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News Notes - -

The lectureship at Franklin was well attended. The theme was the Christian Graces.

As far as we are able to tell, none of our brethern were in the Congo where several white persons lost their lives during the past week.

Brother Clovis Ragsdale preaches for the church at Agnos on the first and third Wednesday nights of each month.

Brother Ashley showed pictures and spoke in the interest of the Children's Home of Paragould, at the Mammoth Spring church on Wednesday evening, Nov. 25.

Noah's Faith . .

ORBIE ROBBINS,
Elizabeth, Arkansas

Noah's faith appears in the hall of fame along with other great characters of faith set forth in Hebrews 11:7 and Hebrews 11:34, 35. We shall notice how the different things mentioned here attributed to his faith.

First, "By faith" implies that he heard what God commanded since faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. (Rom 10:17) God said unto him in Genesis 6:7, "make thee an ark of Gopher wood".

Second, "Being warned of God" reveals how great faith Noah had. "And God said unto Noah, the end of all flesh has come before me, for the earth is filled with violence through them, and behold I will destroy them with the earth." (Gen. 6:13) "And the Lord said unto Noah come thou and all they house into the ark, for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation." (Gen. 7:1) "and God spake unto Noah" (Gen. 8:15) Therefore we see how that God warned Noah by speaking unto

him, and Noah accepted and believed what God said.

Third, "Of things not seen as yet" reveals the realm of Noah's faith. A great flood like God told Noah about had never been seen by Noah or any other man, yet Noah believed what God said and obeyed.

Fourth, "Moved with Godly fear shows that he obeyed God explicitly. "Thus did Noah according to all that God commanded him so did he" (Gen. 6:22) His carefulness to build the ark demonstrated his respect and reverence for God's word.

Fifth, "prepared an ark to the saving of his house". Noah did not substitute any other kind of wood besides Gopher to build the ark, but did as God had commanded. He did not quit until the ark was finished according to the pattern God had given.

Sixth, "condemned the world". He and his family, of house, were saved. The world, or wicked people of that time, were lost.

Seventh, "Became heir of righteousness". How did he become heir of righteousness: BY FAITH (Hebrews 11:7) This included taking God at his word and obeying what he commanded, trusting in God to do what he promised.

Eighth, Noah's salvation is a type of our salvation. This is pointed out in 1 Peter 3:20, 21. Notice God was longsuffering in the days of Noah and is longsuffering toward us in this age, 2 Pet. 3:9. Noah and his house were saved when their faith acted or obeyed God in doing all that he said do. We can be saved when our faith works in complete obedience in doing all that God has commanded. The faith that will save us must work or obey in repentance, for God has commanded all men everywhere to repent, Acts 17:30. Confession of our faith in Christ is faith speaking, Romans 10:8-10. Baptism is faith submitting,

Is it Possible For Me to Under- stand the Bible?

If the meaning of the Bible is beyond man's grasp, how could one expect to know God and be saved?

Doesn't it stand to reason that the God who gave the revelation by which one is drawn to him (Jn. 6:44-45), and by which he will some day be judged (Jn. 12:48), would enable man to understand that revelation?

"Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our LEARNING that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Rom. 15:4)

Through STUDY one can "show himself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15).

There is not a royal road to learning. One must study; there is no substitute. This does not mean that one must become a scholar, but it does mean that he, with open heart and receptive mind, must become a diligent, sincere searcher for truth.

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled" (Mt. 5:6).

If in Jesus day the "common" people "heard him gladly," surely, the average person today can hear and understand his message.

George Bailey

Mark 16:16.

"We are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus, for as many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ." (Gal. 3:26, 27)

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CHURCHES OF CHRIST
IN THIS AREA

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CLOVIS RAGSDALE
RICHARD ENGLAND

Sinner's Lost Condition

"Your child is lost in the forest!" Terror and anxiety will instantly fill your heart if such is ever said about one of your children. A child lost in the forest could die of exposure or starvation or it could be torn to pieces by a wild animal. Hundreds of men will gladly leave their normal pursuits in life to assist in the search for a lost child, they will not rest until the child is found.

It is tragic to lose a child but it is far worse for one to lose his soul. Millions are now lost in sin and will be lost in hell which is yet to come. "Lost" is such a small word. Any first grader can spell it without difficulty. However, it is one of the most frightening words in the English language. From a biblical viewpoint, it connotes that which is almost incomprehensible, the tragedy of all tragedies and the calamity of all calamities is to be lost. May God help us all see his terrible reality!

—Jimmy Allen

JADES OF WISDOM

He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, in order to gain what he cannot lose.

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CONFIDENCE IN OTHERS

"And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you." (2 Thes. 3:4)

The church in Thessalonica was beset by serious problems. Solving these problems and remaining steadfastly devoted to the Truth would involve difficulty. But Paul expresses his confidence in the ability of these brethren to rise to the occasion and fulfill the commands.

