

***Fall Gospel Meeting: September 9-14***  
***Ron Halbrook (Shepherdsville, Ky)***

*Christ's Authority Expressed in Scripture* (Tuesday 7PM)

*Christ, Savior & Head of His Church* (Wednesday 7PM)

*Gradual Departures—How Catholicism Formed* (Thursday 7PM)

*Gradual Return—How Denominations Formed* (Friday 7PM)

*Gradual Return—Restoring New Testament Christianity* (Saturday 7PM)

*Avoiding Apostasy Today (1)* (Sunday 10AM)

*Avoiding Apostasy Today (2)* (Sunday 10:45AM)

*The Gospel Net Catches Men in the Philippines* (Sunday 5PM)

Editor's Note: When you invite someone to the meeting this week, you may not have a flyer in your hand (at the checkout line at the store, at the restaurant, etc). As you, even briefly, invite them to come, tell them to find our article in *Arkansas Weekly* for a list of the topics and invite them to read it each week and let you know what they think. If you are not using our weekly articles, you are missing a very simple tool for introducing both friends and strangers to the gospel. There are plenty of people who do not open that paper because it is mostly advertisements and do not know there is a weekly, brief, and free Bible study available to them there. Help them find it, so they can have some help in finding Jesus. Isn't that our job?

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

Pray for: Janice White, The Ledgerwoods, Novela Puckett, Samuel Southall, others with ongoing trials, our brethren who are travelling, and new Christians among us.

If you are willing to post the topics on our signboard, even for one night, there is a sign-up sheet specifically for the meeting on the bulletin board in the entryway. As people daily drive by, let's show them what they can learn that evening. This simple effort will complement our advertisements and word-of-mouth invitations.

*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

September 7, 2014

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

***Preaching Which Saves*** Ron Halbrook [Truth Magazine Dec. 14, 1978 Vol. XXII, No. 49]

*For The Truth's Sake*, the gospel should be preached to the lost and the lost should seek the gospel. Men often laugh at or even bemean gospel preaching. "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. . .it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (1 Cor. 1:18-21). Not merely the action of proclaiming just any message will save, but only the message contained in Scripture will save.

Much preaching today is worse than a loss of time, it will bring damnation in eternity. Many preachers sound like ball coaches giving a pep-talk at game time. Human wisdom is expounded by some "Right Reverend" clergymen who have obtained their credentials from Such-and-Such Theological Seminary and have been "Ordained" by powers that be. The pro's and con's of political problems or civic issues are discussed by other men of "the cloth." The "nice talks" often given are directed more at making men acceptable to themselves rather than acceptable to God. To give hope beyond the grave and salvation in eternity, *preaching must go:*

(1) *Back to Jesus Christ.* Jesus Christ came to save us from our sins (Jn. 3:16). Angels announced Him as Savior, God with us, Christ the Lord (Matt. 1:18ff; Lk. 2:8ff). His miracles were more than humanitarian deeds, they were witnesses to His Deity (Jn. 5:36). His power to heal proved that "the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins" (Jn. 9:6). His death was not misguided zeal or simply an example of sacrificial goodness; but "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"—He died "for many for the remission of sins" (Rom. 5:8; Matt. 26:28). After rising from the dead, Christ proclaimed, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matt. 28:18). On the basis of this authority, He sent chosen messengers into all the world to "preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mk. 16:15-16). For this cause, Paul said, "I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2).

(2) *Back to the Apostles* The theologies, creeds, confessions, catechisms, clergies, conferences, and conventions of men are just that, and no more: *Of Men!* The Father did not call for such, Christ did not authorize it, and the Holy Spirit did not reveal it. Who then has the authority to show us Christ and His will? He chose apostles or special messengers in the first century. Through them, He revealed “on earth” the eternal plan of God determined “in heaven” (Matt. 16:19). “All truth” was delivered through them and was to be binding “once for all” ages and all men (Jn. 16:13; Jude 3; 2 Pet. 1:13-15). “The apostle’s doctrine” was “the doctrine of Christ” and, therefore, the absolute standard for understanding “the spirit of truth and the spirit of error” (Acts 2:42; 2 Jn. 9; 1 Jn. 4:1-6).

