

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.

Volume LIX

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Number 1

ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

At the beginning of this New Year it is good to begin planning for our work in 2018. If the Lord wills, we will have the opportunity to live and do His will in our lives (Jas. 4:13-15). Surely, we should plan to be faithful to all of the services at Getwell and to set aside our time for the special opportunities to serve in His vineyard. Some of those special opportunities began with the close of last year when brother Robert R. Taylor, Jr., preached on December 24. It was a joy to have him and members of his family with us. They are great people. We rejoice in his proclamation of the unsearchable riches of Christ. Lord willing, we look forward to having him again at the close of this year!

Mark your calendar for May 6-9, 2018! This will be the time for our Gospel meeting at Getwell. The elders have invited brother David Looney, preacher of the Ellendale congregation to preach. Begin making your list of those whom you want to invite to this effort to reach the lost.

To all who read this article each week, we wish the happiest of New Years!

“Then Sings My Soul . . . ” –I

Gary Colley

What makes your heart sing? Or, are you among those who really find nothing to sing about? So many today view life only in “discord” and being “out of tune” with God; they do not seem to think that they have much to sing about. In their pursuit of the world rather than their pursuit of Heaven, these have either never enjoyed the blessings of obeying God, or they have forgotten the joy of their salvation (Psa. 51:12) and their reason to sing! The apostle to the Gentiles reminds us that “we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh (a worldly life). For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die (spiritually); but if ye through the Spirit (His teaching) do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live” (Rom. 8:12-13).

Why God Commanded Singing

When God commanded singing in the church, He knew that His people had an abundance for which to be thankful! He therefore gave singing as a means to express our gratitude. To the church at Thessalonica Paul wrote for them to “Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (I Thess. 5:16-18). Also, he instructed the church at Ephesus to “Speak to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph. 5:19-20).

What Fills Your Heart?

Let us in this brief series of articles examine the things that fill the Christian’s heart, causing them in natural response from this melody of joy and happiness in the heart to vent itself through the lips in singing.

The Christian sings because he has developed a deep and abiding faith in God by hearing His Word! (cf. Rom. 10:17). From His Word we learn that we are not able to please Him with our own thinking, and that what pleases us may not please Him, but that we

must abide in His Word, which instructs us in the faith that pleases Him (Heb. 11:6). We know by faith that “he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;” that all “should seek the Lord,” knowing that He is “not far from everyone of us;” and realizing that “in him we live, and move, and have our being” (Acts 17:25-28). And, as we walk by faith and not sight (II Cor. 5:7), “We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord” (:8), since “we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens (II Cor. 5:1).

Hence, in these things the Christian not only believes that God is but that “he is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

Saved by Hope

Paul wrote, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Heb. 11:1). When a man has no faith in God, he has no hope of Heaven! Paul also said that we are saved by hope and that this “hope maketh not ashamed” (Rom. 5:5).

This hope, or expectation with desire to have the promises of God, is safeguarded in Christ and will not disappoint us nor shall we ever be ashamed for walking in this hope!

Then Sings the Christian’s Soul . . .

The Christian sings because he knows that, if God be for us, no one can successfully be against us and our eternal welfare (Rom. 8:31). This is the faith that upholds hope supreme, as through the eye of faith we see the eternal life promised in Heaven. Peter would have us to know of the “inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (I Pet. 1 :4-5). This is one of the blessings that causes the child of God to sing with a heart full of thanksgiving (Col. 3:16-17).

RON'S REMINDERS



Blessings of the Christian Life

By 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?

NOVEMBER 2017 / **THINK**