Courage can scarcely survive in isolation. The faith of others in us nourishes our strength and cheers us on in the face of trials. Such faith is sadly lacking in the church today. The impediments of the world make many skeptical about Christians keeping themselves pure and doing the Lord's will. This doubt not only fails to help, it is a positive hinderance. Union with Christ offers unlimited possibilities. (Phil. 4:13) Until a brother has proven himself unworthy he deserves the encouragement that comes from the confidence of others. Knowing that someone believes in him will mean much as he confronts the ordeals of life.

Glen Walton

A Little is Much

By Doyle Kinder

So often we hear a member of the church say "There is nothing I can do for the cause". This is not true. Everyone who is a Christian can do something. It may be true that some of us cannot speak like an orator; sing with the finest tones or pray too eloquently. The one talent man was not lost because he had only one talent but because he did not use what he had (Mt. 25:14-30). Here are some of the services you CAN render.

You can have INFLUENCE for good. Many times by one person responding to the invitation of Christ others have followed. And then, by their lives scores have been encouraged. As Christians then, hold that light high (Mt. 5:16).

You can ATTEND the services of the church. Except those who are physically incapable, every member has the ability to do this. You will never fail to encourage or be encouraged by so doing (Heb. 10:24-25).

You can PRAY for others. Paul made mention of others in prayer "without ceasing" (Rom. 1:9). This may be the only help you can give some people.

You can STUDY and meditate on God's Word. Every Christian has the obligation to hunger and thirst after righteousness (Mt. 5:6). Even if a person cannot read they can "Meditate day and night" on what they do know about the Bible (Ps. 1:2).

You can LIVE RIGHT even in the absence of any illustrious ability. The Gentiles had NO excuse (Rom. 1:20). The Jews were "inexcusable" before God (Rom. 2:1). Every temptation CAN be escaped (I Cor. 10:13).

So remember, you may have only two mites like the poor widow; be slow of speech like Moses (Ex. 4:10); possess only five loaves and two fishes like the small lad (Jn. 6:9); have a thorn in the flesh like Paul (II Cor. 12:7); be impetuous like Peter (Jn. 21, Mt. 16 etc.); have made mistakes like the Samaritan woman (Jn. 4) and still DO MUCH for the cause.

Job's Question

By Robert Henly

"If man die shall he live again?"
Job 14:14.

There has been many discussions about the above scripture, as to Job's reason for asking. We do know that back through the ages Man has asked the same question, and in some form or another, given himself an answer. This is evidenced in the tribal religions of all ages past. These religions held out to their followers some kind of a hereafter, patterned after what that particular tribe of people considered a perfect life. We ask ourselves "why" people who never heard of God or Christ; Heaven or Hell (as we are taught and believe) still yearn toward and look for a life after death.

Let us turn again to Genesis 1 and 2 and read of the creation of man. He was formed of the earth. He could have even had life as an animal, but when God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, he became a living soul. Man now carried within him the very Breath of God. Something not "created" by God, but "God-given". To every child born of man since that time, is given a portion of that Breath of God. Though the child's body is formed of the parents, this spirit is not. it comes "through" them but not "of" them for it is of God.

Regardless of the estate to which man may have fallen there remained in him a portion divine; a part that yearned outward and upward above this life; uninstructed and unlearned, yet this spirit aspired to better things.

This spirit in Job, along with his knowledge of God, caused him to reason that man would live again, and possibly through his knowledge of the fall of man from the favor of God caused him to exclaim later, "I know that my Redeemer liveth". (Job 19:25)

In the words of Almustafa, the teacher, to his friends: "You are spirits though you move in bodies; and, like oil that burns in the dark you are flames though held in lamps. If you were naught save

bodies, then my standing before you would be emptiness, even as the dead calling unto the dead. But this is not so. All that is deathless in you is free unto the day and the night and cannot be housed nor fettered, for this is the will of the Most High. You are His Breath and I am also of His Breath!! (Gibran's, Garden of the Prophet)

With the will of God spread before us, and the way made plain, let us so live this life that this God-given spirit may return to Him with joy and remain with Him throughout Eternity.

WANTED: Men to Finish the Job

One of the problems of banks is the thousands of savings accounts which are started and then forgotten. The American Business points out that a man deposits a small amount telling himself that he will start saving and deposit a stated amount each week. Next — he forgets all about it. It turns out finally that the bank has on hand many of these small nuisances.

Business is full of men who start many activities — good things — who know what needs to be done, who start many jobs. But at the first sign of difficulty they lay it aside and the resolution dies.

It seems at times the church has its quota of such people also. We have developed a very nauseating habit: stopping right after starting. Many races have been started but few of them have been finished.

A member may decide to launch out and become the very best Bible teacher. All is rosy and right. For a couple of Sunday attendance drops and all becomes gray and wrong. Pressing appointments during the week are met on preparation time. Late hours on Saturday night render the teacher thick-headed on Sunday morning.

Another member says, "Let's get a big, BIG personal work program started." The prospects are there, the unfaithful are faithfully remaining away — everything is in readiness but our erstwhile "enthusiast" is on something else now. From there he goes to other

items, pumping, jumping and — well, just talking. Every important invention turns up dozens of men who had the same idea as the successful inventor. Action is the difference.

All of us can resolve to give more, visit more, pray more, teach more but unless we intend to finish more and really do finish, what's the use!

