, Ark.	2.00
Lena McCarther, Glencoe, Ark.	1.00
Clarence Wells, Glencoe, Ark.	1.00
J. A. Prewitt, Thayer, Mo.	1.00
Mrs Dewey Cox, Dyess, Ark.	2.00
Orbie Robbins, Elizabeth, Ark.	1.00
Big Pond Church of Christ, Mt. Home, Ark.	5.00
Mrs. Horace Cherry, Mammoth Spring, Ark.	1.00
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hurtt, Mammoth Spring, Ark.	1.00
Thaddus Pruitt, Ravenden, Ark.	1.00
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EDITORS —

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Boyd Morgan

Mammoth Spring Annual Lectures

MARCH 20-25

Theme: THE CHRIST
Each Evening at 7:30 at the
Church of Christ
Mammoth Spring, Ark.

Monday March 20 — Bro. A. G. Lemmons of Piggot, Ark. Subject: "Jesus Christ the Son of God."

Tuesday March 21 — Bro Hillard Story of Salem, Ark. Subject: "The Trial of Christ".

Wednesday — March 22 Bro. Jimmy Allen Professor of Bible, Harding College, Searcy, Ark. Subject: "Why Did Jesus Die?"

Thursday March 23 — Bro. Jerry Jenkins of Trumann, Ark. Subject: "The Mind of Christ?"

Friday, March 24 — Counsellor James E. McDaniel, Leading Jonesboro, Ark. Attorney. Subject: "The Last Will and Testament." This subject is approached from the legal standpoint.

Saturday, March 25 — Bro. Doyle Kinder of Salem, Ark. Subject: "Christ and his Church." WE INVITE ALL TO ATTEND.

To The Point

Men regret their words more than they regret their silence.

Measure your fellowman by his excellencies, not by his shortcomings.

If you insist on perfection, make the first demand on yourself.

If you keep your tongue, it will improve.

It is not enough to be good: but, be good for something.

Problems Facing the Church: Crankiness

Boyd E. Morgan

Two years ago a congregation in an adjoining county planned classrooms. For three generations the church had conducted all services in a single room. The time had come when they could do better. It was resolved to build. Sufficient funds were on hand to start and arrangements were made for the balance. The two elders were aged and hardly able to get around to attend to the program. Together with the church they appointed a building committee and turned the work over to it. Lo! and behold! the committee laid plans but was stopped when the crank stepped in. The question had come up as to whether the classrooms should be built on the side or on the back of the present building. Ever since then, there has been fussing and fueding, and not one single nail has been driven to the consternation of the church. The work suffers, the church is stifled, is a laughingstock among the denominations, the elders have lost the respect of the members and the members are unhappy. A Crank is determined to get his way.

Another congregation needs a baptism. The need was recognized, the money raised, the contractor appointed. Then enters the Crank and the ultimatum is issued. The results: How well we know!

The preacher is quite often the Crank target. If he escapes, the target is the leaders. The Crank is set to get his way. The cost is suffering, disappointment, etc. is never considered. He is a FAULT FINDER. He hunts for faults and becomes adept in enumerating them. He does nothing himself except find fault. It is his nature to want the limelight and he seek it out by doing something constructive but by finding fault.

These people belong to an old class. The Bible records their antiquity. They hunted for a fault in Daniel and had him cast into a den of lions. Dan. 6:4. They found fault with the disciples of Jesus and the Lord himself. Mark 7:2. Paul warned against finding fault with a brother in Rom. 14:10.

To criticize is one way of making conversation, but we get in a bad way

when it becomes the only way that we know how to make conversation. Check your own conversations. Criticizing can easily become just a habit. One of the tenures of man is that his bad habits grow worse as he grows older. Trouble results unless he can recognize his bad traits and break himself of them. If self-examination should show a tendency to crankiness in us, let us defeat it before it dishonors us and we in turn dishonor our Christ.

Pleasing God Phillipians 2:12-13

Orbie Robbins, Elizabeth, Ark.

Paul writing to the Phillipian brethren said, "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Phil. 2:12-13.

To please is to cause delight. The Lord delights in those who fear. Ps. 147:11.

To please God is to fear God and keep his commandments. Ecc. 12:13 Some cannot please God.

(1) Those in the flesh. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. Rom. 8:8.

(2) In the flesh is to live after the flesh. Rom. 8:13.

(3) In the Spirit is to live righteously. Rom. 8:10.

Some would not please God.

(1) Cain could not please God. "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain by which he obtained witness, that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and by it he being dead yet speaketh." Heb. 11:4.

(2) King Saul would not. He offered partial obedience unto God in sparing King Agag and the best part of the stock or cattle. God had said unto him through Samuel the prophet, "Destroy everything that has the breath of life in it. This is an example to us that we must obey all that God commands to please him. I Sam. 15:22-23.

