

# Good News

*From Getwell*

Published by  
**Getwell Church of Christ**

1511 Getwell Road  
Memphis, Tennessee 38111-7299

Phone: (901) 743-0464

Fax: (901) 743-2197

E-Mail: [mail@getwellchurchofchrist.org](mailto:mail@getwellchurchofchrist.org)

Website: [www.getwellchurchofchrist.org](http://www.getwellchurchofchrist.org)

#### **ELDERS**

Dewey Murray  
Ransom Reaves

#### **MINISTERS**

Bradley Smith, Minister  
Ron Wallace, Assoc. Minister  
Daniel P. Phillips

Publishers of  
**THE SPIRITUAL SWORD**

Alan E. Highers, Editor

Home of  
*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.

Volume LX

November 10, 2019

Number 38

## ON THE HOME FRONT

As I write this article today's date is November 11, set aside as Veteran's Day to honor those who have served in our country's armed forces. It was originally Armistice Day to mark the end of the first World War I or called the Great War until World War II began. World War I was supposed to have been the war to end all wars, we all wish it had been. It is said the treaty to end the war was signed at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Regardless, we honor our veterans at Getwell. Take a moment and say thank you to a veteran who has served our nation.

In connection with veterans if you notice Jack Thomas smiling a bit more broadly than normal it could be because his great grandson has returned stateside from Africa. Hunter Farris is his great grandson's name. He serves in the U. S. Air Force. Speaking of which Jack Thomas is a veteran spending 4 years in the army and 28 years in the National Guard achieving the rank of Sergeant Major. On a side note, he served as escort to Mrs. Douglas McArthur. Thank you Hunter and Jack for your service.

As this writing our preacher Bradley Smith is preparing to leave for American Samoa to conduct a gospel meeting. This trip may set a record for a Getwell preacher from distance traveled to conduct a gospel meeting. He assured us he was not going to lay on the beach and eat pineapple. Seriously, he will have a very busy stay preaching the gospel and reaching out to the community. Pray for Bradley's safe journey as he makes an extremely long trip. Bradley is an excellent gospel preacher who always preaches the truth.

A few last words, it was good to see Christine Allen and Scott Shepherd at worship services. They both have been fighting illness, are both still recovering and in need of our prayers.

Ron Wallace

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## A Good Man Who Was Lost

By Bradley Smith

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Many people in the religious world think that as long as a person is generally good and moral, he will go to Heaven. While this is a comforting thought, what does the Bible say on the issue? Is it enough for someone to just be a good, moral person in order to go to Heaven? We read the following in Acts 10, "There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always" (Acts 10:1-2). Notice, he was devout (Mat. 22:37) and had reverence for God (Ecc. 12:13), certainly good things. Also, he gave much alms to the poor (James 1:27), as well as praying to God always (1 The. 5:17). While this man had many admirable attributes, he was lacking in some areas. He was told by an angel that a man named Peter would tell him, "what thou oughtest to do" (Acts 10:4-6). Of course, this man needed to be baptized for the remission of his sins (Acts 10:46-47).

If simply good works alone was not good enough for Cornelius, why would it be good enough for us? Notice, we are saved by works of righteousness paired with God's grace (Eph. 2:10), and not by boastful works (Eph. 2:9). We are not saved by the good things which we may do in this life, we are saved because we have done what the Lord has commanded us to do in His word (2 Pet. 1:3). You cannot be saved without doing these good works, but it is not these things alone which save you. Notice this illustrated mathematically.

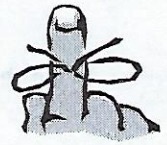
Good Works (Eph. 2:10) + Obedience (1 Pet. 3:21) = Salvation

Good Works - Obedience = No Salvation

Obedience - Good Works = No Salvation

Obedience and good works are inseparable. If we are truly obedient to the gospel of Christ, we will care for all those who are around us (James 2). Likewise, if we are truly invested in these good works, we will obey the gospel of Christ, for there is no better work (John 14:15). No matter what good, charitable deeds a person may do, if he has not had his sins washed away by the blood of Christ, he is lost (Rom. 6:3-4).

# RON'S REMINDERS



For the next couple of weeks or so we will be running the first editorial of the first *Spiritual Sword* by Thomas B. Warren. This issue would be Volume 1 Number 1 dated October, 1969

## OUR AIM

During most of 1958, I, along with a number of other brethren, published a monthly journal, *The Spiritual Sword*. We have reason to believe that during its brief history, that journal did much to defeat the move within the church to persuade brethren to accept the views: (1) that it is unscriptural for one church to assist another church in preaching the gospel, and (2) that it is unscriptural for a church to take money from its treasury to assist deserving needy people who are not members of the church. Those two issues are now, to all intents and purposes, dead.

But, there are now other issues which must be met. As might have been expected as an aftermath to the struggle just noted, the basic issues now before the church are related to some form of "liberalism" or skepticism. It seems that around the world men in staggering numbers are rejecting the God of the Bible, rejecting the Bible itself, rejecting the view that truth is absolute and are accepting the views that God does not exist, that the Bible is merely a human document, that truth is only relative, that no one can really attain to religious knowledge.

These facts are disturbing even when they relate only to those who are not members of the Lord's Church. It is much more disturbing when some of these views are espoused by some who profess to be members of the Lord's church. While I know of no members of the church who reject faith in God's existence, there are those in the church who are holding anti-Biblical views. Some who even profess to be preaching the gospel of Christ are urging acceptance of the views that denominationalists should be recognized as Christians and that their preachers should be recognized as faithful preachers of the gospel of Christ. Much of this kind of thinking springs, no doubt, from the fallacious reasoning that since many different viewpoints are held as to what the Bible teaches on various points, none of us can be certain that he has gained and knows the truth and so none should look upon himself (or those who stand with him) as having any relationship with the Lord that other religious people do not have.

Typical of statements currently being made is the following from the pen of one who professes to be a preacher of the gospel of Christ:

Many times we have it carelessly flung that certain congregations and segments are not the "true church — they are not the loyal church." May we now ask just which segment among us is the "loyal one"? In order to answer this we must first answer: "loyal to what?" Every single segment among us has its own unwritten creed, party loyalties, traditions, cliches, shibboleths, badges, standards and tests of doctrinal purity. How then are we going to determine loyalty? Reader don't reply, "By God's word of course," because that is exactly what each segment among us has parroted for years. AD of us *think* we are speaking as the Bible speaks.

It is granted that in the quotation the writer was speaking of divisions within the church, but the principle which underlies his thinking is the same one used by another writer (in the same issue of the same publication) in an effort to prove that such men as Billy Graham should be recognized as faithful gospel preachers. The argument seems to be something like this: (1) if there is disagreement among religious people, then no one can be right, (2) there is disagreement among religious people, (3) therefore, no one can be right.

This kind of thinking is basically that used by liberals and skeptics of many sorts. The argument is not *sound* (even though, in the form I have given to it, it is *valid*) because the *major premise is false!* It simply is not true that if there is disagreement among religious people then no one can attain truth. The fact that ten mathematics students all have differing answers to a given problem does not prove that none of them has (or can have) the *right* answer. The fact that four witnesses give differing testimony during a court trial is not sufficient evidence to warrant the conclusion that none of them has given the true account. The fact that five physicians may give differing diagnoses of a medical problem does not necessarily mean that none of them has set out the correct diagnosis.