ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

The Bible is a closed book to many in the world today. However, the Bible makes it evident that we cannot please God without “the faith” (or system) that comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17; Jude 3). Why else would the Word of God be given, if man could save himself without hearing the Gospel? The Hebrew writer wrote, “But without faith [in the Truth, GC], it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God [in obedient faith, GC] must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Heb. 11:6). Many today deny that God exists; rather, they say that man is god and should, therefore, live as he pleases instead of living as God pleases. Atheists, evolutionists, infidels, liberals, and free thinkers think that they have no reason to believe the Bible or that the God of Heaven exists. Of course, they are wrong and, furthermore, are without excuse. Paul wrote to the Roman brethren, “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” (Rom. 1:20). His attributes are clearly understood by those things that are made! Only a fool can look at the world around us and deny that a great mind and a creator made them (Ps. 14:1). “For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God” (Heb. 3:4).

Come and worship the God of Heaven with us in the services of the Getwell church of Christ.
How sad that men have ever been dissatisfied with God’s Word, and even thought nothing evidently of changing it. Even the former rich man in Hades did not think God’s Word was sufficient to reach his ungodly brothers in warning them not to come to his place of torment (Lk. 16:19-31). He wanted one to go back from the dead because he knew his brothers would not listen to God’s Word. When Olive Pell wrote her version of the Bible, she said she left out all but one-fifth of the Bible since in her thinking it was not necessary! Reader’s Digest cut most of the Bible out when they put their version out a few years ago. Who can imagine such blasphemy? But the creeds of men are no better. They also fix God’s Word to suit themselves. Denominationalism has long taught that it does not matter what one believes, just so long as they are honest and sincere! In the New International Version there are errors on most every page, even including the five points of Calvinism as found in the Baptist Creed Book. The deity of Christ is ruled out of the Revised Standard Version because of the infidels who are its authors. Evidently, many do not believe God could, or else He did not, do a very good job of revealing His mind to man. Paul disagrees and so do we! He said that even all the secret things of God are revealed by the Holy Spirit through the apostles (I Cor. 2:9-11). He proclaimed by the inspired Word the man of God would be “thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (II Tim. 3:16-17). Peter wrote his conviction that God’s Word gives us “all things that pertain to life and Godliness” (II Pet. 1:3). Does God approve of men tampering with, mutilating, and changing His Word? Let us notice some passages from His Book: “Ye shall not add unto the word which I commanded you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it” (Deut. 4:2). “What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it” (Deut. 12:32). “Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar” (Prov. 30:6). “All the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word” (Jer. 26:2). “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book” (Rev. 22:15-19). Thus, the wise can see the sin of taking away from God’s Word (Jas. 1:25).
Four times a year I look forward to the new issue of *The Spiritual Sword*; I am never disappointed. The July issue delivers again. The theme of this issue is “A Handy Guide To The New Testament Church.” I personally have enjoyed reading this issue. The contributions to this issue with Alan E. Highers at the helm are from Phil Sanders, David Pharr, Jay Lockhart, Stan Mitchell, Hugh Fulford, Steve Higginbotham, Dan Jenkins, Glenn Colley, Gary Hampton, Gary Colley, and Allen Webster. The opening editorial by brother Highers, titled “There Is One Body,” sets the tone for the whole issue. Brother Highers finished the editorial by quoting John 8:32: “and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.” The editorial is finished by a profound admonition. Never give up until you know the truth and never surrender the truth once you know it!

In other news there are several in need of our prayers. Larry Pike, who had back surgery, is recuperating at home under the watchful eye of his wife, Brenda. Robert R. Taylor has developed pneumonia while recovering from knee replacement surgery and going through therapy. Keep in your prayers two members of Doug Miller’s family: his son Michael, who is fighting cancer, and his daughter, Mandy, who is scheduled to have a C-section on Thursday, July 20.

Keep in mind the 2017 Power Lectureship, July 23-27. The theme is “The End of Time.” The location is the Southaven Church of Christ.

This Sunday at Getwell we are commencing two different drives. One is a commodities drive for Potter Children’s Home. Following are the items needed:

- Baking Soda
- Chicken Broth
- Individual Fruit Cups
- Lemon Jello
- Size 6 Diapers
- $15.00 for perishables

The second is for school supplies for our adopted school, Getwell Elementary. Following is the list of supplies needed:

- #2 Pencils
- Loose-leaf Wide-ruled Notebook Paper
- Kleenex
- Expo Dry Erase Markers
- Plastic Folders (with pockets and with brads)
- Crayola Crayons- Skinny
  - (specifically, 8 count and 24 count)
- Bottles of Hand Sanitizer
- 3 Ring Binder—Only 3 inch size
- Glue Sticks
- Blunt-edge Scissors
- Ziploc Bags— Sandwich, Quart, Gallon
  - (more Gallon than others)
- Black and White Marbled Composition Books
- Backpacks
- Colored Pencils
- Kindergarten/Primary Writing Tablets
- Reams of 8.5”x11” Multipurpose Copy Paper
- Erasers—Cap or Block
- Crayola Classic Washable Markers, 8 count
- 70 Page Spiral Notebooks
- Paper Towels
- Yellow Highlighters
- Bottles of Hand Soap
- Rulers
- Packs of Disinfectant Wipes
- Pencil Box
- Red pens
- Index Cards

— Ron Wallace