

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

May 2009

Vol. 43 / No. 5

“BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH”

by Jerry C. Brewer

The apostle Paul wrote, *“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life”* (Romans 6:3-4). Have you ever considered the expression, “baptized into his death?”

The significance of being “baptized into” the death of Jesus and therefore “buried with him by baptism into death” is that the blood of Jesus was shed in his death on the cross (John 19:32-34). Therefore, we are “buried”—not sprinkled or poured—“with him by baptism into death,” where we contact the blood He shed so that our sins may be **washed away**. These were the very words of Ananias to Saul of Tarsus when he told him, *“arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord”* (Acts 22:16). And in Revelation

1:5, we read, *“Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood.”*

It was “for the remission of sins” that Jesus shed his blood. When He instituted the Lord’s Supper on the night he was betrayed He said of the fruit of the vine, *“For this is my blood of the New Testament which is shed for many for the remission of sins”* (Matthew 26:28). Then, when Peter preached the first gospel sermon in Acts 2, he said, *“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye crucified, both Lord and Christ”* (Acts 2:36). The record then says, *“Now when they heard this they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins”* (Acts 2:37-38).

It logically follows that since

Jesus shed His blood “for the remission of sins,” we must contact that blood to be forgiven of our sins. And that is done by being *baptized into His death*. In baptism, we reach Christ’s blood by being baptized into the benefits of his death and He washes us from our sins in his own blood.

Have you been buried with Jesus by baptism into his death in order to receive remission of sins? Don’t let anyone tell you that baptism is not necessary for salvation. Jesus joined belief and baptism in order to salvation when he said, *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved”* (Mark 16:16). One may as well say he can be saved without the blood of Jesus Christ as to say he can be saved without baptism because it is only *in baptism* that one reaches the blood by being baptized into Christ’s death. Have you been “washed from your sins in his own blood?” If not, won’t you do that today while time and opportunity permit? Obey Christ in faith, repentance and baptism and become a member of the only church Jesus ever built.

Elk City, OK

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.**

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FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

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MY FAST HORSE

by Alton W. Fonville

As children, most of us can remember the many hours we spent riding our “stick horses” across the plains, keeping the bad guys under control. And it was the custom for the man on the “fastest horse” to win. We would depend on our fast horse to defend against whatever enemy we were fighting at the time. These traits have followed many of us into adulthood. Our trust and faith is now transferred into our fast cars, boats, planes, missiles, the biggest bomb, or the greatest “net worth.”

The leaders of our nation put their faith on these “things” which we have made with our own wisdom, strength and hands. We feel invincible because of our fast horse. It is as if we thumb our noses at God, our Creator. Laws are being passed to remove Him and all His influence from our

society, while at the same time, we are protecting “man’s writings” and influence. For many years we have taken great comfort in the saying that “we are a Christian nation.” But, instead of fearing God and putting our “stay” on Him, our childhood habits still rule our thoughts and actions.

As a body of people called the church—those who have been obedient to the gospel of Christ and have been added to that number by the Lord (Acts 2)—we also allow those human traits to rule in our lives. We still put our trust in our fast horse instead of God. Our leaders are afraid of the people more than they are of the God of heaven who can destroy both body and soul in destruction. The preaching of the whole counsel of God goes lacking in so many places for fear of “causing some deep emotions” to be stirred and we might lose some of our members. They will go to another place where they can “worship” without feeling the pangs of a guilty conscience for living in adultery, or for some other godless lifestyle. The preachers are afraid to speak the Truth and some leaders make sure that is the case. Instead of God’s mandate to “Preach the Truth”—reprove, rebuke and exhort—we demand soft soap, smooth sayings to make us feel good. In this way, no one gets his feelings hurt.

How can we overcome these traits and put our full trust in God as we have been instructed to do! We can let God’s word start speaking to us and learning from the lessons from history. When we seriously study it and let it have free course in our lives, our stay on the Lord will increase and grow, then we will put our fast horse out

to pasture and let God be our strength and protector. A few examples will confirm this.

Several places in the Bible’s history of God’s chosen people, their lack of trust, their rebellion against God, and the fate which they suffered as a result are shown. Psalm 78 and Acts 7 are two good places to start and are recommended highly. They show clearly how that after all the wonderful and powerful works God had done in their sight, they still did not believe and fear God as they should.

God had spoken to Israel a number of times, telling them that they were not chosen because they were the most in number, but because of His love for them and for the keeping of His covenant (Deuteronomy 7). He wanted them to trust and fear Him. The story of Gideon with the 300 men fighting against a large army, and the taking of the city of Jericho with a shout instead of a shot being fired should be faith builders for each of us. God wants us to know that when we put our trust and faith in Him, He will fight for us, in ways we may never understand, as we diligently follow His plan. Whether we are a “king of a nation” or a “leader” in God’s church of an average member of society, we must learn this lesson: fear God and keep His commandments. This is the whole of man! The battle is not to the rider of the fastest horse—it is the Lord’s.

“There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength. An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength” (Psalm 33:16-17).

