ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

For thirty-three years the Spiritual Sword Lectureship has been a major lectureship in our brotherhood. These outstanding lectureship programs have been a continual work of the Getwell church of Christ. Untold good has been accomplished in this work, and we believe this year will be no exception. All are encouraged to purchase several of the books for personal use, the use of the family, and for the church library. No comparable book to our knowledge has been printed on Deuteronomy—Moses' Masterpiece, edited by brother Gary McDade.

If you need help in finding a place to stay while in Memphis, please note the available motels on the back of the brochure, which you may request by contacting the church office and ask that a copy be sent by mail, fax, or e-mail, or you may obtain it by going to our website. Our contact information is shown in the box to the left of this article. Please contact the church office for additional information.

Our Hispanic work at Getwell continues to be fruitful. Their minister, who also conducts the Getwell Iglesia De Cristo lectureship, is brother Carlos Barrientos. He is a very talented preacher who serves the Lord’s church in a very fine way. Their planned lectureship will be conducted October 18-19, on the subject “More Than Conquerors.” The eight speakers will speak on a variety of challenging themes on subjects especially adapted to the needs of our day.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND ALL OF THESE LECTURESHPES! WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN EACH OF THESE SESSIONS.
Are You Putting God First?

Gary Colley

One of the first quotations that should be learned by a new Christian is Matthew 6:33: “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” There is not a time or circumstance when this verse should not be called to mind in all, young and old alike! Priorities are more necessary now than ever before in this hectic and rushing world in which we live. To seek first God’s kingdom and righteousness (commands) is a basic key to a happy successful life in Christ and brings the sustained hope of eternal life (Heb. 11:1). God’s care for the Christian is evident at all times. But, many wonder at God’s care just the same; some wonder if he will care for them, while others wonder (are amazed) when he does! Putting God first is a test of our faith that comes by hearing God’s Word (Rom. 10:17).

Let us examine some areas in which we need to determine if we are putting God first:

1. In relation to self? Selfishness and pride run neck-and-neck as great hindrances to Christianity (Matt. 16:24; Rom. 12:1-2).
2. In relation to our appearance in public? Do we dress in a modest way “which becometh women (and men) professing godliness” (I Tim. 2:10)?
3. In relation to our opinions? Many are willing to put God second to their opinions about instrumental music, sprinkling, etc. (Matt. 28:18).
4. In relation to our business affairs? Do we neglect the Lord’s work for the of business? Do we take jobs, knowing that these will cause us to miss the services of the church? (Matt. 6:24).
5. In relation to whom we choose to marry? Will my mate help me go to Heaven? Help me with the proper example for our children? Does he (or she) have an interest in spiritual matters, especially worship of God? (Matt. 4:10; Heb. 10:25; Eph. 6:1-4).
6. In relation to personal pleasures? Pleasure is not wrong within itself, but any pleasure that puts God in second place is worldliness, whether a trip to the lake, fishing, ball games, T.V., etc. (I Jn. 2:15-17; II Tim. 3:4; Ps. 84:11).
7. In relation to important decisions? Are all our thoughts centered in our likes and dislikes, instead of what may benefit or harm us and our children spiritually, in education moves, jobs, etc. “Remember Lot’s wife” (Lk. 17:32).
8. In relation to teaching and preaching? Teachers and preachers must see the importance and charge of II Timothy 4:1-5, whether in the classrooms, pulpit, or in the weekly bulletins of the church. So many today need to ask, “Am I putting God first?” (Matt. 6:33).

The God of Heaven, who created us, gave us breath, life, and this wonderful world in which to live (Acts 17:28), deserves the first place in our lives! His kingdom and righteousness should be first in our time, affection and importance. As our Creator, Provider, Ruler, Majesty Supreme, and Judge, we are indebted to honor and serve Him with our very best!

Are YOU putting God first?

The Platform for the Church of Christ?

Gary Colley

Our country has witnessed many Presidential campaigns. The major political parties have always adopted party platforms on which they stand and which express what they believe. The candidates run on these platforms to obtain and maintain party unity.

Platform for the Church of Christ

Jesus Christ made and gave, for all time, the Christian’s platform (Matt. 26:28; Jude 3). He commanded that this platform be preached by all faithful servants to all nations (II Tim. 2:2; Matt. 28:18-20).

All who stand with Christ must stand upon this platform, or covenant (agreement), or Gospel (Matt. 7:21). God laid, and Christ is, the foundation upon which all right religion must be based (Matt. 16:18-19; I Cor. 3:11). No man can rightfully separate Christ from the Christian platform (II Thess. 1:7-9).

The Planks of the Platform

Paul gives the planks in the platform of the church of Christ in Ephesians 4:3-6 and urges that we strongly endeavor “to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3).

