

Good News

From Getwell

Published by
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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.

WEDNESDAY

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

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ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

Congregations that are not on guard against error are in danger of changing from scriptural teaching and practice to unscriptural positions which will condemn. We are indeed living in perilous times even in the church (II Tim. 3:1-5). The Getwell church of Christ continues seeking the "old paths" as found in the New Testament, and to produce in our lives first century Christianity as it was under the Holy Spirit guided apostles and prophets (Jn. 16:13). If this is your way of thinking, we invite you into the fold of safety, the church of Christ, and to be united with others who are on their way to Heaven.

Speaking of changes, our nation has gone a long way, in the wrong way, in the last few years! We now see some who want to return to right thinking, and for this we rejoice. For instance, in the last few decades the *abortionists* were sent to prison; *pregnancy* out of wedlock was scandalous; *homosexuals* were considered perverts; *pornography* was known for the sickness it is; *marriage* was sacred; *unmarried folks* living together was a disgrace; *homemaking was the right care for the children* we brought into the world; *ladies and gentlemen* did not curse; *houses* were never locked; *a man's word* was his bond; *child abuse* was almost unheard of; all *school students* had prayer and Bible reading to start each day; *high school students* who received diplomas were able to add, spell, and read; *creation* was known and accepted as truth; *authority in the home* was respected; and "In God We Trust" on our money meant people lived by their own work, not on welfare which was then a disgrace.

Yes, things have changed and sadly most changes have been in the wrong direction. Please join us in returning to the Bible, self-discipline, and the right way of living (Matt. 5:14-16).

Where in the Bible Will I Find Things God Hath Joined Together?

Gary Colley

Matthew 19:6 speaks particularly about the marriage relationship, and says, “... What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.” Only two things can dissolve a marriage in God’s sight--adultery (Matt. 19:9) and death (Rom. 7:1-5).

God Hath Joined--In Marriage

In Matthew 19:9, Jesus had just referred to God’s original law concerning marriage: “Therefore shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they shall be one flesh” (Gen. 2:24). He quotes Moses’ law in answering the Pharisees who came tempting Him but shows His law to be superior to that law which is now removed (Col. 2:14; Heb. 10:9-10). Several lessons are evident because God has joined a man and his wife together in marriage:

1. They begin a new home; both parties joined must be ready to leave the domain of father and mother.
2. They are to “cleave” (as if glued) to one another, letting no one or thing come between them.
3. They are to be “one” in purpose, design, and aim for life.
4. Warning is given that no one is to break this marriage asunder (divide it) since God hath joined it together.

God Hath--Joined Faith and The Bible

One noted preacher said, “If all the time that I have spent praying for faith was put together, it would be months. I thought that some day faith was going to come down and strike me like lightning. *But faith did not come.* One day I read Romans 10:17: ‘So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.’ I had closed my Bible and prayed for faith. *Now I opened my Bible and began to read God’s word and faith has been growing ever since.*”

The truth of Romans 10: 17 that “faith comes by hearing God’s word” is also emphasized in Acts 15:7. “... That the Gentiles by my mouth should *hear the word of the gospel and believe.*” And Acts 18:8: The “Corinthians hearing and believed were baptized. Faith and the word of God are inseparable. “What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”

We have noticed two things God has joined together that no man is to put *asunder--man and woman* in marriage (Matt. 19:6) and *faith and the Bible*

(Rom. 10:17). However, there are several other things God has joined with which no man should tamper.

God Hath Joined Christ and The Church

Individuals are often heard to say, “I want Christ, but not the church.” Or, “I believe one can go to heaven without being a member of the church.” If these thoughts are from the Bible, we should all receive and defend them. But, are they?

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus promised to build His church. Paul made the comparison of not *putting asunder* (dividing) the *marriage* to not putting asunder *Christ and His church*. God has joined them both. Notice Paul’s inspired words: “For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: *but I speak concerning Christ and the church*” (Eph. 5:31-32).

