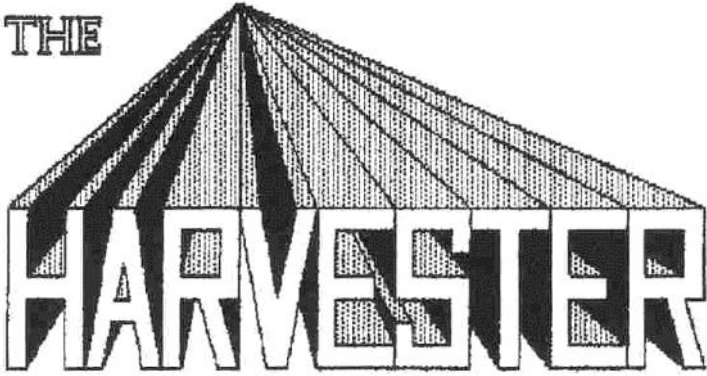


THE



"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2)

July 2015

No. 355

THE GOSPEL

Let us go back in our minds about 150 years to a simpler time when there were no phones, televisions, radios or even typewriters. In the United States of America, men had the religious freedom to study and proclaim Biblical teachings. Men such as Thomas Campbell, Alexander Campbell, Barton Stone, Raccoon John Smith and others were proclaiming, "Where the Bible speaks, we speak, where the Bible is silent, we are silent." There was a movement away from denominational creeds and to the Bible alone as our guide. The beautiful passage below about the

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gospel was written in 1832 in the *Millennial Harbinger*, a publication edited by Alexander Campbell during the nineteenth century.

The gospel of our Lord, as proclaimed originally by his Apostles, was, indeed, invaluable. Paul, in writing to Timothy, styled it “the glorious gospel of the blessed God.” It is emphatically called “the glad tidings,” “the truth,” “the gospel of salvation.” To those who were dead it made life and immortality plain. It proposed salvation to the lost, pardon to the guilty, light to those who were in darkness, the opening the prison doors to those who were bound, and predicated [based] the enjoyment of its blessings upon a principle which every one could possess who was able to receive testimony.

Mankind might well have expected much from an institution, for the reception of which it required four thousand years to prepare the world; and no unprejudiced person can read the history of its effects when it was first promulged [made widely known], without becoming sensible that the highest expectations were fully realized, and without being forced to admire that gospel which was the wisdom and power of God to all who submitted to its requirements. What sudden and surprising changes it produced in those who believed and obeyed it! It had the power to transform a raven to a dove--a lion to a lamb. The most bigoted and prejudiced of its enemies it could at once convert into the most zealous and devoted advocates. the cruel murderers of the Redeemer could, as it were, in a moment, by its influence be changed into the meek and lowly disciples, who, we are informed, “rejoiced continually with gladness and singleness of heart.” (Acts 2:23, 37, 38, 41, 46) The fierce Saul, breathing out threatening and revenge, is suddenly interrupted in his career, and being rendered

capable of promoting the cause he persecuted, bears upon the wings of love and zeal an immediate salvation to the remotest quarters of the ancient world. Love and Joy, Peace and Righteousness, descending from Heaven, took up their abode among men. the strongest passions, the deepest prejudices were subdued. The rich man rejoicing in his abasement, the poor man happy in his exaltation, were no longer unequal. Of the Jew and the Gentile one new man was formed--the Christian: and while antipathy and hatred were supplanted by harmony and affection, two worlds were blended into one. People of every tribe and tongue, of the most discordant feelings, habits, laws, manners, and customs, were introduced into the same kingdom, the same family; were filled with the same joy, the same hope, the same spirit: were placed under the same laws, and induced to meet upon a footing of equality and salute each other with a holy kiss of love. (Rom. 16:16, 1 Cor. 16:20, 2 Cor. 13:12, 1 The. 5:26, 1 Pet. 5:14) In short, in the course of a few years the long established religions and usages of various nations were broken up; city after city, nation after nation, were subdued; and the gospel, in defiance of all opposition, waved at length its victorious standard over the ruins of Pagan Rome.

Counterfeits, No. 2. (1832, January 2) *Millennial Harbinger* 3, p. 11.