(3) Nadab and Abihu would not. They offered strange fire in the burning of incense in the tabernacle worship and

were destroyed by fire. This is another example which shows that we cannot please God by substituting. Lev. 10:1-2.

(4) Annias and Saphira would not. They lied in keeping back a certain part of the price of the land they had sold and died. This example shows that lying or deception is not pleasing to God. Acts 5:1-5.

Some did please God.

Enoch pleased God. By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death, and was not found because God had translated him; for before his translation he had this testimony that he pleased God. Heb. 11:5. The Bible says Enoch walked with God and God took him. Gen. 8. When he walked with God he walked by faith. Heb. 11:5 And faith comes by hearing God's word. Rom. 10:17. He obeyed God. We are pleasing unto God when we obey him.

Jesus pleased God.

"This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased." Mt. 3:17. Matt. 17:5, "Therefore Jesus pleased God by being submissive to his will." We please God by doing his will. Mt. 7:21.

The Apostles pleased God.

They said we cannot but speak the things which we have heard. Acts 4:20. Again the Lord said to them, "Go stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life." Act. 5:20. Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, "We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29. By following their example we please God when we have the courage to speak all the truth without fear or favor.

Paul pleased God.

"For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." Gal. 1:10. So we too can please God when we strive to persuade men through preaching the gospel and cease to be men-pleasers".

Pleasing God brings results.

God takes us. Heb. 11:5. As God took Enoch to heaven because he pleased him, even so heaven will be our home after life is over if we walk with him or keep his commandments. Rev. 22:14.

God accepts our service.

Peter said I perceive that God is no respecter of persons but in every nation he that feareth him and worketh righteousness is accepted with him.

Our service is not in vain in the Lord.

I Cor. 15:58.

God gives what we ask.

Whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. I Jno. 3:22.

God gives us a home. "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Rev. 22:14.

The Lord said of this home in heaven, "I go to prepare a place for you and if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am there you may be also. Jno. 14:1-6.

Having shown the result of pleasing God. It behooves us to strive diligently in all things to please him. In becoming a Christian we please God by believing Heb. 11:6; Repentance, Lk. 13:3; Acts 17:30; Confession, Matt. 10:32-33; Baptism, Mk. 16:15-16.

Is the Church of Christ Just Another Denomination?

O. L. Grisham, Dixon, Ill.

Many people consider the "Church of our Lord" just another denomination. If the Lord's Church is just another of the many denominations, then we need not consider the matter any further; but, if "Christ's Church" is not to be listed with all the denominations, then we need to know God's teachings about the matter. We hear people say every day that it doesn't make any difference what Church you belong to, that the church won't save you, and that one is as good as another. We have heard denominational preachers say, "All the different denominations are sustained by God's word." Again we hear said, "One can go to Heaven and belong to any of the denominations," but that it is not important to belong to any church to go to Heaven.

If "Christ's Church" is just another denomination, and all denominations receive their teachings and doctrines from God's word, then we might just as well belong to one as the other, or even a number of them, for this reasoning

teaches that it doesn't make any difference. And, if all denominations have their origin in the word of God, it would be necessary to belong to every one of them to be in harmony with God's word. How could any sincere person, interested in doing the will of the Father, believe that the Bible sustains all the various denominational movements. "God's word is truth." (Jn. 17:17). Truth never contradicts and is always consistent with itself. How could the Bible be true and teach all the different contradicting doctrines that the various denominations advocate? But since the Bible is true, we conclude that it does not teach all the different contradicting doctrines. That God's word sustains all the different religious movements, is one of the greatest arguments of atheism that ever was used against the truth of God's word. Let's examine God's word and then we need not be left in ignorance as to what is right in matters of religion.

"And hath given Him, (Christ) to be the head over all things to the church, which is His Body." (Eph. 1:22, 23). This passage plainly teaches that Christ is the head of the Church, or Body. Ephesians 4:4, teaches us that there is only **One Body, or Church**. If Christ be the head of all the different religious bodies, and all the different religious bodies receive their authority from the one head (Christ), then we have many bodies and one head; and the head (Christ), giving different directions to all of the different bodies. The Church is spoken of in the word of God to be the "Bride of Christ" (Rev. 21:9; 22:17; Eph. 5:23-31; I Cor. 11:2; Matt. 25:1-10).

Christ is said to be the **Bridegroom** of the **Bride**. See Matt. 25:1-10. To say that Christ is the head of all the different denominations, is so say that Christ has more than one bride, or wife; and is to say that Christ is a bigamist. The Bible teaches that Christ is the head of one church, and that Christ has only one church. See Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:47; Eph. 1:22, 23; Eph. 4:4.

