

# Good News

*From Getwell*

Published by  
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**THE SPIRITUAL SWORD**

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*The Truth in Love*

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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

I recently attended a Personal Evangelism Seminar at the Covington church of Christ which was presented by House to House, Heart to Heart. Rob Whitacre, who is the director of the House to House, Heart to Heart School of Evangelism was the speaker. Brother Whitacre and his family travel all over the country teaching congregations how to be more effective soul winners. This was a very uplifting and informative seminar. He shared several strategies with us that I hope to be able to share with you and that we can put in place to help Getwell grow. Ron Wallace and Dewey Murray also attended and I am sure that they would share the same thoughts.

Speaking of area events, please check the hallway bulletin board for upcoming events at area congregations. It is always encouraging to attend a Gospel meeting, lectureship, seminar, or other event at an area congregation. They will often reciprocate and come to our Gospel meetings and lectureship.

We have plans to grow. This is a good thing, but we can have all the plans in the world, but if they are not put into action, we cannot grow. It will take an entire congregational effort for this to take place. Please help us. We cannot do it without your help. An important lesson that brother Whitacre taught during the seminar is that sometimes "...it just takes one." He talked about a lady that had reached out to a congregation for information concerning marriage. As he talked with her, he learned that she was not a Christian. He studied the Bible with her, her husband, and a few others. Just because one lady reached out wanting information on marriage, five people were baptized into Christ. Opportunities abound, we just have to be willing to look for them.

Bradley Smith

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# From The Desk Of Bradley Smith

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## The Sin of Unbelief

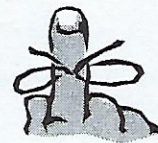
Often times, we note the importance of faith in order for one to not only become a Christian, but to live the faithful Christian life (John 3:16, Heb. 11:6, etc.). What we may fail to realize though, is that unbelief is far more prevalent in our lives than we think. Unbelief is absolutely a sin, note Hebrews 3:12, "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." Keeping this verse in its context, the inspired author admonishes the brethren not to follow after the Jewish pattern of unbelief (Heb. 3:7-11). God was ready to give the land of Canaan to the children of Israel, but they did not have enough faith in Him (Num. 13:31-14:38). They forgot who was on their side. Surely, we never do that today (please note the sarcasm).

Yes, many times we do let our faith waver. No, we are not commanded to go and literally conquer a nation like the children of Israel were, but we do have our own duties and goals in this life. When we read, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15), then say, "Well Lord, don't you know that the soil has changed?" we are guilty of the same thing. The Lord did not accept their excuses, why then do we think that He will accept ours?

Specifically in the context under which the book of Hebrews was written, the inspired author is telling them not to turn their backs on Christianity because the Old Law will do nothing for you anymore (cf. Heb. 10:25-26). Sure, we can read the Old Law and learn from it (Rom. 15:4), but we are not bound to that law any longer. In essence, the author is saying, "Keep your faith in Jesus Christ, do not let outside forces lead you away."

Their outside sources would have been Jewish in what they said, but our outside sources are primarily secular. Many of those outside voices say, "You do not need to live the Christian life now, you have plenty of time." How false of a statement that that is! We are not promised a long, full life and the opportunity to live right once we are "too old to have fun anymore" in their words (James 4:14). It is so vital to maintain our faith in the Lord because we do not know what tomorrow holds, or even if there will be a tomorrow. Let us continue to put our full faith in God and not waver and fall into the things of the world (James 1:6).

# RON'S REMINDERS



## Can You Love Jesus And **NOT** THE CHURCH?

There are a lot of people in the world today that simply do not attend church. We have family members, friends, and other acquaintances that have no desire to attend a worship service. When Sunday rolls around, it is just another day to sleep in and relax on their day off work. Wednesday nights quickly approach and, once again, it is just a quiet night to rest on the couch and catch up on television shows.

One of the reasons that we have heard in the past of why someone does not attend church services was very simple ... They love Jesus but they do not love the church.

Let's start with this simple but powerful passage found in Ephesians. Ephesians 5:25-"Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her."

Can you love Jesus and not the church?

If you love Christ, you must also love His bride, the church.

In our culture, we still must help others understand the importance of loving the church and what the church actually consists of.

First and foremost, we are built in Christ's image. We are to be like Christ, walk like Christ, and most importantly, **love** like Christ. Christ loved the church so much that He gave His Son for the church.

What defines the church? Our dictionaries define the church as "a building used for public Christian worship." Unfortunately for the writers, that definition is not accurate when used in the correct Biblical term. The church is all but what the world has defined it as.

The church is not a building at all but the body of believers that represent Christ's family. Ephesians references the church as the bride of Christ. The church is made up of imperfect people who need God to restore their souls, build relationships with Him and others, help those who need help, and to serve and glorify God.

Hebrews 10:24-25 states that we should not neglect to meet together or forsake the assembly as some have made it a habit but should encourage one another. Does this passage really mean that we should meet together for worship? Absolutely.

So, can you love Jesus and not the church? The short, simple answer is **no**, you can't. If you don't love the church, you don't love your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12:31), you can't love our enemies (Matthew 5:44), and you are not living in the image of Christ.

Christ loved the church so much that He gave His Son for it. We should love the church that much as well. It's simple, you can't love Jesus without loving His people. When you love God's family, you bear each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2) and you would do anything for them.

If you have struggled with the thought of loving Jesus and not loving the church, we encourage you to reach out to God, pray to help you have a better understanding of what God's love and His church really is. Reach out to other Christians as well and ask for prayer of encouragement. We have an amazing, loving family that you are welcome to be a part of and grow with us.

**God Is Good ...**

Brandon Brooks, Think Magazine Apr.2020