

CHRISTIAN ARMY CAMPS

Paul Fisher

Flavius Josephus, a Jewish historian during the first century A.D., wrote about the Roman armies and their camps in his book, *The Wars of the Jews*. In chapter five he described the Roman army camps, how they were set up, and how they were maintained. The Roman army had learned early that confusion alone could defeat the nest of troops. The design of their camps was followed by all their troops all over the empire. This was so that a freshly arriving recruit would know his place of duty though an attack might come on his first night. This design was not only for the benefit of the new recruits, but the familiarity of the design proved reassuring to officers and men alike camped in the most distant, barbarous land.

Christ set up His church in the same way, so that no matter where in the world a Christian is, he can benefit from the familiarity of the design of the church. Each congregation is a camp of the army of Christ, and so as to avoid confusion Christ gave it a plan to follow. His plan included not only the organization, but the terms of entrance and worship.

Sadly today, not every congregation that claims to be the Lord's church and goes by the name church of Christ follows the plan that Christ left. Now when one travels across the state or the country and is on the road on the Lord's day, he must search carefully for a true congregation in which he can worship. Gone are the days when if the sign in front of the building said, "Church of Christ," you could feel confident that you would find the familiar worship to God in spirit and truth that you once would have found. Instead, increasingly now you are finding a worship that is foreign to the New Testament plan which Christ gave. Instead of congregational singing as commanded (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19), one may find solos, choirs, and instruments of music. Instead of finding men leading in worship (1 Tim. 2:12), you find women teaching adult classes, leading prayers, reading Scriptures, presiding at communion, etc.

Not only are some congregations changing the plan for worship, but also the organization of the church. More and more congregations are changing for the demands of society to allow women as deacons, elders, and preachers. This is a grave departure from Christ's plan. These types of things are leading us into a state of confusion. Remember, the Romans 2,000 years ago understood that confusion alone was enough to defeat the finest of armies. Our God is not a God of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33). Are we to follow man or God (Acts 5:29)?

Maybe the problem lies in the fact that many congregations of the Lord's church are no longer soldiers in the war. They have forgotten that we are an army at war with a dangerous enemy (1 Pet. 5:8). He must laugh and rejoice when he sees a group that was at one time wearing the full armor of God (Eph. 6:11-18) not only taking that armor off, but also tear down the defenses around the army's encampment by no longer following God's plan for the church. Many of these things were brought on by weak leadership which allowed false doctrine to be taught. We must go back to God's Word and to His plan.

Modesty - Is A Matter of Salvation!

Author Unknown

Summertime is quickly arriving. And with summertime comes the inevitable heat. To many in this world, that shouts "TIME TO WEAR LESS CLOTHES!" We all know what we mean by that, right? People decide that it's time to break out the short shorts, the halter-tops, and many times even less than that!

The truly sad thing is that even some Christians, yes, even people YOU know, take the same attitude! Oh, they may not say it, and they may argue about it with you if you point it out, but it is still there. Guys going without shirts, and women getting as close to that as they can, while still saying "Oh, I'm still covered" is NOT what God wants us to do!

I Timothy 2:9 says women should adorn themselves in **modest** apparel. The fact that Paul had to state this **PROVES** that there is such a thing as **IMMODEST** apparel. Now, this passage does not mean to wear what is modest in the world's eyes, your neighbor's eyes, your friend's eyes, or even your family's eyes. It means to wear what is modest in **GOD'S** eyes! You should not be trying to please men, but **GOD!!!** You will not be judged by men, but by **GOD!!** The same passage also says that women should have "shamefacedness" That is a sense of shame, or the ability to blush. Some people do not have that ability to blush! They can wear anything revealing and not feel the least bit embarrassed! They have had their conscience seared by conforming to the world's standards!