(3) *Back to the Bible.* When inspired men preached Christ, they did not offer “interpretative dance,” theatrical drama, or paintings to be admired and adored. Rather, they proclaimed Jesus Christ in words. . . which the Holy Ghost teacheth”—words were the vehicles of God’s message (1 Cor. 2:13). The Lord also inspired these men to inscripturate or write down the words of truth (2 Tim. 3:16-17). “The things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord” (1 Cor. 14:37). “When ye read, ye may understand” (Eph. 3:4). The message of salvation was first given by mouth and then by pen (2 Thess. 2:15). *Bible preaching is the apostolic message of Jesus Christ. For the truth’s sake, we must have this and no other!*

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### ***Preaching & Teaching*** Ronny E. Hinds (slightly edited for length-DH)

Nothing is more prominent to the "one faith" (Ephesians 4:5) than its evangelistic nature. If you look carefully at the word evangelistic you will see the word "angel." The "ev" is a prefix meaning "good" or "blessing." Angels are God's messengers with a message of good news. Remember the shepherds at Jesus' birth? The angel told them "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people" (Luke 2:10). So, evangelism involves a messenger with a good news, joyous message.

In the Bible, the idea of evangelism is taught through the English words "preach" and "preach the gospel." Interestingly, these two English ideas are translated from the same New Testament Greek word: "euangelizo." (Note the spelling and you can see why evangelism is spelled as it is.) In Luke 4:43, Jesus says, "I must preach the kingdom of God..." Luke 9:6 records the apostles as going "through the towns, preaching the gospel..." After the church's establishment it is said, "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ" (Acts 5:42). Each of these verses describes evangelism.

We must not overlook the idea that the message of preaching is a "good" message - a message that benefits and blesses those who receive it. The English language uses the word "gospel" to describe this idea. In the New Testament Greek language there is not a separate word for "gospel." It is inherent in the word "preaching." This means that true preaching (the only kind that Jesus and the New Testament approves), requires the message of the gospel. Paul briefly summarizes that message in this way: "Moreover...I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you...by which...you are saved...For I delivered to you...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ...and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures..." (1 Corinthians 15:1-5).

Another Greek word, "kerusso," which is used often in the New Testament, means simply "to preach, herald, proclaim, publish." It usually appears by itself without the word gospel. When gospel does appear with it, the word previously discussed, "euangelion," is used. So, "kerusso" puts emphasis on what is being done rather than the content of the message.

It is in this context that we look at the word "teach." It too puts emphasis on what is being done, not the message. It means: "to instruct, train, inform." In Matthew 4:23 we see all these words used to describe Jesus' activity. "And Jesus went about... teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom..." The purpose of Luke's account of Jesus' life is "that you many know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed" (Luke 1:4). Acts 11:26 informs us, "...that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch."

We do not become a disciple, a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ by any automatic process. It has nothing to do with the country or family in which we were born. The only way we can become a follower of Jesus is by being TAUGHT the GOSPEL of Jesus. The word disciple means "a learner." It is closely related to the word "discipline." Discipline involves training and training involves teaching. We can either teach ourselves or someone else can, but it still requires teaching.

The sobering truth is that none of us will go to heaven without learning and obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ (Mk. 16:15-16; 1 Cor. 15:1ff.; 2 Thess.1:8). That requires preaching and teaching. There is no exception. It is true for me, for you and everyone.

So, how receptive are we to being taught the gospel? What effort are we making to be taught the gospel? Are we sure it is the gospel that we are learning? Then, are we obeying what we are learning? AND, what about others? *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...* (Matt. 28:19-20).