Paul further stated, “And (God) hath put all things under his (Christ’s) feet, and *gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all*” (Eph. 1:22-23). Since the church is the fulness of Christ, if one is in Christ, he must of necessity be in Christ’s church (Acts 2:41, 47). Therefore, God hath joined together Christ and the church. “*What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*”

God Hath Joined

The Blood of Christ And Baptism

In every age of the world, God has required the offering of blood as a sacrifice for sins. “And without shedding of blood is no remission” (Heb. 9:22). Jesus, “the Lamb of God for the sin offering” (John 1:29), said He shed His blood “for many for the remission of sins” (Matt. 26:28). His blood was shed in His death on Calvary (John 19:34). Therefore, for man to receive the benefits of Jesus’ blood, he must, in some way, come into contact with the death of Christ. Paul describes *how* man does this: “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were *baptized into his death?* Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death” (Rom. 6:3-4). *God hath joined together the blood and baptism.* Have you been baptized? “What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”

RON'S REMINDERS



The Blessings of the Christian Life

Michael Stock

So many times in life, we witness needless tragedies: people turning their lives to drugs and alcohol, teenagers giving in to peer pressure, and lives that are ended far too early because of tragedy and despair. We live in a world full of darkness. In John 8: 12, Jesus tells His followers, “ ... I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” As Christians we have more responsibility on us than just attending the assembly on Sunday and reading our Bible. Jesus tells us in Matthew 5 we are the light of the world, and again just before He ascended to Heaven He bestowed on each and every one of us the responsibility to go and proclaim the Gospel message (Matthew 28:18-20). One of the greatest blessings of being a child of God is the ability to tell others the message of hope. Though it can be very discouraging sometimes working hard and laboring for the Kingdom only to have, in our eyes, little response, we must remember God’s ways are not our ways and God’s plans are not our plans (Isaiah 55:8-9). Even if we can only reach one person, our time was well spent. Consider the story in Acts 8. God sent one man, Philip, on a journey to teach one lost soul. In Luke 15 Jesus tells us the parable of one lost sheep. He said one lost sheep is more rejoiced over than ninety-nine who are saved. “ ... I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.” Sometimes we get so caught up in numbers that we forget the value of each and every individual person. If our souls were valuable enough for God to send His Son to lay down His life for us, is not one soul worth whatever sacrifice we must make to teach them the good news of Christ?

The truest blessing of being a Christian is the fact we are clothed with Christ (Galatians 3:27). There is nothing in this life or the next that can pull us from the love of God. In the deepest and darkest points in our life when we seem to be all alone and forsaken, we know Christ is with us. When we come to the end of our life and the certainty of death is at hand, we know, for a faithful Christian, to die is to gain. If someone asked me, “why be a Christian?” my first thought would be how can I not? Sometimes it is easy to get so caught up in all the negativity of this world that we forget the very blessings of God. God sends rain and sunshine on the righteous and the unrighteous (Matthew 5:45). We are told in James 1:17, “ ... Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights.” Imagine a world where everyone adopted the same philosophy of God. Of course that is not possible here on earth but a day is coming (Titus 2:13), when our great God and Savior Jesus Christ will call us home to that perfect world where there will be no more pain, no more sorrow, no more death, and no more sin. Being a Christian is not simply following a man we respect and taking His name as our own; being a Christian is much more. Being a Christian is a privilege, honor, and gift no one deserves, yet the God of the Heavens and the earth still out of His endless love and mercy bestowed the honor on us through the blood of His Son Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:10).

Paul provided us one of the best examples of a faithful man following Christ. In 2 Timothy 4:6-8 he tells Timothy, “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” What is the greatest blessing of being a Christian? Though we live in a world full of uncertainties as Christians, we do have the certainty God loves us and, “ ... To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God” (Revelation 2:7). The question is not really why be a Christian. The question is how can I not?

Think, November 2017