

Fulton County Gospel News

Good News About Christ And His Church For All Of The World

“... Christ is the head of the church: and He is the Savior of the body.” - Ephesians 5:23

Established 1953

February 2008

Vol. 42 / No. 2

TO WALK WITH GOD

by Bob Howton

And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him (Genesis 5:22-24).

These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God (Genesis 6:9).

The Sacred text reveals something very unique about these two men. It is stated specifically that they “walked with God”. This should not be misconstrued to indicate that they were without sin, but rather that their prime goal in life was to be obedient to the Master, and to serve Him faithfully. The Prophet Amos once asked Israel a very penetrating question concerning such truths: “Can two walk together except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3). This valiant man stood between Israel and God, and pointed out that the two were in covenant relationship at the

time. The contrast which he drew at this moment was that God changes not, and that Israel was not walking with God.

Amos was standing in the gap, so to speak, and while Israel was enjoying great prosperity and good fortune, they were thinking nothing about their duty or obligations to God. The reason they were not walking with God was simple—They had left God out of their daily lives and walked in their own lusts and pleasure. It certainly was not that God had not given them adequate instruction and direction, it was solely that they chose to disregard what He had said. They had disagreed with God!

Our country today stands on the brink of spiritual disaster just as Israel did at the time of Amos’ denunciation of their high handed disobedience. We desperately need men today who will take the sword of the Spirit and wage a never ending war until permissive and ungodly multitudes are turned in penitence unto Jehovah God. We need elders, preachers, leaders, and faithful Christians who will “Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all

longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Timothy 4:2). Only by doing what God says, can it be said that we “walk with God.” It certainly is not that God has left us to flounder and choose among hundreds of “ways” to be pleasing to Him. His Word is clear, precise, and easily understood so that we have no excuse for not walking with God—except that we choose not to do so. Observe the following:

“Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 4:1-2). We have the same commandments which Paul gave to the Thessalonian brethren. Consider also Paul’s words to the Galatian brethren: “And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God” (Galatians 6:16).

Paul entreated the Colossian brethren with these words: “...that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His Will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

USPS Publication #211780

... is a Periodical publication issued monthly by the Church of Christ at Third and Bethel (P.O. Box 251), Mammoth Spring, AR 72554-0251. **POSTMASTER: Please mail all changes of address to the above address.**

FCGN is mailed free of charge to any who care to receive it. We will be happy to add any names to the regular mailing list. If you send in a name we must have a complete address, including number and street name, or R.R. or HCR number, plus box number, or a P.O. Box number and the **NINE DIGIT ZIP CODE**. This paper is supported by voluntary contributions for which we are grateful. Financial information will be furnished upon request. **Mail all address corrections or manuscripts to:**

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

P.O. Box 251
Mammoth Spring, AR 72554

Lee MosesEDITOR
Phone(870) 625-3217
E-Mailcocfcgn@centurytel.net
Website ...www.fultoncountygospelnews.org
Brian DixonWebmaster
E-Mailhalopages@yahoo.com

CREEDS

by Lee Moses

As a young child being reared in denominationalism, this writer clearly recalls the practice in worship of the recitation of creeds. Those assembled would recite various creeds, particularly the so-called "Apostles' Creed." Of course, one would assume that a creed called the Apostles' Creed would have been instituted by the apostles. However, the Apostles' Creed in its actual form was not framed until at least 300 years after the death of the last apostle, although other supposedly Christian creeds had been written as early as the second century AD.

What is the purpose of a creed? A creed is defined as "a formal statement of religious belief." A creed is designed by a particular religious group in order to make clear what it is they believe and to define parameters of what is acceptable doctrine. Virtually all denominations have creeds by which they abide, although many of the "lay members" may not be aware of their own creeds. However, their creeds dictate what they are taught from their pulpits and in their classrooms. The Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia attempts to justify creeds by saying, "In the Protestant system the creed is not to coordinate with, but always subordinate to, the Bible." But the Protestant denominations which fled from Roman Catholicism and its binding of human tradition fell into the same trap when they decided to base faith upon anything other than the Bible alone.

Jesus promised the apostles that the Holy Spirit would guide them into "all truth" (John 16:13) and through the apostles gave to man "all things that pertain unto life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). When men adopt a creed, they accept that which is different from the Bible. Either a creed will have less than the Bible, more than the Bible, or the same as the Bible. What Christ gave is completely sufficient; but if one accepts a creed which is less than the Bible, he no longer has that which is sufficient as his guide (Psalm 119:105, 130; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). If one accepts a creed which is more than the Bible, he has added to the word of God and brought himself under a curse (Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18-19). If one accepts a creed which is the same as the Bible, someone has wasted his time in trying to write a creed.

