

Good News

From Getwell

Published by
Getwell Church of Christ

1511 Getwell Road
Memphis, Tennessee 38111-7299

Phone: (901) 743-0464

Fax: (901) 743-2197

E-Mail: mail@getwellchurchofchrist.org

Web Site: www.getwellchurchofchrist.org

ELDERS

W. T. Hardwick
Dewey Murray
Ransom Reaves

MINISTERS

Gary Colley
Daniel P. Phillips
Ron Wallace, Youth

Publishers of
THE SPIRITUAL SWORD

Alan E. Highers, Editor

Home of
The Spiritual Sword Lectureship
Gary Colley, Director

Radio Program
The Truth in Love
WHBQ-AM 560, Sundays, 8:00 a.m.

The Getwell congregation sends monthly support to the following:

Tennessee Children's Home, Spring Hill, TN
West Tennessee Children's Home, Pinson, TN
Potter Children's Home, Bowling Green, KY
Children's Homes, Paragould, AR

SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:20 a.m.
Worship.....5:00 p.m.

TUESDAY

Ladies Bible Class (Sept. - May) 10:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

Volume LVI

March 30, 2015

Number 12

ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

There is a familiar and universal command given by our Lord, recorded by Matthew, that deserves our close attention: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you (Matt. 6:33). Too many want the blessings of God without giving any time and attention to the commands of God. They seem to want to hold to Satan and the world with one hand and to the Lord with the other hand, but they actually want the friendship of the Lord only when they get in trouble or come to die. This sad mistake in living has been followed by many for many years. But the Lord will not be fooled or deceived by our hypocrisy (Gal. 6:7-8).

All things of the world should pale in importance when we make the comparison to the importance of the "kingdom of God and His righteousness!" Our minds should always be attuned to Heavenly things above earthly things (Col. 3:1-3). Indeed, we are in the world, but we are not to be of the world in the way we live (Rom. 12:1-2). This means that we will reverence and respect God, Jesus the Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, the church, and seek the salvation of the souls about us. We will consider the importance of regular worship to God, service to our fellow travelers, prayer, stewardship, fellowship, faithfulness, and family as important parts of seeking first "the kingdom of God, and his righteousness."

Where in the Bible Will I Find . . .

Gary Colley

The Mystery of Godliness?

These important words are from Paul to the young preacher Timothy. He says, "And, without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory" (Tim. 3:16). There are some things of which there is such evidence that they are "without controversy" or undeniably correct. No one can successfully argue with a fact. Jesus calls on all of His disciples to unite upon His Word, that we may have unity (Jn. 17:20-21). Paul commanded all to speak "the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (I Cor. 1:10). Paul speaks here of just such facts. "Mystery" in the Bible refers to that which is concealed until it is revealed. There is nothing "mysterious" or unintelligible in the Bible! True, some Bible references demand more study to be understood (II Pet. 3:16). The confusion injected from men's thinking does cause difficulty and destruction (Matt. 15:9; Rev. 22:18-19). But, all men can understand the Word of God. In our text, I Timothy 3:16, there are six elements in the "mystery of godliness." Godliness here refers to the entire Gospel scheme or plan of salvation.

1. "God was manifest in the flesh" refers to the incarnation of Christ, which made Him both human and divine (Matt. 1:23; Jn. 1:14).
 2. "Justified in the Spirit" refers to the Holy Spirit through the apostles vindicating Him from the charges of being an imposter! He is our redeemer sent from God (Acts 2:36-41).
 3. "Seen of angels" suggests Heaven's deep interest in His work, as angels attended Him (Lk. 2:9-13; Heb. 1:6).
 4. "Preached unto the Gentiles" point to the glorious truth that the Old Law of Moses was removed and that the Gospel was to be preached to all mankind as being equal before God! (Mk. 16:15-16; Rom. 10:13).
 5. "Believed on in the world" shows that wise men credited Christ with being the incarnate Son of God and Saviour of all who will obey Him (Heb. 5:8-9).
 6. "Received up into glory" is another great truth of God's scheme to save fallen man. Unlike any other, Jesus ascended back to Heaven as a crowning grandeur of His work of redemption.
- Great is the revelation of God's plan, by which all man can be saved. Have we obeyed?

The Basics of the Church of Christ

The New Testament commands, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear" (I Pet. 3:15). Peter says further, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God . . . + that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ" (I Pet. 4:11). Brethren in the churches of Christ strive to follow closely these scriptural principles and commands, both in what we speak and do (Col. 3:16-17).