The word of God could not be true and sustain over three hundred different religious movements all of them teaching different doctrines. We read of the origin of the "Church of Christ" in God's word; but, there is nothing said about any of the denominations. See Matt. 16:18, Acts 2. The "Church of Christ" is not my church, or your church, but it

belongs to Christ. Christ bought the Church with his own blood (Acts 20:28). Christ is the Saviour of only one church. (Eph. 5:23-31). The church will not save you, but you must be in the Church of our Lord to be saved (Eph. 5:23-31). To be in Christ is to be in His Church, and to get into Christ, you must be baptized for the remission of your sins. (Gal. 3:26; I Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:38). All spiritual blessings are in Christ. (Eph. 1:3) and there is salvation in none other. (Acts 4:11,12).

The Church of our Lord is not just another denomination, it is Christ's bride, pure from the doctrines and commandments of men. The Church of Christ follows the teaching of Christ and not the various creeds of men. The seed of the Kingdom, (the word of God Lk. 8:11), produced the "Church of Christ" in the first century and will still produce it in the twentieth century. The creeds and doctrines of men always did and always shall produce the things of men. All professed followers of Christ can be one body, if they will lay aside man given names, doctrines, and practices and conform themselves to the teachings of God's word. If all would walk by the one standard of authority (God's word, Phil. 3:16), then all this religious division would cease to exist. When every professed follower of Christ goes to the word of God for instruction, all of them will be just Christians, nothing more or nothing less.

Do You Just Belong?

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed,
Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings, and mingle with the flock,
Or do you stay away, and criticize and knock?
Do you take an active part to help the work along,
Or are you satisfied to be the kind that "just belong?"
Do you ever go to visit or call a member who is sick,
Or leave the work to just a few, and then call them "the clique?"
There's quite a program scheduled that

we're sure you've heard about;
And we'll appreciate it if you, too, will come and help us out.
So come to the meetings often and help with hand and heart—
Don't be just a member, but take an active part.
Think this over, friends, you know right from wrong!
Be an active member, and do not "just belong".

AUTHORITY

by Doyle Kinder

Authority is the legal or rightful power to command. Only confusion can result where a group of people does not know who has this legal power to command. Authority is fundamental in church, home, state and nation. The importance of the recognition of authority in religious affairs could never be over estimated. If authority belonged to finite man, naturally he would make laws to suit himself. But does it belong to him? Who has the legal or rightful power to command?

The Bible states that all authority has been given to Christ in heaven and in earth (Mt. 28:18). This, then, answers the foregoing question. Since Christ has all authority, that leaves me exactly none. I (or anyone else) do not have the right to give commands, but rather obey them.

It is evident that some of the alleged authorities and standards are actually not authoritative. The Bible points out some of these inaccurate yardsticks. Established practice or tradition is not the correct authority (Mt. 15:6). Doctrines of men are not the right authority (Mt. 15:9). The majority does not determine the standard (Mt. 7:13-14). Popularity has never gauged right and wrong (Jn. 15:18-19). Reason is a fallacious authority (I Cor. 1:21). A good conscience is not the standard (Acts 23:1). The authority of Christ is the only one that will stand at the judgement day.

It is only natural for us to like our own ideas. But it is very easy for us to unconsciously let our ideas determine what should and should not be done. Since man's beginning it has been most

difficult for him to give up his wisdom and accept the wisdom of God. Indeed, it is a hard lesson to learn, "That the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his own eyes." (Prov. 21:2). And again the wise man of old said that a way may seem right to man but finally bring death. Ingenuity is to be desired, but mingle it not with the divine authority of Christ.

Let us all take inventory. Do we do what we do in religious practice and worship because of creeds, catechisms, religious journals, or commentaries; or is our teaching founded on a thus saith the Lord?

January 20, 1961
318 Grant Ave.
Dixon, Ill.

Dear Brethren:

The list of names I sent you have received their copies of the "Fulton County Gospel News", and they like them fine. I believe the paper is doing a lot of good for the cause of Christ. Keep up the good work! We are sending you some more names, and another small contribution to help with the paper. At the present time I am working to get fifteen names for subscriptions to the "Christian Worker". We now have one lady in attendance from the result of receiving the paper. Since I moved to this work here in Dixon, we have had five restorations. We are looking forward to a good year with the Church here in Dixon. We made a request for help to build a baptistry, and we have received \$48.00 thus far. This still falls short of the amount needed to build our baptistry. We need at least \$300.00 more to complete the task. I desire that you brethren ask for help for the work here in Dixon, in the paper. I assure you this work is surely a worthy cause. With the program of work we have for 1961, we will see some results before the year is out. We had a record attendance of 57 last Lord's day.

Sincerely,
Your brother in Christ
O. L. Grisham