Saint Paul, AR

EXCUSE MY LANGUAGE

(Oh Wait, You Already Did)

by Lee Moses

I have recently seen a couple of articles that I find rather disturbing. One is an AFP release entitled, “Swearing at Work Boosts Team Spirit, Morale”; and the other is an article from *Babytalk* magazine called “Why Moms Lie.”

According to the first article, “Regular swearing at work can help boost team spirit among staff, allowing them to express better their feelings as well as develop social relationships.” While this statement may be true, it does not reveal all the facts. Other questions one might ask include: (1) Does regular swearing/cursing at work **always** help boost team spirit among staff? (2) Are there times when swearing/cursing at work seriously **damages** team spirit among staff? (3) Is there a sensible way to permit only the swearing/cursing at work that will boost team spirit while wholly eliminating the swearing/cursing that will damage team spirit among staff? While I have not conducted a survey on the matter, I believe the answers to these questions are obvious. Yes, those who feel at home in a barroom will be made to feel right at home at work when the barroom atmosphere is replicated at work. But cursing will hurt the morale of those uncomfortable in such an atmosphere, and it will even hurt those who claim not to be bothered by such language. The Holy Spirit admonishes us never to speak in any foul manner: “*Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers*” (Ephesians 4:29). There is speech which serves the purpose of

edifying, or building up, hearers; and which serves the purpose of ministering grace, or doing something favorable, for hearers. However, corrupt communication does not build up hearers; it tears them down. It does not do anything favorable for hearers; it oftentimes causes them to become like those they are around.

The second article addresses the lies that new mothers commonly tell. These might be lies told to strangers, such as saying, “He sleeps great!” when asked whether he is sleeping through the night. This is apparently acceptable, “Because you may never see them again. . . Most of the fibs we tell strangers are harmless.” Mothers may also lie to friends, but it is reassuring to learn, “‘Lying does bring some social rewards,’ says Robert Feldman, Ph.D., a professor of psychology at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. ‘If you [dishonestly, LM] compliment a friend, she’s likely to reciprocate. Everybody ends up feeling better.’” Additionally, “Using your child as an excuse with friends—to get out of social functions and to get off the phone—is a time-honored tradition among new moms. So don’t feel bad: Your friends with kids are using the same lines on you!” The article goes on to justify lying to parents, husbands, and doctors. But regardless of how pretty one wants to paint lying, it is deception, it is misleading, and it hurts others: “*A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin*” (Proverbs 26:28).

Even if it could be demonstrated that there are instances in which foul language or lying might serve a good purpose, such will never please God. God, who gave us the organs of speech, desires that only blessing proceed out of our

mouths—not cursing (James 3:10). Lying is one of seven things the Lord **hates** (Prov. 6:16-19). Solomon admonishes, “*Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight*” (Proverbs 12:22). There is no excuse for foul language or for lying.

THE WEAK WEAPONS OF MEN

by Dub McClish

In the contest with evil we must remember that, while we oppose men who serve Satan, our real foe is Satan: “*For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, ...but against the spiritual hosts of wickedness ...*” (Ephesians 6:12). We are in a spiritual struggle for the salvation of souls and only spiritual weapons, provided by the Lord, will prevail:

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh (for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh...); casting down imaginations, and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

Despite plain warnings, we tragically see more and more congregations of the Lord’s people trying to wage spiritual warfare with carnal “weapons” borrowed from the enemy. Many have so compromised with the enemy as to be distinguishable from him only by the sign on the building. The “multi-ministry” concept that tries to provide a hired hand for every “felt need” of every person is not from

the Lord, but from men. The sports-recreation-fun approach offered by many congregations (in their own fully-equipped gymnasiums) is carnal rather than spiritual.

An ever-growing number of congregations use denominational films, tapes, and books, and in some cases even invite denominational preachers into their pulpits. Such practices demonstrate a shameless reliance upon the failing arm of the flesh (to say nothing of their fellowshiping error, Ephesians 5:11). Another stratagem borrowed from the foe is now the trademark of numerous pretend “preachers”—the delivery of short, sweet, pop-psychology pep talks, posing as Gospel sermons, but being little of either—Gospel or sermon. Christ and the apostles are not the models for such.

Ironically, the numerical growth of such congregations has deceived them into believing they are winning spiritual victories. However, the several mushrooming denominational bodies are convinced of the same thing on the same “evidence.” Numerical growth can be a great encouragement and even a power in the Lord’s church if the numbers are composed of those who are truly devoted to Him, but they are most deceptive if they are not strong **in the Lord** (Ephesians 6:10). Regardless of the numbers of men or dollars a religious cause may attract, said cause is the enemy of God if it rests on anything besides the Word of God. Far more spiritual power resides in ten saints who love the Lord and His Truth without compromise than in one hundred or one thousand who believe “the end justifies the means” in religious matters. *“This is the victory that hath overcome the world, even our faith”* (1 John 5:4).

Denton, TX

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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).

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 MAMMOTH SPRING, AR 72554
 ADDRESS
 SERVICE
 REQUESTED

Periodical Postage
 Paid At
 Mammoth Spring, AR
 72554-9998
 Publication #211780