

# 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

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## LEARNING THE TRUTH A Conversion Account

by Mike Conner

*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 (Romans 16:17-18).*

I obeyed the Gospel on June 18, 2012. Before that time I was a member of the Baptist church. I preached in the Baptist church and taught an adult bible class. I grew up in the Baptist church and was taught Baptist doctrine all my life. From the time I was a child until about the age of 18 I was attending an independent Baptist church. When I turned 18, I quit going and was out of church for about 10 years. When I decided that I should go back to church, and have my children in church, I found a Baptist church and started attending. I began to read the Bible more and study. After about a year, I preached my first sermon at a men's breakfast. I wanted very much to preach and know the Bible. I studied very diligently and listened to sermons, but I was studying through "Baptist glasses." As I grew in Bible knowledge and confidence I was called on to preach when the "pastor" of the Baptist church was gone or sick, and did so gladly. I soon was teaching an adult Bible class. I wanted to be a strong preacher. That

preached against sin and preached "Baptist doctrine" which I believed was Bible doctrine.

I believed with all my heart that the Baptist church was the right church, and that we were preaching the truth. Faith only, once saved always saved, and other Baptist doctrine I preached and thought was the truth. After about 3 years we moved our membership to a congregation of Baptists in Huntsville Texas. I was very active there preaching and teaching, as well as leading singing when I had the opportunity. During this time I began to do a lot of door knocking. Twice a week I would go and knock doors. Wednesday we would have door knocking for an hour before service, and Sunday afternoon I would go, most of the time by myself, for three to four hours door-to-door.

Around this time while searching on YouTube, I found some videos by a brother named Johnny Robertson of his TV show, "What Does the Bible Say?" After watching his videos, I was determined to refute what he was teaching. I was floored by some of the things he was teaching, only one church? A live phone call that stands out in my mind that brother Johnny had on his show was from a Baptist, one of many. During this call Johnny asked the man, "Do you

believe faith comes by hearing the word of God, Romans 10:17?" The Baptist man said yes. Then Johnny asked him, "Then why do you believe in a Baptist church you don't hear of in God's word?" The man fumbled for an answer and said that it was the closest thing to the Bible. Johnny said here is one closer, you can get close in the Baptist church, or you can GET IN IT here in the church of Christ. I had never heard anything like that. After watching these videos I began to study even more, trying to prove what he was saying was wrong. I also knocked on several doors of members of the church of Christ, and not being able to answer them, I told myself I am going to put what they are saying to the test. If they are wrong then the truth will show it. But if I am wrong then I have to go with the truth.

I started with debates. I called brother Johnny and he sent me his debates, as well as other material to study. He was a tremendous help and encouragement to me. I also watched other things and listened to sermons online. One book that I got early was brother Thomas B. Warren's book, *The Bible Only Makes Christians Only and the Only Christians*. This book was a tremendous help in my learning the truth. I studied this material for about 10 months. There were many

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sleepless nights poring over this material.

Around the end of May 2012, I was no longer believing Baptist doctrine, but was seeing that there was no Baptist church or any other denomination in the Bible. What is funny is we would say that church doesn't really matter, but when we were at the door of a Pentecostal or a Methodist, or another denomination, we would try to get them to come to the Baptist church, and believe Baptist doctrine. That is just one of many contradictions that I could not be a part of any longer. We KNOW that the church is SO very important—so important that Jesus died for it (Acts 20:28). And that it is His body (Ephesians 1:22-23), and that body is ONE (1 Corinthians 12:13), and that Jesus is the Saviour of that ONE body (Eph. 5:23). The passages in the Bible that clearly teach that Baptism is essential to salvation

like, Acts 22:16, Col. 3:27, and 1 Pet. 3:21, would make me ask myself, why, as a Baptist preacher, can I not tell someone what these Gospel preachers were telling sinners, that wanted to be saved? Even during a baptism while the “pastor” would have the person in the water, he would spend 15 minutes sometimes telling people why this was not essential to salvation, and trying to explain away those clear scriptures. One question to ask a Baptist preacher is, “Why won't you tell someone what Peter told those people in Acts 2:38, or what Ananias told Paul in Acts 22:16?” NO Baptist preacher can give a Bible answer to those questions, or defend the doctrines of the Baptist church.

The day after Memorial Day 2012 I called the “pastor” of the Baptist church we were attending and told him I was leaving the Baptist church, that I did not see the Baptist church or the doctrine we were teaching. He of course tried to bring up different things to show that the Lord's church was wrong, but all he had to do was turn to the passage that showed the Baptist church. As you know he could not.

Two weeks later, on June 18, 2012, my wife and I obeyed the gospel and were added to the church you read about in the New Testament. I am continuing my study and hope to preach the gospel as a faithful gospel preacher, and defend the faith that was once delivered (Jude 3). I want to thank brother Daniel Douglas for asking me to write this short article, and the many faithful brethren that have encouraged me, and for their strong stance on the truth. My prayer is to be able to preach the gospel and

defend the truth in service to our Lord Jesus Christ for many years to come.

Richards, TX

[It is encouraging to note from this article, as one brother did, that “They're still out there!” When the pure seed of the Gospel falls into the rich soil of a good and honest heart, it will still bring forth fruit—Editor].