God's law, from the beginning, is that all seed will produce after its kind. We believe the "seed," the Gospel, that was planted in the first century and made Christians, members of the church of Christ, will also produce the same result today wherever it is planted or faithfully spoken (Gen. 1; Lk. 8:11). The church of Christ was founded by Christ upon the confession "rock" that He was "the Christ, the Son of the living God." All must make the same confession before entering or being baptized into Christ today (Rom. 10:9-10; 6:3-4). Jesus Christ is the only head (Eph. 1:22-23). We wear no name but Christ's (I Pet. 4:16). We have no creed (meaning "I believe") but the New Testament (II Tim. 3:16-17). We plead for unity of all believers and, therefore, must stand against division as being sin (Jn. 17:20-21; I Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:4). We worship sincerely in accordance with the authority of the Bible (Jn. 4:24), realizing worship would be vain if we added things not commanded or used in the early church of Christ (Matt. 15:9). We seek to save souls by preaching the Gospel, teaching godly living, and doing good to all men (Rom. 1:16; Tit. 2:11-12).

You can obey the Gospel just as individuals in the first century! "And many of the Corinthians hearing, believed, and were baptized (Acts 18:8). We look in hope for the eternal glory with Christ (I Thess. 4:13-18). We invite all to read their Bible and attend the services of the church of Christ.

RON'S REMINDERS



Recently, I have had a couple of items come across my desk that are not strictly church related but interesting never the less. The first piece deals with the movie "Fifty Shades of Grey." Some people make the statement, "You shouldn't judge a book you haven't read." This statement brings to mind a statement Tom Holland used to state to his Bible students at FHU. He said that, as a Christian, he did not have to go out to the garbage dumpster and roll around in the garbage to know that the stuff in the dumpster was garbage. The second piece concerns Van T. Barfoot and his life and death. —Ron Wallace

What's Your Take on *Fifty Shades of Grey*?

The bottom line for me is that this verbal porn (and now visual as well, with the release of the movie) doesn't pass the "Philippians 4:8 test": "[W]hatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable—if there is any moral excellence and if there is any praise—dwell on these things."

But writer and speaker Dannah Gresh blogged about it so well, I'll just send you to it: "I'm Not Reading *Fifty Shades of Grey*."

There are some disheartening comments on her blog post, which are reasonably rebutted:

"You shouldn't judge a book you haven't read." There's enough information out there about this book series to make an informed judgment. Consider God's command in the Garden of Eden to Adam and Eve, not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They didn't know evil personally and experientially, but God still commanded them to stay away from it. God wasn't going to buy the argument, "How can we decide whether or not to partake if we've never tasted evil?"

"I don't question my faith after reading these books." Okay, but did they bring you closer to the Lord and to His call to purity? How did they impact your view of God's standards for sexuality? If you enjoyed books that glorify what God calls sin, how do you not see the discrepancy for a Christ-follower?

"It's just a fictional book, for crying out loud!" This is the most disturbing of all, because it shows the writer doesn't understand the power of story. People's minds and hearts are not swayed by a list of facts and statistics nearly as much as they are by story, whether in a book or a film or video. The power of story is that it can slip past the "watchful dragons" of one's belief system and turn the heart, both for evil and for good. All we have to do is watch how the values of a TV audience change over time by watching certain TV shows. We need to be *more* careful about novels and movies, not less.

—Sue Bohlin (www.probe.org)

Van T. Barfoot Dies

Remember the guy who wouldn't take the flag pole down on his Virginia property a while back? You might remember the news story several months ago about a crotchety old man in Virginia who defied his local Homeowners Association and refused to take down the flag pole on his property, along with the large American flag he flew on it.

Now we learn who that old man was. On June 15, 1919, Van T. Barfoot was born in Edinburg, Texas. That probably didn't make news back then. But twenty-five years later, on May 23, 1944, near Carano, Italy, that same Van T. Barfoot, who had in 1940 enlisted in the U.S. Army, set out alone to flank German machine gun positions from which gunfire was raining down on his fellow soldiers. His advance took him through a minefield but, having done so, he proceeded to single-handedly take out three enemy machine gun positions, returning with 17 prisoners of war. And if that weren't enough for a days work, he later took on and destroyed three German tanks sent to retake the machine gun positions. That probably didn't make much news either, given the scope of the war, but it did earn Van T. Barfoot, who retired as a Colonel after also serving in Korea and Vietnam, a well deserved Congressional Medal of Honor.

What did make news was his Neighborhood Association's quibble with how the 90-year-old veteran chose to fly the American flag outside his suburban Virginia home. Seems the HOA rules said it was OK to fly a flag on a house-mounted bracket, but, for decorum, items such as Barfoot's 21-foot flagpole were "unsuitable." Van Barfoot had been denied a permit for the pole but erected it anyway and was facing court action unless he agreed to take it down. Then the HOA story made national TV, and the Neighborhood Association rethought its position and agreed to indulge this aging hero who dwelt among them.

"In the time I have left," he said to the Associated Press, "I plan to continue to fly the America flag without interference." As well he should. And if any of his neighbors had taken a notion to contest him further, they might have done well to read his Medal of Honor citation first. Seems it indicates Mr. Van Barfoot wasn't particularly good at backing down.

**WE ONLY LIVE IN THE LAND OF THE FREE
BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE!**