Ronald Milton, Tulsa.

WITH THIS I AGREE

Back in the days before automobiles, an elderly couple whose married life had not been too tranquil was walking down the street. They observed a team of beautiful perfectly matched white horses drawing a carriage and keeping in perfect step. The woman said, "Pa, wouldn't it be a great source of satisfaction now if we would have marched through our lives in perfect step like those horses?" "Yes, Ma, and we could have but for one thing — we didn't have one tongue between us like those horses."

In James 3:2-12 we may read and learn how important it is to control the tongue. If we were to read this scripture every day and observe it, there would be less trouble in the church and less trouble in the home.

—Selected.

THE FIFTH WHEEL

A minister was visiting a man who rarely attended church and was very casual about spiritual matters. In the course of the conversation, the man observed, "As far as I'm concerned, religion is just like the fifth wheel of an automobile."

"Yes, I suppose you might say that," agreed the minister, "but I would think of it as the steering wheel, not the spare wheel."

"Set your hearts unto...all the words of this law. For it is not a vain thing for you. because it is your life." - (Dt. 32:46-47.)

A famous Danis sculptor was asked, "Which is Your greatest Statue?" He replied, "My next one." A great philosophy.

The Sin of Adultery

Clovis Ragsdale

In every age there has been those who would not abide by the laws of marriage. The sin of adultery and fornication has become a problem of great magnitude in the present age. The Bible condemns these sins in no uncertain terms. Christian husbands and wives who have "affairs" sin grievously against God and the church, as well as against themselves. They blight their chances of a happy marriage and home. They bring shame upon their family name. Innocent children often suffer as a result of broken homes.

A considerable amount of a minister's time is taken up in talking with people about their family problems, in the attempt to keep marriages from falling apart. Fornication and drink are the sins that contribute to most of the broken marriages.

A question that is often asked is: does the scriptures permit divorce on any ground? The answer is difficult to give for many and various circumstances may enter in. Christ said in Matt. 19:19 "Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery; and who so marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery." One must have positive proof of infidelity before seeking a divorce. They must be sure they did not contribute in any way to the mistake of the offender. Repentance on the part of the one who errors is possible. Where there is children, their welfare should be considered. In fact, the welfare of children should come first. So much of the crime among our young people is traced to broken homes. Many husbands and wives who learn of their mates sins choose to carry on the home instead of seeking divorce. In most cases this proves to be the best. The ability to forgive and forget is a great virtue. Our Lord is the greatest example of one who can forgive man of sins and forget them in the sense that they are

The One Talent Man

RICHARD ENGLAND
Mammoth Spring, Ark.

The parable of the talents is one with which all of us are familiar. It is recorded in Matthew 25: 14-30. That a man who would fit into the category of this one talent man cannot be well pleasing to God and Jesus Christ is obvious. But looking at him as many people look at themselves, we might find many things which could be said for him.

The one talent man was certainly no thief. That which was committed to his trust was returned to the master after carefully keeping it in the earth so that none could take it from him. This one talent man was not careless with the money entrusted to him. He did not spend it in riotous living or gambling. In comparison to the other two men mentioned in the parable, he was somewhat the "underdog" in that he did not have the means to perform and gain as much as the others. Yet, he verily displeased his master, and pictures to us the type of people who are displeasing to Jesus Christ.

Jesus said of this man that he was wicked and slothful. The man

held against man no more after he repents and asks forgiveness. Being made in the image of God surely we can forgive and forget those who sin against us. If people would follow the teachings of the New Testament there would be very few divorces. If people would follow the teachings of the Bible there would be no fornication and adultery, thus no scriptural grounds for divorce. No other reason is given in the Bible for one to put away his marriage partner and be given the right to marry again.

It is the duty of the church to teach God's will concerning the sacredness of the marriage vows. Christians must practice this and keep adultery from being a part of their lives.

Many a man pities other individuals who pity him.

as a "Servant", one who is obligated to perform tasks for his master. The master had given him responsibility. He had received power to perform, and had not performed. He had not acted as one engaged in the service of another, but as one who had no time to spend for another. He had acted out of fear for his own self and life. He was not interested in promoting the good of his master, but of saving his own life. In this his attitude was evil and the motive was laziness.

If we are to be well pleasing to God we must learn the lesson presented in this parable, to each of us has been given power to perform. We have been given obligations as servants. We are not our own, but we belong to God. In that we cannot all accomplish as much as others, we are not excused from doing that which we can. To be pleasing to God is more than refraining from certain evils, it is also actively participating in that which he has commanded that we do. We must perform tasks for which we are suited. A failure to do so, even though we may not be participating in the many evil activities of the world, will bring to us eternal condemnation.

A New Found Friend

While searching for a place in life,
One finds the world in pain and strife.
A place where seems no hope or love;
Where faith grows weak in things above.
Advice that's sought cannot be found.
One looks above, but still he's bound.
The world is dark, not gayly clad.
Life seems so cruel, it is so sad.
The night is gone, it's morn at last.
The pain and strife IS IN THE PAST.
What seemed to be the world's dark end,
Was altered by a new found friend.
- (Author Unknown)