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Memphis 11, Tenn.

The Noble Searcher

"Ye shall seek me; and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."
Jer. 29:13

Vol. VII

Pocahontas, Ark. October 12, 1962

No. 38



GOSPEL MEETING Church of Christ

405 Pyburn Street
POCAHONTAS, ARKANSAS

OCTOBER 15 — OCTOBER 21

Services Each Evening At 7:30

H E A R

LANDON B. SAUNDERS, Evangelist

Corning, Arkansas

THE PUBLIC IS CORDIALLY INVITED

Isaiah 1:18 — Come Let Us Reason Together

THE NOBLE SEARCHER

Published Weekly

— By —

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FROM HEAVEN TO YOU— THE WAY OF SALVATION

1. THROUGH WHAT MEDIUM DOES GOD SPEAK TO MAN TODAY? His Son, Heb. 1:1, 2; Matt. 17:1-8; Heb. 3:1.
2. IF CHRIST IS NOW AT THE FATHER'S RIGHT HAND IN HEAVEN, HOW CAN HE SPEAK NOW?
Through the apostles whom He chose before He left the earth. Acts 1:1, 2; Jno. 15:16, 26, 27; Matt. 28:16:20; Mk. 16:14 20; Lk. 24:44-49.
3. SINCE ALL OF THE APOSTLES ARE DEAD, HOW CAN CHRIST SPEAK THROUGH THEM NOW?
They have put in writing what they once delivered orally. I Tim. 3:14, 15; II Tim. 3:16, 17; Eph. 3:3, 4; Jno. 20:30, 31; Jno. 21:24, 25.
4. WHERE, THEN, MUST WE LOOK TO FIND WHAT GOD SAYS?
In the apostles' teaching — their writings, the New Testament. I Pet. 1:12; Eph. 3:5; II Tim. 3:16, 17; II Pet. 3:15, 16.
5. IS THERE ANY SPIRITUAL NEED TO WHICH THE APOSTLES' TEACHING (DOCTRINE) DOES NOT SUPPLY THE ANSWER?
No. Jno. 7:17; Acts 2:42; Cor. 2:10-13; II Pet. 1:1-10; II Tim. 3:16, 17.

6. WAS THE HOLY SPIRIT ACTIVE IN REVEALING THE WILL OF GOD THROUGH THE APOSTLES?

Yes. Christ promised the Holy Spirit to the apostles for their comfort and infallible guide in the things they revealed. Jno. 14:15-18; 26; 15:26, 27; 16:7-14; Lk. 24:48, 49; Acts 1:5-8; I Pet. 1:12, Eph. 3:5.

7. DOES THE ONE TRUE CHURCH SERVE AS THE PRESERVER OF THE APOSTLES TEACHING?

No, the church is the result of the apostles' teaching when their teaching is believed and obeyed. Acts 18:8; I Cor. 1:2; I Cor. 15:1 4.

8. DOES THE ONE TRUE CHURCH SERVE AS THE INTERPRETER OF THE APOSTLES TEACHING?

No, every person who can read intelligently the apostles' writing can understand their knowledge of the things God has revealed through them. Eph. 3:1-7; Jno. 20:30, 31; I Tim. 3:14, 15; II Tim. 3:16, 17.

9. DOES THE ONE TRUE CHURCH HAVE A CREED?

Only in the sense that Jesus Christ is the fullness of God and, as the Son of God, is therefore the object of the believer's faith i, e., "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Col. 2:16; Matt. 16:16; Jno. 20:30, 31.

10. IF JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD, TO WHAT IS HE ENTITLED? To everything He claimed for Himself—"all authority, in heaven and on earth," Matt. 28:18; Phil. 2:5-11.

11. SINCE CHRIST HAS ALL AUTHORITY, WHA IS NECESSARILY IMPLIED?

That He has the God-given right to command all men everywhere to obey Him. Heb. 5:8, 9; Matt. 17:5; Acts 17:30, 31.

12. WHAT COMMANDS DOES HE ISSUE TO SINNERS TO MAKE THEM SAINTS?

- 1) That they believe Him to be God's Son. Jno. 8:24; Acts 16:31.
- 2) That they repent of their sins. Lk. 24:47; Acts 3:19; 17:30, 31.
- 3) That they be baptized for remission of sins. Acts 2:38; 22:16; I Pet. 3:21.
13. WHAT COMMANDS DOES HE ISSUE TO SAINTS?
That they observe all things whatsoever He has commanded His apostles to teach. Matt. 28:30.
14. DOES CHRIST GIVE ANY MOTIVES FOR OBEYING HIM?
Yes—promises to the obedient, Mk. 16:15, 16; Heb. 5:8, 9; warnings to the disobedient, Mk. 16:16b; II Thes. 1:7-9.

—Selected.

