

Good News

From Getwell

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The Spiritual Sword Lectureship

Radio Program

The Truth in Love

WHBQ-AM 560 / FM 87.7

Sundays, 8:00 a.m.

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

Wow we just finished our 44th Spiritual Sword Lectureship. It was well attended, and good lessons were well presented. The week went smoothly with everyone working together and a spirit of cooperation and harmony prevailed. Several outside Getwell used their talents to make the week successful. Rob Barringer used his photography skills, Judy Conley helped with serving and cooking. Paul Davenport and Steve Ulrich contributed their video recording skills. Jacob E. Wallace heled with the power point and Noah Wallace helped with sound equipment set up and table set up and thanks goes out to Bradley's grandfather, Mike Smith who helped put it all back together.

As has been stated previously our 51st volume of the Spiritual Sword has come out. It is titled "Can You Find Your Church In The Bible?" It is a very eye-opening issue. We have already had to do a reprint to fill orders. One congregation in connection with the House to House national door knocking evangelistic effort order this issue to hand out to prospects. Another minister in another community is considering ordering enough issues to do a mass mailout to his surrounding area. The printed word is still very powerful, and this issue is very powerful.

In connection with this issue I did some research finding the first issue of the Spiritual Sword. The theme of the issue was "The Gospel Versus Liberalism". This issue came out in October 1969 with Thomas Warren as its editor. Inside the front cover is a statement from the elders. Their aim is still the same today:

STATEMENT FROM THE ELDERS OF THE GETWELL CHURCH OF CHRIST

The church is faced with critical challenges in every generation. Faithful men must meet these challenges with the power of God's Word. The threat of Liberalism is real and critical in our generation. Faithful men must be found, encouraged and supported who will boldly confront the error inherent in this false and faith destroying philosophy. It is our sincere desire to make a contribution to the defense of the faith through this paper. We have absolute confidence in Thomas Warren, editor of the journal, and Rubel Shelly, associate editor and minister of the Getwell Church of Christ. The purpose of this journal is NOT to imply that other brotherhood publications are unsound or ineffective. Papers such as the *Gospel Advocate* and *Firm Foundation* are greatly appreciated by every faithful child of God. In fact, we urge readers who are not already receiving these to subscribe to them immediately. Our desire is that the *Spiritual Sword* will meet a specific and immediate challenge with a direct counter thrust of truth. The content of the paper will not be general, as with previously-mentioned papers, but specific. All the articles included will deal with the issue of Liberalism and its fruits and will be designed to directly combat them. We ask the cooperation of faithful brethren in helping us increase the circulation and effectiveness of this journal. Your comments and suggestions will be welcomed.

THE SPIRITUAL SWORD

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Is the church of Christ a Denomination? (Pt. 4)

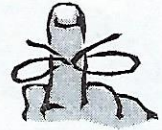
Bradley Smith

Over the past several weeks, we have tried to answer this question with several different approaches. This week, it is our intent to begin answering some questions and statements that are complementary to this one.

1. **“Do you think you are the only ones going to Heaven?”** This is a question which is often asked of members of the Lord’s church, with varying degrees of anger in the voice of the questioner. It is not the case that only the members of some “Church of Christ denomination” will go to Heaven. It is the case that only the members of His body, which is His church (Eph. 1:22-23) will go to Heaven. Friends, we are not asking people to leave their denominational group to become part of the “Church of Christ denomination” because there is no such thing. The church that belongs to Christ is not a denomination. Those who are in the church that belongs to Christ have had their sins washed away in His blood (Acts 2:38, Rom. 6:3-4), being added by the Lord to His church (Acts 2:47). Most in the world would say that you cannot be saved outside of Christ. How could a man be in Christ unless that man is baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27)? All those who are in Christ will be saved (John 14:6, Acts 4:12), meaning anyone who is outside of Christ will be lost (2 The. 1:7-9).
2. **“You are those people that do not believe in music.”** This is another accusation that many make against the Lord’s church. When people make this observation, they are, of course, noting that we do not use mechanical instruments of music in our worship to God. Is this because we “just do not believe in music,” or, “It is the way we have always done things?” Of course not. When God’s Word (2 Tim. 3:16-17) instructs us to sing (Eph. 5:19, Col. 3:16), all else is excluded. This is one way in which the Lord’s church is separate from the denominational world.
3. **“We are just taking different paths to the same place.”** Those who say this are partially correct. We are taking different paths, however, they are mistaken because those paths do not lead to the same place. Matthew 7:13-14 discusses two different paths, with one path leading to Heaven, with the other path leading to Hell. Anyone who is not walking in the light (1 John 1:7), anyone who is not abiding in the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9-11), anyone who is not doing the will of the Father (Mat. 7:21), or anyone who is not a member in the body of Christ (Eph. 4:4), cannot go to Heaven. The statement that we are just taking different paths to the same place is clearly erroneous and should be rejected.