In the third chapter of Genesis Adam and Eve knew they had sinned, and were ashamed of their nakedness, and made coverings with fig leaves. Yet when God was walking through the Garden, they both hid. Adam said--remember, this is **AFTER** they made coverings for themselves-- "I was afraid, because **I was naked**, and I hid myself." So, we see that from the beginning, nakedness did not necessarily mean total nudity! Later in the chapter, it even goes on to say that God made them coats of animal skins to clothe them! Here it is important to remember the purpose of clothing: to conceal...it is not to reveal, but to **CONCEAL OUR NAKEDNESS!**

Paul said in Galatians 5:19-21: "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings and the such like: of the which I tell you before as I have told you also in times past that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God!"

Catch what that passage says: It says the works of the flesh are manifest, that is they are openly seen, or visible. Another way of saying it is that they are obvious. There are so many, though, that Paul stops listing them and just says "**and the such like**", which means "anything even sort of like these." One of the things he mentions is Lasciviousness. **What is lasciviousness?** Quite simply put it means to do anything that would sexually arouse someone of the opposite sex. Vine's Dictionary even lists indecency as a meaning of Lasciviousness. That includes your actions, your words, **AND THE WAY YOU DRESS!** If this isn't really getting through, let me point out one other thing this passage shows us! Paul, through inspiration...which means that we can attribute this to God, equates lasciviousness, that is wearing revealing clothing, with **MURDER!** He equates wearing clothes that would show off your body (causing others to lust) to **IDOLATRY!** To **HERESIES!** To **ADULTERY!** And he says that he said it before and he'll say it again, those which do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of **GOD!**

Is it worth burning in Hell to **wear clothes** that show off what no one but your spouse should see? Is it worth losing your soul for eternity **to be fashionable? To be trendy? To be like "everyone else"?** Be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God (Romans 12:2). **Think brethren!**

NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)
Remember in Prayer:

Please be sure to remember those of our sick with cards and prayers and other acts of kindness. Check the bulletin boards for updates on the Prayer List. Let us know of any updates as well, please.

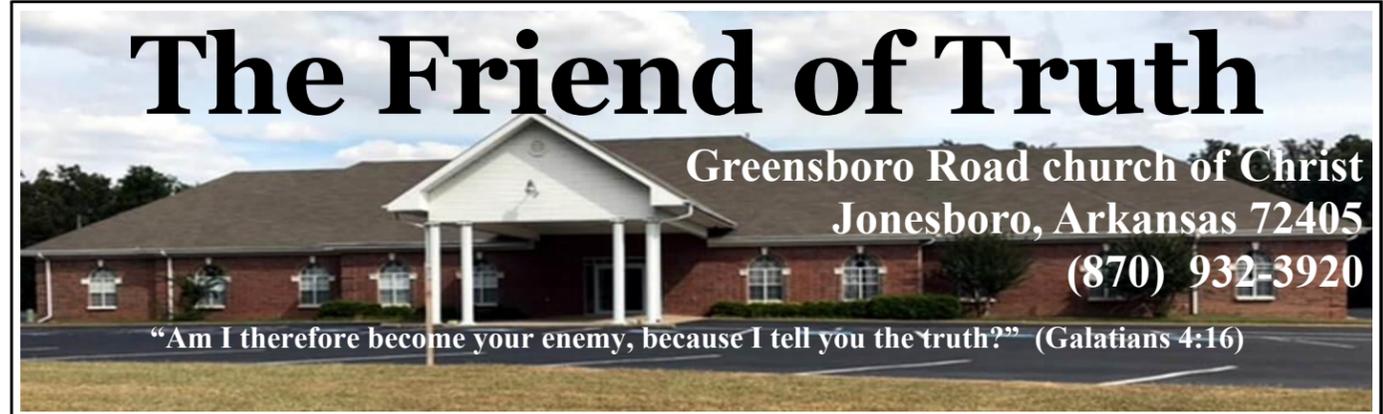
In Other News:

Upcoming Events:

Graduates’ Supper will be after Sunday night services on May 30th. If you are a high school or college graduate, please give a picture and information to Martha Kee.