CAUSES OF RELIGIOUS DIVISION

Johnny Ramsey

God is displeased with the divided condition in the religious world. Although men seem to be content and happy with all the denominations in existence today. Jesus Christ prayed for the oneness of His disciples (John 17:20-21). It is common, however, to hear church leaders thank God for the various sectarian groups "so that everyone may go to the church of his choice." Friends, this type of prayer makes mockery of the Lord's plea for unity. Why does such a condition exist?

One of the first causes of this division in "Christendom" is a departure from God's word. In II Timothy 4:3-4 we read of some in that day who had turned away from the sound doctrine and had begun to "heap to themselves teachers" who would tickle their "itching ears." This simply means that they departed from the Truth of God and sought out teachers that pleased them. We believe this same attitude prevails today as a cause of division.

Another great cause of schism in the

religious world is the exaltation of men and their teachings. In I Corinthians 1:11-13 we find that this very thing had happened in Corinth. The people began to exalt Paul, Apollos, and Peter above Christ. Today we see in evidence the same point. It caused division then; it continues as one of the basic reasons for denominations today. We should do away with the human names and allegiances of this modern age and call ourselves Christians and only by that name. (Acts 11:26; I Pet. 4:16).

Another contributing factor to the confusion in religion is the abundance of creeds, manuals, catechisms, and disciplines of the various sectarian groups. Friends, as long as these exist we can never hope to see Christ's prayer for unity fulfilled. These creed books forever stand in opposition of God's divine will. In Psalms 19:7-9 we read that "the law of the Lord is perfect". Paul tells us that the inspired (not man made) scriptures will make "the man of God complete" (II Tim. 3:16-17). These plain passages teach that God's Word alone is all that ye need. The Bible can be the only source of authority in religion. Unity would prevail if we would all use the Bible as our basis, but, as long as we hold to creed books written by men, we will see the reality of division in religion.

So, we, as members of the church of the Lord, plead for a return to the Book of books—the Precious Bible Divine. (From **The STAR**, Vol., 6, No. 5, Feb. 1957.)

OBEEDIENCE

W. M. Davis

Some people try to be Christians without doing the will of God. When Jesus was on earth, he said some called him Lord, but refused to obey his commandments. It is inconsistent to call Christ Lord then fail to respect his authority.

To accept Jesus as Lord means that we put him above all others and vow allegiance to him alone. The only way to be a Christian is to render obedience to every command of God.

The person who questions the authority of Christ and subjects his commandments to the test of human wisdom has not made the right start on the road to heaven. Men must obey divine commandments because they are divine and not because they meet their approval. They who search for the connecting link between obedience and divine blessings do not know the meaning of faith. In most instances there is no apparent connection between what Jesus requires us to do and the end to be gained. When Jesus made clay and put it on the eyes of the blind man and told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam, the unfortunate victim did not wait for explanations—he went and washed and came seeing. He obeyed Christ by faith, not because he could see a connection between the washing and the healing.

They who classify the commandments of God into essentials and non-essentials and obey the ones they deem essential do not obey the Lord. No one has any right to make such a distinction between divine commandments. Anything that God commands is essential. Obeying the Lord to secure salvation is not like eating the right kind of food to secure health. If God commanded a man to eat saw dust in order to be well, that would be his road to health. But, in the absence of the divine command, it is the road to sickness.

Every step that a person takes in becoming a Christian must be taken by faith—that is, he must take that step because God has commanded it. And the same thing is true in living the Christian life. To become Christians we must do all that the Lord commands us to do, but no more. To live the Christian life, we must observe the ordinance the Lord has

given, and no others.

Trusting in the Lord

Sometimes a Bible thought is used in a way that is misleading. Bible teaching on the subject of trust is often interpreted to mean what it does not mean. Certain texts on the subject of trust are made to mean that man is saved by trusting in the Lord and doing nothing else. It is claimed that to do anything hinders God from having his own way—that if a man does something, he trusts himself; if he does nothing, he trusts in God.

“Trust and obey for there's no other way” is Bible sentiment. To obey means to do what God tells us to do. It never means to do what we think ought to be done. That would be trusting in ourselves. A Mexican revolutionist said one time that in battle the Lord is always on the side of the big guns. Some pretended servants of Christ feel that way about their human devices. They think the Lord has to be on their side because of the splendor of their devices. The Lord would fail if he did not approve their way. They forget that divine purposes can be achieved only by divine plans. Apparent success by human plans is only disguised failure. “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy path.” (Sel. from Firm Foundation)

FACTS AND FIGURES

The number present for services:

Wed. Bible Study (10-3-62)	249
Sunday M. Classes (10-7-62)	293
Sunday M. Worship (10-7-62)	401
Sunday E. Classes (10-7-62)	70
Sunday E. Worship (10-7-62)	288
Contribution (10-7-62)	\$524.51

The world is not cleansed with soft soap; grit is necessary.

Worry wastes more energy than work requires.