**“WITHOUT EXCUSE”****Part One**

by Lee Moses

Man has a knack for making excuses. Adam and Eve attempted to excuse their culpability in the first sin by blaming others—Adam blamed Eve (and God!) and Eve blamed the serpent (Genesis 3:12-13). Politicians attempt to excuse themselves by blaming other politicians or by claiming ignorance. Even Moses, “the servant of the LORD,” tried to make excuses as to why he could not serve the Lord as the Lord commanded (Exodus 4:1-13). People make excuses for wrongdoing; people make excuses for inaction. Some will even attempt excuses at the Judgment Day (Matthew 7:22-23).

And excuses tend to be silly—actually **excusing** nothing. Following an accident, one motorist filing a claim with his automobile insurance company explained the problem: “The pedestrian had no idea which direction to run, so I ran over him.” Mark Twain told of an occasion when a neighbor, known for borrowing tools but failing to return them, stopped by wanting to borrow his ax. Twain replied, “I'm sorry, but I'm going to need it to eat

soup.” The perplexed neighbor marveled at the absurdity of Twain’s statement; but Twain responded with the Yiddish proverb, “One excuse is as good as another.”

When it comes to failing to know and obey God, there is no legitimate excuse:

*For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are **without excuse*** (Romans 1:20, all emphases LM).

**“I didn’t know” is not an excuse.** Some will say, “I didn’t know God existed,” or, “I didn’t know that God had revealed a plan for my life.” This is the attempted excuse that Romans 1:20 dismantles and destroys. The creation itself reveals the existence of its Creator, and it reveals something of the powerful, Divine nature of its Creator. The psalmist sang, *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork”* (Psalm 19:1). Simply by observing the universe, the weather cycle, and the growth and intricate design of life on earth, one can easily determine that there is indeed a Creator, and a powerful, intelligent, and benevolent One at that.

The necessary things of God that cannot be determined from His general revelation in nature can be known by His **special** revelation—the Bible. And the Bible is readily available to almost anyone who might be reading this publication. Over 6 billion copies of the Bible have been printed in 451 different languages. Ninety-one percent of American households own at least

one Bible, and the average household has four.<sup>1</sup>

Perhaps some may not have been brought up in a household with four Bibles, or with **any** Bibles. However, those who truly **want** to know the truth about God and His will can know. Seekers are promised that they will find: *“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled”* (Matthew 5:6). *“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened”* (Matthew 7:7-8). *“[God] is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him”* (Hebrews 11:6). Ignorance is no excuse.

**“I couldn’t help it” is not an excuse.** Many attempt to excuse their sin this way—“the temptation was just too strong,” or “I was born this way,” or “I can’t help it—I’m just a man (or woman),” or the Flip Wilson classic, “the devil made me do it.” The devil certainly **wants** us to sin, and the devil **entices** us to sin. But the devil does not and cannot **make** anyone sin. *“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you”* (James 4:7). Although Eve tried to blame the serpent (Satan) for her sin, she was forced to acknowledge, *“I did eat,”* and the Lord held her accountable for her sin (Genesis 3:13, 16).

After Aaron’s inconceivable participation—and **leadership**—in the idolatry and accompanying lewdness which Israel committed at the foot of Mount Sinai, he attempted the “I couldn’t help it” excuse: *“And Aaron said, Let not*

*the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that they are set on mischief.... So they gave me [gold]: then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf”* (Exodus 32:24). One does not have to be a metallurgist to know that simply heating gold does not cause golden calf statues to pop out.

Each one of us has the ability to choose right and to do it (Joshua 24:15; Luke 1:6). As the psalmist exclaimed, *“I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word. I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me”* (Psalm 119:101-102).

**“I couldn’t understand the Bible” is not an excuse.** Some say, “The Bible is just too hard for me to understand.” Others argue, “Preachers and theologians do not all understand the Bible alike—how can God expect **me** to come to a correct understanding of the Bible?” But to make such statements insinuates that God is incapable of communicating as clearly as human beings do. Jesus promised, *“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”* (John 8:31-32). Through “continuing” in Christ’s word, that is *cleaving* and *holding fast* to it,<sup>2</sup> one can **know** the truth. This may require some effort, but it can be done (compare with 2 Timothy 2:15). Paul wrote, *“...by revelation [God] made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, **when ye read, ye may understand** my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)”* (Ephesians 3:3-4).

**“It was too hard” is not an excuse.** Some view the Christian

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life as an impossible challenge. It is certainly a challenge, and it is hard work. But it is certainly not impossible: *“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous”* (1 John 5:3). And if serving the Lord is difficult, the alternative is far more oppressive:

*Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?...For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death* (Romans 6:16, 20-21).

*Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard* (Proverbs 13:15).

Jesus certainly offers the preferable alternative:

*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light* (Matthew 11:28-30).

Again, we show our love to the Lord by keeping His commandments (1 John 5:3; compare with John 14:15; 15:14). *“And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her”* (Genesis 29:20). When we truly love the Lord, serving Him is never too hard.

*To Be Continued*

<sup>1</sup> Daniel Radosh, “Annals of Publishing: The Good Book Business,” *New Yorker*, Dec 18 2006.

<sup>2</sup> *Meno*, in Joseph Thayer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* (n.p.: n.p., 1889), BibleWorks, v.9.

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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 11:23-24; 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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