A curse awaits any who bring a doctrine different from the Bible (Galatians 1:6-9), yet creeds are intrinsically different from the Bible. The doctrine which Christ gave us is our only acceptable system of belief (2 John 9-10). Creeds deny that all can understand the Bible alike, or at least admit that those who adhere to their particular creed cannot understand it alike without being given a standard that supersedes the word of God. We cannot accept the beliefs of any man as our authority. Only the word of God is "able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified" (Acts 20:32), and only by this word will one be judged (John 12:48).

continued from page 1

1:9,10). Let us be very careful that we don't play the fool as some did in the time of Jeremiah's prophecy. "The priests said not, Where is the Lord? And they that handle the law knew Me not: the pastors also transgressed against Me, and the prophets prophesied by Ba'al, and walked after things that do not profit" (Jeremiah 2:8). The Psalmist said, "So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lusts: and they walked in their own counsels" (Psalm 81:12). If you wish to "walk with God" don't try to figure things out! Just **do what God says!** You'll then be "Walking with God."

3935 Woodland Forrest Drive
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405

BIBLIOLATRY, ARE WE GUILTY?

by J.A. McNutt (1908-1999)

In recent years I have heard the charge of “Bibliolatry” applied to faithful brethren and loyal gospel preachers. If I understand the implications of this charge we are being indicted for a form of idolatry, where the literal book (the Bible) is being made an idol, an object of superstitious reverence. If any of our brethren have made the material, leather bound, copy of the Bible an object of worship, instead of God who gave us the message that it contains, they are showing less common sense and understanding than I have always given my brethren credit for having. Who worships the book? I doubt that many intelligent religious people, or any informed Christians would be guilty of this charge.

Who Is Guilty?

Christians have always been known as a Bible-believing, God-fearing people. It is not wrong to be known as a people who respect and follow the Bible because this book contains God’s message to man. It is not wrong to quote it extensively in a sermon, to depend upon it for authority, and to honor its precepts. I have heard gospel preachers who give numerous quotations from the Scriptures referred to as “Bible bangers,” but I still like to hear the preacher cite Bible authority for what is being taught from the pulpit. One can hear lectures on social issues, economic problems, and human philosophy elsewhere but when we attend religious services it should be to hear the Word of God proclaimed.

According to the divine record (Acts 2 and Acts 8), gospel preachers in the first century preached the word, preached Christ, preached things concerning the kingdom of God, and preached the gospel with the results that thousands were converted to Christ. The powerful and effective work of Apollos as a gospel preacher is described in these words: “*For he mightily convinced the Jews and that publickly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ*” (Acts 18:28). If this is “Bibliolatry,” Apollos was guilty.

The Key to Growth

I have just finished reading a book titled *The Ten Largest Sunday Schools, And What Makes Them Grow*. It is interesting to note that every single one of the ten schools mentioned is operated by conservative and aggressive religious bodies that profess to preach the Bible, and makes an appeal based on biblical teaching and a rejection of modernism. Although I do not concede their claim to biblical authority on several points of teaching, I am convinced that the basic reason for their growth is their strong appeal to a public that is sick and tired of the “social gospel” and want to hear the Bible preached and taught. It is both ironic and tragic that at the very time that denominationalism has failed to meet the world’s desire for biblical teaching, some of “our pseudo-intellectuals” have decided that plain Bible preaching is no longer relevant.

Power in the Written Word

Paul tells us, “*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword,*

piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12). When our Lord was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, he rejected every temptation with a direct appeal to the written word of God. Three times our Saviour said, “*It is written*” (Matthew 4). If this is “Bibliolatry,” our Lord was guilty.

The liberal claims to trust in the person of Jesus and to imbibe the spirit of Jesus apart from the word, but there is no such thing as trusting in and believing a person while rejecting the words of that person (John 6:63).

Peter affirms that Christians have been “*born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever*” (1 Peter 1:23).

James also asserts the power of the Word in transforming our lives by the declaration: “*Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures*” (James 1:18). God’s Word has the power to create life and transform human personality.

The Literal Book?

I am sure that God never intended that anyone should worship the literal book composed of paper, ink, and binding that holds it together any more than he desires that we should worship the cross, but I would hesitate to trample on a likeness of the cross because of what it symbolized. I do not worship it, but I respect that for which it stands.