<https://ia802607.us.archive.org/8/items/millennialharbi00unkngoog/millennialharbi00unkngoog.pdf>

APOLOGIA

QUESTION: What is “faith” and how important is it?

ANSWER: The writer of Hebrews vividly conveys, “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*” (Heb. 11:1). The Christian has “hope” in Jesus Christ via His saving blood based on the truth and reliability of the Bible which

is readily proven by internal and external evidence. We see God's fingerprints in His word and in His creation. Paul states in Romans 1:20, "*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.*" The things God made shows purposeful design. For example, the Solar System with the earth in just the right position to maintain human life. The DNA in the human body is a coded message. The Holy Bible has many fulfilled prophecies that prove beyond doubt that it is from God.

The importance of faith is found in Hebrews 11:6: "*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*" There is no way that we can be pleasing (gratify entirely) to God if we do not believe in his existence and seek to gratify Him diligently (pains taking – going to much trouble). Faith is a command and thus, is something required for you and me to do (1 John 3:23). We dwell in Jesus by keeping his commands: "*And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us*" (1 John 3:24). Jesus taught that faith (belief) is a work: "*Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent*" (John 6:28-29). James tells us that our faith in God must be accompanied by "works" (James 2:14-26). If not, our faith is considered dead. (James 2:17) A dead faith does not justify one from one's sins. Abraham was justified by works of faith:

Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how

faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. (Jam. 2:21-24)

Hence, we readily conclude we are justified by works of faith. The perfect (mature) faith 1) believes in God and 2) obeys His will. Once we are in a savable condition our faith must grow by adding the following so called “graces” defined by the Apostle Peter:

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall. (2 Peter 1:5-10)

By so doing our faith will work through love (agape) (Gal. 5:6).

On judgement we are going to be judged according to our works.

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead

which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:12-15)

The inspired John further expounds:

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. 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. 22:12-14)

Brothers and Sisters in Christ as we seek to gratify God and be well pleasing to Him we must seek him very diligently by faith which comes by hearing (understanding and doing) His Holy Will (Rom. 10:17, Jam. 2:14-26, 2 Pet. 1:5-10). As we read and study the mind of God we must be humble and let Him speak via His word and not add to it or take away from it. We must guard against reading and listening to denominational dogma on this subject. The Bible is very plain.

TIM ELDRIDGE
Woodland, AL

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, address changes and all correspondence to:

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PSALM 8

*O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!
who hast set thy glory above the heavens.*

*Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained
strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the
enemy and the avenger.*

*When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon
and the stars, which thou hast ordained;*

*What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man,
that thou visitest him?*

*For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast
crowned him with glory and honour.*

*Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands;
thou hast put all things under his feet:*

All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field;

*The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever
passeth through the paths of the seas.*

O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What was the fate of Shechem, the prince who fell in love with Dinah, Jacob's daughter?
2. What punishment was Zacharias given for not believing the angel?
3. Who stole her father's household gods?
4. How many spies did Moses send out to explore the land of Canaan?
5. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, who was the first man to pass by the wounded man?

Gospel Meetings

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
July 10 - 12	Chapel Hill Pell City, AL	Brad Prince Wedowee, AL
July 12 - 17	Temple Hill Smithdale, MS	Hunter Bulger Prattville, AL
July 17 - 19	Owens Road Prattville, AL	J.D. McDonald Woodbury, TN
July 17 - 19	Dowell Hill Columbus, IN	Mike Daniel Winston, GA
July 19 - 24	Oak Grove Woodland, AL	Various Speakers
July 26 - 31	Napoleon Woodland, AL	J.D. McDonald Woodbury, TN

. . . and remember last month's questions?

1. What was the name of the country where Christ sent the unclean spirits of Legion into the swine? **THE GADARENES** (Mark 5:1-13)
2. What was the name of the ruler of the synagogue whose daughter died and Christ brought her back to life? **JAIRUS** (Luke 8:41)
3. Who is not without honor, but in his own country and among his own kin and his own house? **A PROPHET** (Mark 6:4)
4. When Christ fed the 5000 in a desert place, how many loaves and fish did the Apostles tell Christ they had? **FIVE LOAVES AND TWO FISH** (Matthew 14:17)
5. Who carried Stephen to his burial place after he was stoned to death? **DEVOUT MEN** (Acts 8:2)