

## Information and Reminders—

Pray for: Janice White, The Ledgerwoods, Samuel Southall, and others with ongoing health battles or other trials, and our brethren who are travelling.

The men meet on the first Sunday of the month to discuss our work and duties. There is a sign-up sheet at the back for items needing their attention.

### **Simple opportunities to teach the lost and assist each other.**

Eph. 4:16 . . . *the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.* What is your share in these things?

-- Our fall meeting with Wayne Goff has been scheduled for **September 22-27**.

Please prepare your schedule so we can work and assemble together that week.

-- Our booth at the Independence County Fair has been reserved, July 15-20. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.

-- *Summer Bible Series* July 22-26 (evenings)

-- Post various Scriptures on our signboard, out by the road, for one month. Sign-up! July and August are open. People DO read this sign!

-- Are you willing to help prepare the Lord's supper for one month? Sign-up!  
- Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board at the back.

Our articles appear in *Arkansas Weekly* every other week (June 5, 19). Many past and current articles are available at our website.

*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

Evangelist:  
David Halbrook 569-4491

# The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

June 23, 2013

[WWW.QVCOC.COM](http://WWW.QVCOC.COM)

## ***WHY ARE MANY TURNED OFF BY RELIGION? #3***

*Bobby K. Thompson*

Most of us live in a society which has been turned off when it comes to the subject of religion. There are many who show interest in most every subject other than the subject of religion. They have no problem with discussing the economics, sports, fashions, and even politics, but count them out when the subject of religion is on the agenda. The subject that involves the saving of their souls becomes the one that so many abhor the thought of discussing. If they do offer any discussion, it is usually limited to relating what has turned them off regarding religion. The majority of people seem to concentrate upon the things which are seen, rather than upon the things which are not seen. They are materialistically minded, and their materialist minds glory in fleshly things rather than in things which are spiritual. "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit." (Romans 8:5-6). They, who are after the Spirit, do not make a joke of religion, but focus on the things which are unseen. They appreciate the words of the apostle Paul, when he wrote, "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." (II Corinthians 4:18). Pure religion involves the faith of seeing an unseen God, and an unseen Savior, who, in obedience to His will, offers us the hope of an unseen home in heaven. "Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." (John 20:29). We thank God that there are still those who see the unseen and feel a strong need for being religiously true to Jesus Christ. But many still continue to be turned off by any religion, and it seems to be more so when it involves the truth of the scriptures. Why is this so? We have previously mentioned that this is so due to the fact that many fail to believe that there

is life after death; their ignorance of the scriptures; and their rebellion against authority and hypocritical or inconsistent believers. To this list, **We Add That Some Are Turned Off By:**

**Religious division.** They see the division that exists in the religious world, and they reason, if those who say they believe can not be united, how can it be true? They are led to think, that in such a state of confusion, there is no profit in being a part of the Babel which exists. We must remember that Jesus prayed that those who believe in Him might be one. “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.” (John 17:21-23). In this beautiful prayer, Christ prayed that those who believe on Him might be one that the world might believe that God had sent Him. Twice He makes mention that they were to be one that the world might believe the truth regarding Him. Jesus did not thank God for division. It is not uncommon today to hear some denominational preachers thank God for the division that exists, which offers many ways to heaven. This constitutes a denial of that for which Jesus prayed. No one can deny the division which exists in the world, but there are certainly no scriptural grounds for being thankful for it. Those who love the Lord should always be concerned for the unity for which Jesus prayed. Paul pleaded for unity among the Corinthians by writing, “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” (I Corinthians 1:10). He also wrote in this same epistle, “For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.” (I Corinthians 14:33). The plea of truth is that believers be one in Christ and work for this unity. “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron’s beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.” (Psalm 133:1-3). Some disciple may say that they are only one, and what can they do about correcting the division that exists in the religious world. We can all certainly respect the prayer of Christ and strive that His prayer be answered in our being one. We can believe that it

is possible, for it did exist in the Jerusalem church. “And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul.” (Acts 4:32). We can encourage others to believe in the pattern for unity. “Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in your all.” (Ephesians 4:3-6). We need to let people know that true Christians are striving for the unity for which Jesus prayed, and not for unity in division. What profit is there in having unity with those who deny the faith revealed in the scriptures? Division which exists may turn some off, but we have no right to think we can turn them on by uniting with people in error. “Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.” (Philippians 1:27). **May we strive together for the faith of the gospel!**

Editor’s note: The same is true as our community looks at the churches who claim to be of Christ in Batesville. While some people think nothing of it, others who know there are differences must be unimpressed to know that all who claim to be the churches of Christ do not all speak the same things (1 Cor. 1:10). What can we do about that problem? We could either compromise the truth so we could make a (empty) claim of unity OR we can help others to understand why division exists (show them the teachings and practices in which man adds to or subtracts from God’s word) and pursue God’s solution to it (teach and practice truth without addition or subtraction).

---

### ***WHAT WE KNOW IS RIGHT*** Benjamin Franklin (1812-1878)

We *know* it is right to “Let the word of Christ dwell in us richly; and with all wisdom *teach* and *admonish* each other by *psalms* and *hymns* and *spiritual songs*; *singing* with gratitude in our hearts to the Lord” — to be “filled with the Spirit; *speaking* to one another in *psalms* and *hymns* and *spiritual songs*; *singing* and making melody in our hearts to the Lord.” This *can* be done, and *we know* it is right; but that a man can make melody in his heart to the Lord “with an organ,” a fiddle, banjo, clarinet, lute, fife, or jew’s-harp, we do not know, nor do we believe it. We want to do what is written, and enjoin it on others, to do it. What is not written we do not want to do. When the Lord so minutely describes *how* we are to do anything, we want to do it in that *way*. The *way* he prescribes will do the thing commanded; some other *way* might not do what is commanded at all. (From: Book of Gems, p. 107)