Sadly, the present religious world is in confusion, division, and conflict on every one of the seven planks of this platform. We plead with all to reconsider these planks upon which the unity of God’s people and the hope of heaven is placed:

1. One God…………….Unity of Worship
2. One Lord…………….Unity of Authority
3. One Body…………….Unity of Organization
4. One Spirit…………….Unity of Life in Christ
5. One Faith…………….Unity of Teaching
6. One Baptism………….Unity of Practice
7. One Hope…………….Unity of Purpose

Please read again the Lord’s prayer for unity (Jn. 17:20-21) and Paul’s inspired command (I Cor. 1:10).
The Thirty-Third Annual
Spiritual Sword Lectureship
Deuteronomy
Moses' Masterpiece
October 19-23, 2008

Monday, October 20
9:00 a.m. Deuteronomy 3 Dale R. Willis
10:00 a.m. Deuteronomy 4 Dave Miller
11:00 a.m. Deuteronomy 5 Gary Colley
1:00 p.m. Deuteronomy 6 Paul Sain
2:00 p.m. Deuteronomy 7 Brad Harrub
3:00 p.m. Deuteronomy 8 B. J. Clarke
6:30 p.m. Congregational Singing Daniel P. Phillips
7:00 p.m. Deuteronomy 1 Gary Colley
8:00 p.m. Deuteronomy 2 Wade Webster

Tuesday, October 21
9:00 a.m. Deuteronomy 11 Bobby O'Dell
10:00 a.m. Deuteronomy 12 William Chambers
11:00 a.m. Deuteronomy 13 Phil Sanders
1:00 p.m. Deuteronomy 14 Mike Hixson
2:00 p.m. Deuteronomy 15 Bill Dedmon
3:00 p.m. Deuteronomy 16 Jason McDade
6:30 p.m. Congregational Singing Daniel P. Phillips
7:00 p.m. Deuteronomy 17 Victor M. Eskew
8:00 p.m. Deuteronomy 18 Dennis Guldledge

Wednesday, October 22
9:00 a.m. Deuteronomy 19 Allen Webster
10:00 a.m. Deuteronomy 20 John E. Shannon, Sr.
11:00 a.m. Deuteronomy 21 Caleb Colley
1:00 p.m. Deuteronomy 22 Bobby Liddell
2:00 p.m. Deuteronomy 23 Gary McDade
3:00 p.m. Deuteronomy 24 Winford Claiborne
6:30 p.m. Congregational Singing Daniel P. Phillips
7:00 p.m. Deuteronomy 25 Curtis A. Cates
8:00 p.m. Deuteronomy 26 Dan Cates

Thursday, October 23
9:00 a.m. Deuteronomy 27 Brent Smith
10:00 a.m. Deuteronomy 28 David Hayes Prophater
11:00 a.m. Deuteronomy 29 Robert Ball
1:00 p.m. Deuteronomy 30 Jason Roberts
2:00 p.m. Deuteronomy 31 David Powell
3:00 p.m. Deuteronomy 32 Jerry Martin
6:30 p.m. Congregational Singing Daniel P. Phillips
7:00 p.m. Deuteronomy 33 Alan E. Highers
8:00 p.m. Deuteronomy 34 Bill Burk

Hispanic Lectureship
GETWELL IGLESIA DE CRISTO
“More Than Conquerors” Romans 8:37
October 18-19, 2008
Carlos Barrientos, Director
Minister of the Getwell Iglesia de Cristo

Be sure to get your copy of the 2008 Lectureship Volume
Deuteronomy—Moses' Masterpiece
♦ Chapter by chapter discussion from trusted gospel preachers
♦ Introductory material on the battleground issues of the date and authorship of the book by seasoned scholars
♦ A special treatment of the importance of Deuteronomy
♦ Helpful teaching outline of Deuteronomy
♦ Readable homiletic style approach to Deuteronomy
♦ Cooperative collaboration from best known gospel preachers among us today
♦ Handsomely hardbound with gold lettering
♦ Approximately 500 pages
♦ A desirable addition to the Spiritual Sword Lectureship book collection
♦ Only a limited number to be printed: order your copy today
Please remember in your prayers June Barringer, who is undergoing outpatient tests this week, and Fern Hillis, who is recuperating at home from bypass surgery. Also, please remember with your cards, calls, prayers, and visits those of our number who are confined at home or in nursing homes: Hazel Bizzell, 3910 Stuart Rd. Apt. 701, 38111, 452-2679; Nell Brandon, Quince Nursing and Rehab Center, 6733 Quince Rd., Room 2006A, 38119; Emma Brotherton, Landmark of DeSoto, 3068 Nail Rd. W., Room 310B, Horn Lake, MS 38637; Frances Collins, 4779 Amboy Rd., 38117, 682-6917; Mary Haynes, 274 S. Highland, Apt. 808, 38111, 327-2127; Addie Nelms, 4007 Dunn Ave., 38111, 743-7554; Skipper Schulz, 139 Magnolia Dr., 38117, 683-3049; and Minnie Wayne, Gallaway Healthcare Center, Room 106, 435 Old Brownsville Rd., Gallaway, TN 38036, 317-4590.

Thank-You Note
A note of appreciation from Janell Park is posted on the bulletin board.

Lectureship Preparation
On Saturday, October 11, beginning at 9:00 a.m., there will be a clean-up day at the church building to prepare the building and grounds for the lectureship.

On Sunday, October 12, at 4:00 p.m., there will be a meeting with our zone captains to discuss food requirements for the lectureship.

Spiritual Sword Gifts
Gifts for the Spiritual Sword have been received from Ben Flatt (TN), Larry Kent (TN), M/M Billy Burton (OK), and M/M Hyman Copeland (OK).