The wedding of Sierra Bright and Samuel Light will be Saturday, May 22 at 4:00 p.m. at Cherry Farm Event Barn in Poughkeepsie, AR, with reception to follow. RSVP to 501-201-1113 or 870-679-0837 with number of guests attending. The invitation is on the bulletin board by the office.

Our Vacation Bible School with the theme of *The Gospel Railroad* is scheduled for June 13th-16th.



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KeeNotes

Sunday was a good day as many of our folks were gathered for worship. We were blessed with some visitors and we also had some of our own who were away visiting. It is good we can be together. Fellowship is a wonderful blessing we enjoy. It makes us stronger and forms a bond which should be impossible to break, even though Satan tries.

The oneness of the church is for the purpose of convincing the world that we are the children of God (John 17:20,21). By this men should be able to see that we are the sons of God. The church is bound by the Word of God to only do those things that are authorized and therefore we are not at liberty to simply do as we please (Col. 3:17). Our common bond is what holds us together. We must not take this lightly but be determined to strengthen that bond day by day.

This requires growth on our part in all areas of our spiritual life (2 Peter 1:5-7). The Hebrew writer was emphatic when he said they were not growing and the evidence of that is that they were not teaching (Hebrews 5:12-14). Paul plainly told Timothy that the way to please God is to be a good, working student of the Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Christians in the New Testament were weak in the faith because they did not have a knowledge of the Word of God (Rom. 14:1). Paul is begging them not to remain such, but to be persuaded in their minds by the Word of God (Rom. 14:5).

Churches have strong and weak members. We always have. Even in the first century they experienced this. They were encouraged to be of the same mind and same judgment (I Cor. 1:10). If we leave this standard we are failing to walk in the light and therefore we have no fellowship with God (I John 1:7). When we are individual Christians and as individual churches hold up and follow the same standard we enjoy fellowship. That fellowship is broken when we are not following that standard.

If we cease to walk by that standard as individuals or as congregations of the Lord’s people that fellowship is broken and must be restored for us to be able to work together. Fellowship is so precious. Let us never allow it to be broken but rather enhanced and strengthened day by day as we fight this fight together.

SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols
 Randy Oden

DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard
 Jerry Dodson
 Stacy Eddleman
 Mike Felts
 Jason Garland
 Scott Pratt
 Kevin Roush
 Mark Wooten

MISSIONARIES

Guyana, South America
 Samrit Kammanee
 Micah Robertson, Montana
 Warren, PA

SERVICES

SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.
 Worship 10:00 a.m.
 5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Word of God
 Romans 10:17
Believe the Word of God
 John 8:24
Repent of your sins
 Luke 13:3
Confess your faith in Jesus
 as the Son of God
 Romans 10:9,10
Be Baptized for the
 remission of your sins
 Acts 2:38
Live faithfully
 Revelation 2:10
*“Lift up your eyes, and
 look on the fields; for they
 are white already to
 harvest.” (John 4:35)*

*Each One Invite One
 in Twenty-One*

Those Privileged To Serve
 May 16, 2021

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK
 May 9, 2021

SUNDAY MORNING
 Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard
 Opening Prayer: Steve Stoker
 Closing Prayer: Robert Stephens
 Bible Reading: Scott Pratt
 Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

SUNDAY EVENING
 Song Leader: Randy Oden
 Opening Prayer: Mark Brewer
 Closing Prayer: David Loggins
 Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

LORD’S TABLE
 Presiding: Dan Nichols
 Jeff Presley Mike Felts
 Jimmy Powell Logan Snyder
 Mitch Mosley Gerald George

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
 May 19, 2021
 Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard
 Opening Prayer: J. L. May
 Closing Prayer: Carlos Wood

ANNOUNCEMENTS
 Randy Oden

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER
 May 19, 2021
 Mark Wooten

Sunday Bible Study	73
Sunday AM Worship	105
Sunday PM Worship	81
Wednesday Bible Study	81
Contribution	\$7588

**“The father of the
 righteous shall greatly
 rejoice: and he that
 begetteth a wise child
 shall have joy of him.”**

Proverbs 23:24