

OUR GOSPEL MEETING: NOV. 11-16
JERRY FITE FROM PASADENA, TX WILL PREACH THE WORD

Sunday A.M. (Class) God's Antidote For Worry
Sunday A.M. - The Individual's Responsibility To The Church
Sunday P.M. - The Church's Responsibility To the Individual

Nightly at 7:00 PM

Monday - The Roman Road To Salvation
Tuesday - What Can A Dead Man Do?
Wednesday - Preparing Our Children For This World
Thursday - Unity and Uniformity
Friday - The Judgment: Who Me?

Remember our weekday morning lessons (11AM)

Tuesday - Who Are You That Judges Your Neighbor? (James 4:11-12)
Thursday - The Forgotten Work (James 5:19-20)

-- *Editor's Note:* Our space in the *Arkansas Weekly* will simply be a list of the topics of the week, so use that article and this bulletin to make others aware of this opportunity to learn more about the Bible. God knows that we are making these plans and is working with us. Jerry Fite is coming to work with us not for us, and his preparations have already begun. What will you do this week as you meet people who will benefit from the opportunities of the week?

We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM

Church of Christ—Quail Valley
4104 E. Harrison St.
Batesville, AR 72501
Office- (870) 793-6700

Evangelists:
David Halbrook 569-4491
Lenoard Westbrook 612-8409

The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*
Church of Christ--Quail Valley
November 4, 2012
WWW.QVCOC.COM

"I DO NOT AGREE WITH PAUL"

Jerry Fite (Glad Tidings; Sept. 23, 2012)

On a recent preaching trip, I introduced myself to a visitor from Portland, Oregon. In response to my question as to her religious affiliation, she let me know she had once been a member of the church of Christ, but now she was not affiliated with any particular religious group.

She had recently been interested in knowing more about a group that had received media coverage in her area regarding their work of receiving and helping the poor. Turned on by such selfless work, she was traveling across the United States volunteering to help other similar groups and gathering research for a possible book.

Addressing my curiosity as to why she left the church, she told me she did not like the "church of Christ attitude" in their strict way of approaching the Bible. She believed the Bible, but was turned off by the restrictive interpretations she had experienced in the church.

In addition, she said she believed women should have more of a prominent role in the church. In her view, Paul was a product of his age in his view of women's roles. Therefore, she did not agree with Paul.

The words Paul wrote were the very words God revealed (*I Corinthians 2:10-13*). "If any man thinketh himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him take knowledge of the things which I write unto you, that they are the commandment of the Lord" (*I Corinthians 14:37*). So, when Paul writes that women were not "to teach, nor have dominion over a man" (*I Timothy 2:12*), how does one disagree with Paul and still hold to God and believe the Bible?

Trying to reason logically without having the dreaded "church of Christ attitude" I asked her to consider the fact Paul did not appeal to present culture in setting forth God's restrictions of women not having dominion over man. He based his restrictions on man being created first. "For Adam was first formed, then Eve", and "Adam was

not beguiled...” but the devil beguiled Eve, and she, “being beguiled hath fallen into transgression” (1 Timothy 2:13-14). Paul’s restriction is not based upon a cultural bias, but upon historical facts. The Bible agrees with Paul’s facts (Genesis 2:18-23, 3:1-6), and God through the Holy Spirit guided Paul’s writings. Disprove the facts, and you can disagree with Paul, but you cannot logically hold to believing the Bible and still accuse Paul of writing from a cultural bias. Needless to say, our little visit ended abruptly.

I thought about this young lady being interested in groups who help people in need. The work of helping others takes place in local churches of Christ on a daily basis. Local churches help other saints when they are in need (Acts 2:44-45, 4:34-35, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2). Then, individual members of these local churches help needy non-Christians as they have opportunity (Galatians 6:10, James 1:27). Buying groceries, giving clothes, and helping with bills are occurring without media coverage. If you want to help others, why not serve the Lord in His local church?

<http://parkviewcoc.org/Glad%20Tidings/Glad%20Tidings.php>

A CHRISTIAN PRAYS! DO YOU?

Robert Turner

A Christian prays -- and prays -- and prays. But many church members scarcely know the meaning of the word once they leave the church building and the stilted "audience conscious" phrases that pass for prayer there. "Pray without ceasing;" (1TH.5:17) makes no apparent impression.

It is a tragedy that God is considered so inaccessible. To many He is far away, locked in an inner office; with an alert guard of clergymen, forms and format to protect Him from the "ordinary" caller. The idea is wholly foreign to the truth.

"Enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly" (MAT.6:6). Thus Jesus describes the close intimate relation that exists between the petitioner and his Creator. This does not negate public prayer (the contrast is with hypocritical showoffs); in fact this touches the vitals of all acceptable prayer. When intimate communion with God is missing, public prayer becomes a farce. Prayer is a Christian's privilege; made real and earnest -- meaningful -- because a Christian (and only a Christian) truly appreciates such characteristics of God as the following.

God is near! He is "not far from every one of us; for in Him we live, and move, and have our being" (ACT.17:27-28). A Christian lives close to God. His Maker is ever-present, all-about; ready to be contacted upon a moment's notice. This nearness comforts the Christian -- "in the valley of the shadow.. thou art with me"

God cares! The Christian casts all his cares upon God, "for He careth for you" (1PE.5:7). Our Father is concerned -- His interest is genuine. He who takes note of the sparrow's fall, watches over all His children.

God hears! His eyes "are over the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers" (1PE.3:12). "All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do" (HEB.4:13b). And hearing, he understands our frailties -- "the feeling of our infirmities" (HEB.4:15-16) so we may come boldly to the throne of grace for mercy.

And God gives! "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (MAT.7:7-f). Ask! Seek! Knock! These are imperatives, in the Greek present tense. They say, "Ask" and keep on asking; "seek" and continue to seek; "knock" again and again. The thought is akin to MAT.6:33 -- "seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you"

A Christian believes that God is near, that God cares, that God hears, and that God give. He is conscious of his dependence upon God, and leans upon Him without hesitation. So he prays; when he awakes -- as he goes to work -- when he partakes of God's rich blessings -- when he feels the weight of sorrow and cares -- as he lays him down to sleep. A Christian prays; and what about you??

The Ellettsville Bulletin Oct. 2012 <http://ellettsvillechurchofchrist.com/bulletin.htm>

Psalm 15

LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart; he who does not backbite with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor does he take up a reproach against his friend; in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but he honors those who fear the LORD; he who swears to his own hurt and does not change; he who does not put out his money at usury, nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.