ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

Visitors are always welcome and received with pleasure by the Lord’s people meeting at Getwell! We thank you for coming to be with us and truly hope you will want to return. May this bulletin invitation remain with you throughout the year to encourage you to faithfully attend the classes and worship services! Just as one week without prayer will make one weak, so also will one week without attendance with the saints weaken our resolve to live the Christian life faithfully. We need each other! The encouragement received in one Wednesday evening service is worth more than the association with a thousand in the world! So it is also true for the Lord’s Day!

As we have mentioned before, though Christians are in the world they are not to be of the world! We are not to live a worldly life, but rather a life faithful to the Lord and His teaching. If He is our King (I Tim. 6:15), we must be His faithful subjects. If He is our Lord, we must be His loyal servants to carry out His will in our lives. Do we remember the Lord’s words in the Sermon on the Mount when He said, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven; Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matt.7:21-23). Herein is found the basis of saving faith! We must not just talk a good religion but live our religion (Jas. 1:25-27).
A fine young person who has obeyed the first principles of the Gospel in faith, repentance, confession of faith in the name of Christ, and baptism for the remission of sins (Jn. 8:24; Lk. 13:3; Mt. 10:32-33; Acts 2:38) wrote on her attendance card, “There are a lot of young people who need to consider baptism; please direct something towards them.”

We commend the concerned interest of this young Christian in those who are lost and in need of directing their lives with the help of our Lord. Our interest in those outside of Christ is of utmost importance and should bring us to speak to these about their dangerous condition (Lk. 19:10; I Tim. 4:16).

Some Know

Some of our young people are more knowledgeable of the Bible than others who are much older. They have been taught the will of God from their earliest remembrance and, like Timothy, have had established in their lives “the unfeigned faith” (II Tim. 1:5; 3:15). This is not to suggest that infant baptism is scriptural, desirable, or acceptable, because it is not. Infants are safe and do not need to be baptized in order to be saved (Mt. 18:1-3; 19:14).

It has been my experience that most young people are of tender conscience and want to be right and safe. Until they come to the age of knowing right and wrong, there is no sin in their lives (Rom. 7:9; I Jn. 3:4). But, when sin enters, some put the action of obedience off and are prone to think that there will be plenty of time to change, but perhaps at some later time. Solomon wisely suggested that we should remember our Creator in the days of our youth (Ecc. 12:1).

Parents, Awake!

Some parents, instead of teaching and helping their young people to know Heaven’s will, discourage these who are old enough to know right from wrong and, therefore, are responsible before God. The young people are “put off” from obeying the Gospel when they ask their advice about becoming a Christian. Some parents are not ready and prepared for the questions with proper answers (I Pet. 3:15) and, therefore, refuse their approval out of shock that their young have come of age and are desiring to enter into Christ (Gal. 3:26-27). Many have made eternal mistakes here that have been regretted for a lifetime! Some young people are so stunned by what seems to them to be a lack of interest or terse short answers from their parents that they never let it be known again that they have any interest in obeying the Gospel (II Thess. 1:7-9). These sad parents, though perhaps unintentionally, have made a colossal mistake in dealing with the matter.

Show Interest

How much better it would be to greet the request with profound interest in the precious souls possessed by our young people! (Mt. 16:25-26). It is not necessary that these know all of the more meaty or difficult passages of God’s revelation before obedience, as parents may think, for then they would not need the commands to study and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (II Pet. 3:18; II Tim. 2:15).

Do They Know?

What must be determined in each individual, young or old, is whether they are knowledgeable of the love and sacrifice of God and Christ for sinful man (Jn. 3:16) and whether these truths are believed with all of the heart. If they understand and then desire to obey the Gospel because of their desire for forgiveness, to enter the church of Christ, and in order that their souls may enter Heaven at last, be sure that they know the plan of salvation! If a parent does not know how to talk with the young person, let them get some of the elders, Bible class teachers, or preachers to help them with the wonderful request.

Should It Be Public?

Some young people wonder if they have to answer the invitation of the Lord before an audience of people. The answer is no. There must be two or more present to hear the confession of faith, since it must be “before men” (Mt. 10:32-33), but this certainly can be in a smaller gathering rather than a large audience, which is a problem for some (Acts 8:30-38).

If you are a young person, or older, and have not entered into God’s fold of safety through forgiveness in the new birth (Eph. 1:7; Jn. 3:5), please think seriously about your eternal future. We stand ready to help in any way possible.
Women of the Word

LADIES DAY
GETWELL CHURCH OF CHRIST
MAR 24 2018

SPEAKERS:
CHRISTINE ALLEN
JANA GREEN

REGISTRATION @ 9AM, EVENT ENDS WITH LUNCH
RSVP BY MAR 8 TO 901-743-0464 EXT. 302
OR EMAIL AT MAIL@GETWELLCHURCHOFCHRIST.ORG

1511 GETWELL RD.
MEMPHIS, TN

LUNCH PROVIDED