

## Information and Reminders—

Pray for: Janice White, The Ledgerwoods, Samuel Southall, and others with ongoing health battles or other trials, our brethren who are travelling, and new Christians whom Satan will certainly attack (Matt. 13:20-23).

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 16-20. 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 read this sign if we give them something to read!

-- 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.

-- Do you believe it will help if we all pray for these efforts? Have you done it?

Our articles appear in *Arkansas Weekly* July 3, 17, 24, 31 this month. Many past and current articles are available at our website.

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

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# The Exhorter

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

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

July 7, 2013

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

## ***“LIKE NEWBORN BABES”***

*John Henry Sr.*

Through the years I have heard 1 Peter 2:2 explained as referring to new converts in Christ. While it is true that new converts need to grow, I don't believe that is the main focus of Peter's statement.

### ***Some translations of this verse:***

*“Like newborn babes, crave the milk that is pure and spiritual, so that by it you may grow up to salvation,”* The Mounce Reverse-Interlinear™ New Testament.

*“Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation”* (ESV).

*“And be like newborn babies, thirsty for the pure milk of the Word; so that by it, you may grow up into deliverance”* (Jewish New Testament)

The verse clearly says to be “like newborn babies.” In other words, we need to possess the characteristics of, or be similar to newborn babies. As infants crave milk to satisfy their appetite, Christians are to crave the spiritual milk to satisfy their spiritual appetite. Let's ask a question: “Peter, what is the result of drinking pure spiritual milk?” Answer: “You will attain eternal life.” Here is what we need to understand: there is no comparison from being a new convert to adult maturity. The figure does not change from milk to solid food. On one hand, Peter says we need to be like new born babies and crave the pure word of God. Paul, on the other hand, intends to show growth from infancy to maturity, hence, the terms milk and solid food (Heb. 5:12-13; 1 Cor. 3:2); Peter does not.

When I crave the word of God, the milk, and grow spiritually, it is “in the direction of” or to “the attaining of salvation.” Therefore, this growth Peter talks about leads to salvation and deliverance from the wrath of God.

*The Water of Life*; Feb. 17, 2013; <http://churchofchristwaverly.com/wateroflife/>

## ***“JUST RAISED IN THE CHURCH”***

*Robert W. La Coste*

In teaching a young adult class not long ago, I asked the simple question "Why are you a member of the church of Christ, why not some other church, give me some reasons." A young girl with a sheepish grin on her face hesitantly remarked, "Well I was just raised in the church, it is all I know or have ever known." That was hardly the answer I was looking for, and much to her embarrassment, that was not really the answer I think she intended to give.

But such is the case! Some children are not "brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). Instead they are "raised in the church," with the saying meaning no more than coming to the building and looking at the ceiling until the preacher is, finished, for to them the church is the building, where they "cut their teeth on the pews."

The children are hardly all to blame. They have in many cases seen the indifference, negligence, and spiritual ignorance of their "raisers" (?). Parents, yes, have brought their children to the various services of the church, but never have once stopped to tell their children what the church is, why they are going, and what they are to do in going there! Because of the spiritual ignorance of these parents, they produce naturally after their own kind; unless the child should create his own incentive and learn without parental guidance and spiritual teaching.

Many of these kinds of children are simply "raised in the church" because they know of no better way to express why they have been coming all these years.

What is going to happen to the church: twenty, thirty or even forty years from now if the only answer to why many are members now is "It is all I have ever known"? I cringe, every time I even think about it???

Parents - wake up; teach your children at home, and on the way to and coming back from services why they need to be faithful members of the Lord's true church. Teach them what the church is all about, its work and mission and what their part is in the body of Christ!

I hope it is a snowy day in July before I hear that "reason" from someone again. Have you heard it lately? Have you given it???

*Truth Magazine, March 3, 1972*

## ***SALVATION AND THE BOOK OF ROMANS***

*Larry Hafley*

In the book of Romans, salvation is ascribed and attributed to a number of items. One is saved:

1. By the gospel: "The gospel" is "the power of God unto salvation unto every one that believeth" (Rom. 1: 16).
2. By the Grace of God: "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3:24).
3. By faith: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5: 1).
4. By the blood of Christ: "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him" (Rom. 5:9).
5. By obedience: "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:17, 18).

Are these five statements a mire and mixture of confusion and contradiction? Should we accept some and reject and refuse others? Should one acknowledge salvation by faith, obedience, and grace, and then say that the gospel and the blood are not essential? Or should one advocate salvation by the gospel, the blood, and obedience, and repudiate faith and grace? Certainly and absolutely not! We must receive and believe all that God says.

The question or issue is, "When were the Romans made free from sin? When did they become new creatures and begin to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus?"

Answer: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life... ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:3, 4, 17, 18).

Have you done as they did, or have you obeyed another form of doctrine?

*Truth Magazine, June 8, 1972*