We have sought to give just a few more reasons why the church that belongs to Christ is not, and cannot be, a denomination. We hope that this study has been beneficial to all. This may be a recurring topic from time to time, but Lord willing, next week we will begin studying another topic.

RON'S REMINDERS



The Despair of Atheism Part 6

American film director, writer, actor, and comedian, Woody Allen, understands the problem he and his fellow atheists struggle to face. He stated:

This is my perspective and has always been my perspective on life. I have a very grim, pessimistic view of it. I always have since I was a little boy; it hasn't gotten worse with age or anything. I do feel that it's a grim, painful, nightmarish, meaningless experience and that the only way that you can be happy is if you tell yourself **some lies and deceive yourself**. But I am not the first person to say this or even the most articulate person. It was said by Nietzsche, it was said by Freud, it was said by Eugene O'Neill. **One must have one's delusions to live**. If you look at life too honestly and clearly, life becomes unbearable because it's a pretty grim enterprise, you will admit.²³

In another interview, he said:

Then after a while, you start to realize, I'm taking the big picture here, that eventually you die and eventually the Sun burns out and the Earth is gone and eventually all stars and all the planets and the entire Universe goes, disappears and nothing is left at all. Nothing of Shakespeare's or Beethoven. All gone. Michelangelo, all gone. And you think to yourself. It is a lot of noise and sound and fury. And where's it going? It's not going any place.... You know it just seems like a big, meaningless thing. **You can't actually live your life like that**. Because if you do, you just sit there. Why do anything? Why get up in the morning and do anything?²⁴

Allen, Nagel, Rue, and others are forced to admit that a meaningless, hopeless, purposeless Universe incapacitates the most optimistic unbelievers. Were they to attempt to put into practice a course of action consistent with their belief, then they would not even get up in the morning. In fact, there would be no real reason to do anything—ever. That is why Camus recognized the fact that the only real question to answer in such a world is why would a person want to stay alive at all?

NOTHING LEFT BUT DESPAIR

What is left in a world where meaninglessness reigns supreme, but its human inhabitants are wired to need

meaning in their lives? As Lawrence Krauss so brazenly reminds his readers and listeners: "And by the way, that's the second of the two things I wanted to remind you of. The first is that you're insignificant. And the second, the future is miserable."²⁵ French humanist, Voltaire, encapsulated this recognition of misery in his "Poem on the Lisbon Disaster," in which he wrote: "What is the verdict of the vastest mind? Silence: the book of fate is closed to us. Man is a stranger to his own research; He knows not whence he comes, nor whither goes. **Tormented atoms in a bed of mud**, devoured by death, a mockery of fate."²⁶

So, humans are "insignificant," "miserable," "tormented atoms in a bed of mud." Yet, atheism is not finished painting humanity's sad plight with the pale colors of despair. Peter Atkins opined: "We are children of chaos, and the deep structure of change is decay. At root, there is only corruption, and the unstemmable tide of chaos. Gone is purpose; all that is left is direction. This is the bleakness we have to accept as we peer deeply and dispassionately into the heart of the Universe."²⁷

Albert Camus quoted Kierkegaard, who said: "If man had no eternal consciousness...what would life be but despair?" Camus then wrote: "This cry is not likely to stop the absurd man. Seeking what is true is not seeking what is desirable. If in order to elude the anxious question: 'What would life be?' one must, like the donkey, feed on the roses of illusion, then the absurd mind, rather than resigning itself to falsehood, prefers to adopt fearlessly Kierkegaard's reply: '**despair**.'"²⁸ Bertrand Russell bemoaned: "Brief and powerless is Man's life; on him and all his race the slow, sure doom falls **pitiless and dark**. Blind to good and evil, reckless of destruction, omnipotent matter rolls on its relentless way; for Man, condemned today to lose his dearest, tomorrow himself to pass through the gate of darkness...."²⁹

Into this chaos of bleakness, meaninglessness, insignificance, torment, and despair, Christianity offers a hope that can anchor the soul (Hebrews 6:19) and a truth that does not need a "noble lie" to make it palatable. Christianity provides the only system that can give humanity a reason to get up in the morning and live life to the fullest.