I do not worship the Bible, but I believe that it contains the Word

of God;¹ I love to see people bring a Bible to church services, and to see Bibles in the home that are being used and read frequently. I would handle the Bible with respect because of what it contains and for what its contents have meant to countless thousands of dedicated followers of Christ. I have my mother's Bible with the notations and the passages that she underscored with her own hands, I read the notes that she made on the margins, and I have a picture of her sitting in her chair and reading God's book, and it means something to me. I have a deeper faith in God's Word because of her example; as a child I believed that book because she did, and now I believe it because of the same reasons that she did. If this be "Bibliolatry," make the most of it, because I plead guilty.

1 Certainly the Bible, or the canonical text thereof, is the word of God (Psm. 119:160; John 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:13; 13:10; 14:37; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 Pet. 1:3; Jude 3), as I am certain brother McNutt would have affirmed. Here I understand him to be speaking of the fact that the **material**—the leather, paper, binding, and ink—contains the word of God. — Editor.

CORRECTION

In last month's article "Reasonable Dissention and Disputation," there is an incorrectly worded statement: "From Eve's first taste of the apple up to the present moment, sin has reigned." Somehow this sentence escaped my notice until it had already gone to print, but there is no evidence that the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was an apple tree. Many have speculated as to what type of fruit that tree bore. There is a slight possibility that it was actually an apple that Eve sinfully took from that tree. However, all one can know from the Biblical account is that it was fruit.

JANUARY CONTRIBUTIONS

CHURCHES

Moko Church of Christ (Moko, AR) . . .	50.00
Viola Church of Christ (Viola, AR) . . .	25.00
Dellhalf Church of Christ (Myrtle, MO)	30.00
Agnos Church of Christ (Agnos, AR)	50.00
Oak Grove Church of Christ (Walnut Ridge, AR)	25.00
Church of Christ (Bakersfield, MO) . . .	50.00
Poughkeepsie Church of Christ (Poughkeepsie, AR)	50.00
Sturkie Church of Christ (Sturkie, AR)	25.00
Lowell Church of Christ (Springdale, AR)	75.00
Elizabeth Church of Christ (Elizabeth, AR)	25.00
Camp Church of Christ (Camp, AR)	25.00
Moody Church of Christ (West Plains, MO)	50.00
Clarkridge Church of Christ (Clarkridge, AR)	75.00
Gospel Hill Church of Christ (Pottersville, MO)	100.00
Crossroads Church of Christ (Gepp, AR)	100.00
Pilot Church of Christ (Mammoth Spring, AR)	100.00
Oakley Blvd. Church of Christ (Las Vegas, NV)	30.00
Jeff Church of Christ (Thayer, MO) . . .	25.00
Church of Christ (Ranchester, WY) . . .	25.00
Church of Christ (Marion, IL)	50.00
Souder Church of Christ (Wasola, MO)	100.00

INDIVIDUALS

Gary & Ann Wilson (Hot Springs, AR)	35.00
Wilene & Luceile (Franklin, AR)	20.00
Hazel Stokes (West Plains, MO)	10.00
Lavern Trussell (Clyde, TX)	25.00
Loren Fitzhugh (Bryan, TX)	10.00
Gerald & Mescal Sell (Boonville, MO)	50.00
Steve & Patricia Hunley (Davenport, FL)	40.00
M/M Gene Campbell (Mount Pleasant, TX)	200.00
John & Arlene Everett (Abbeville, AL)	25.00
Ray McCann (Mount Pleasant, TX)	25.00
John W. Bryant (White House, TN)	40.00
Mark & Tina Lance (Chalmette, LA)	25.00

GOD'S AUTHORIZED WORSHIP

- COLOSSIANS 3:17

1. **LORD'S SUPPER** - The New Testament and early church history record that Christians met on the first day of every week (Sunday) to worship God and remember Christ (Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 11:23-34; 16: 1-2).
2. **PRAYERS** - (Acts 2:42; Philippians 4:6-7; I Thessalonians 5:17-18).
3. **SINGING** - God's word authorizes only vocal music and specifically singing (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12). The New Testament shows no use of mechanical instruments of music in worship to God by the church Christ established. Church history notes no such use for nearly 700 years after the New Testament was completed. It is an innovation of men, not of God.
4. **GIVING** - Free-willed, cheerful, generous, and every week (Acts 20:35; I Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8 & 9).
5. **PREACHING OF THE WORD** - The gospel of Christ, not men's doctrines nor entertainment, saves and strengthens us (Acts 2:42; 20:7; Romans 10:17; I Corinthians 1:18-23).

CHURCH OF CHRIST
P.O. BOX 251
MAMMOTH SPRING, AR 72554
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Periodical Postage
 Paid At
 Mammoth Spring, AR
 72554-0998
 Publication #211780