ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

It was announced recently that the elders have chosen to have several speakers for a “Summer Series” on Wednesday nights. This series will begin the second Wednesday night in June and continue through July 13. We are looking forward to hearing each speaker who will no doubt bring great Bible lessons. Please mark your calendar for these dates and plan to be present. Friends, families, and neighbors should also be invited to visit with us on these dates. The general theme will be “Whatsoever Things Are . . .” from Paul’s writings to the Philippian church (Phil. 4:8). Following is the schedule as now planned:

June 8—Cameron Freeman—“Whatsoever Things Are True”
June 15—David Looney—“Whatsoever Things Are Honorable”
June 22—Mike Hixson—“Whatsoever Things Are Just”
June 29—Billy Sasser—“Whatsoever Things Are Pure”
July 6—Robert Jefferies—“Whatsoever Things Are Lovely”
July 13—Stan Mitchell—“Whatsoever Things Are of Good Report”

We look forward to our fellowship in the Gospel with these great speakers! Every member at Getwell should consider this of special importance.
Newspapers and billboards often advertise, “Attend the church of your choice.” These suggest, and many tell us, that one church is as good as another. To those who are moving into new communities and searching for churches to attend, it may be an impressive building that attracts their attention, or a friend might invite them, but most seem to believe that one church is as good as another. If one church is as good as another, then to attend the church of one’s choice would be correct. BUT WHAT SAITH THE SCRIPTURES? (Rom. 4:3). The Lord said He would build His church (Matt. 16:18). Could a man-built church be as good as the church Christ built? Christ is the foundation of His church (I Cor. 3:11). Could any other foundation be as good as this foundation? Christ established His teaching in His church (Matt. 28:18-20). Could the division and confusion of denominationalism made by the creeds of men be as good as the “unity of the Spirit?” (Eph. 4:1-6; Matt. 15:13). Christ shed His blood to save man and purchase His church (Heb. 2:9; Acts 20:28). Can any man claim that his blood could purchase his church and cleanse as Christ’s blood does? Christ proclaims that He is the head of his church (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18). Now, men claim to be the head of their churches, and one even claims to be the pope over his. But who would claim that a human head is as good as the divine head, Jesus Christ, of His church? The Lord commanded His apostles to teach people who obeyed the Gospel by faith, repentance, confession, and baptism “to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matt. 28:20). This included His commands for His worship. The five items He commanded were singing, preaching, giving, partaking of the Lord’s supper each Lord’s Day, and praying (Acts 2:42; 20:7). There are many different kinds of worship in the many man-made churches. Would any be foolish enough to contend that what man has commanded in worship equals what Christ commanded in worship? (Jn. 4:24; Matt. 15:9). No, one church is not as good as another! Let us choose the church of Christ’s choice!
“All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.”

Edmund Burke

The above quote is one of my favorite quotations found outside the Bible. The reason I bring this up is that in a few months we go to the polls to elect the next President of our country. In a perfect world we would hope to elect a New Testament Christian or at least a person who holds to Christian values and respects God and His moral standards. It is not the aim of this article to be political or to endorse a candidate. Recently, I have heard three points of view concerning voting in the upcoming election. All three opinions came from brothers in Christ. The first brother advocated not voting at all, a viewpoint I totally reject because a Christian should take a stand. Jesus’ warning about being lukewarm comes to mind. The second brother said he did not like any of the candidates, and based on that fact he chooses not to vote. The third brother said if voting for a particular candidate violated your conscience, abstain from voting.

This year’s election offers some unique challenges, but please remember that we are not voting for a national elder, or a national minister, but a political leader. Allow me to encourage everyone to vote and enter the polling booth prayerfully considering who most respects our national constitution and our spiritual constitution, the Bible. Remember the words of Edmund Burke.

I am happy to report that since May 1st we have had four baptisms: Dermaine Gonzalez, Markel Seay, Shannon Williams, and Melissa Williams. Please welcome these four into the Kingdom and encourage them.

Two young men with Getwell ties have taken the oath to join the United States Air Force. Hunter Ferris, great-grandson of Jack and Mary Thomas, has already left for basic training. J. D. Conley, who has family roots here at Getwell and was recently married, will leave for basic training in August.

Other young people from Getwell have a full summer ahead of them: Kristen Bright, who worshipped at Getwell while attending Rhodes College, graduated in May and went home to South Dakota. She will be doing graduate work in the fall at the University of Indiana. Jordon Grace completed the R.O.T.C. program at the University of Memphis and entered the United States Air Force as a commissioned officer. He is currently undergoing training in North Carolina in preparation for deployment. Amber Zink, who is a student at the University of Memphis and looking forward to graduation in December, is undergoing training with the United States Navy and is set to depart from San Diego for training aboard ship in the Pacific. Deadrick Mayberry is staying part of the summer at Tennessee State University to take a summer course. Deadrick’s major is Occupational Therapy. Noah Wallace is serving an internship with the Gospel Broadcasting Network for the summer. Noah is pursuing a double major in Bible and Communications at Freed-Hardeman University.

One final item I am happy to report is the recent baptism at the Quince Road congregation of Bernard, B. J., Watkins, grandson of Gwyn Watkins. Congratulations B. J.