



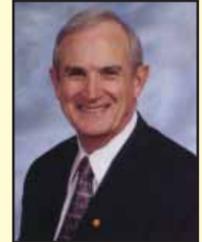
YOKEFELLOW

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Co-Editor's Column
BAPTISM: THE BIBLE AND BILLY GRAHAM
 Garland Elkins



From The Director

WHAT MUST BE THE WORSHIPER'S ATTITUDE?

Great responsibility has always rested upon the worshiper, in the Old Testament as well as in the New. Not only must one have the right object, but he must have certain attitudes.

First, the True Worshiper Feels the Desire To Worship
 "Both young men, and virgins; Old men, and children: Let them praise the name of Jehovah; For his name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and the heavens" (Psa. 148:12-13). "These things I remember, and pour out my soul within me, how I went with the throng, and led them to the house of God, With the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude keeping holyday" (Psa. 42:4). David exclaimed, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go unto the house of Jehovah" (Psa. 122:1). Man needs to realize his need for his maker and thirst for Him. "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, So panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God" (Psa. 42:1-2)? Job cried, "Oh that I knew where I might find him! That I might come even to his seat" (Job 23:3)!

Second, the True Worshiper Feels Profound Gratitude for the Wonderful Grace of God
 He seeks every opportunity to acknowledge his dependence upon God and his awareness that without God's blessings, he could not live. "O praise Jehovah, all ye nations; Laud him, all ye peoples. For his lovingkindness is great toward us" (Psa. 117:1-2). "What shall I render unto Jehovah For all his benefits toward me" (116:12)? "I will pay my vows before them that fear him" (22:25). "Praise ye Jehovah. O give thanks unto Jehovah; for he is good; For his lovingkindness endureth for ever" (106:1).

Third, the True Worshiper Feels Reverence in and Worships God from the Heart
 It is genuine: the emotions are involved. "These things I remember [what God has done for me and that my soul pants after God, CAC], and pour out my soul within me" (Psa. 42:4).

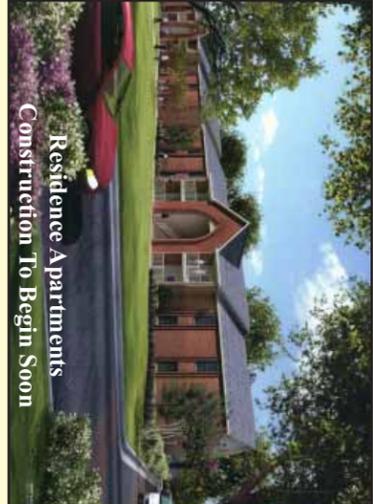
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MSOP LECTURES

Which Begin the Last Sunday of March and Continue Through the Following Thursday.

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(Cates: Continued from Page 1)

“Glory ye in his holy name; Let the heart of them rejoice that seek Jehovah” (1 Chr. 16:10). “Him shall ye fear [reverence, CAC], and unto him shall ye bow yourselves, and to him shall ye sacrifice” (2 Kin. 17:36). “I will give thee thanks with my whole heart: Before the gods will I sing praises unto thee” (Psa. 138:1). The worshiper is not passive in his worship, awaiting some entertainment or mystical uplift to result from the “performance” of the song leader, the preacher, and others. We actively lift up praise and adoration to God within His prescribed way out of a heart filled with reverence, gratitude, confession, praise, and supplication.

Fourth, the True Worshiper Realizes that God Is Close at Hand

Unlike many who think that God is so remote that He cannot see, know, or be concerned with our needs, thoughts, prayers, and joys, men need to realize that “...they should seek God, if haply they might feel after him, and find him [through His Word, of course, CAC], though he is not far from each one of us” (Acts 17:27). With the Israelites, God’s glory filled the tabernacle (Exo. 40:33-38), from whence He spoke to the people (Lev. 1:1). Here we see the marvel of His condescension; He would later dwell among the people when the Word would tabernacle in the flesh (John 1:1-3, 14) and when He would dwell in His holy temple, the church (1 Cor. 3:16-17). He is with His people in the worship (Mat. 26:28-29; 1 Cor. 10:16-21; 11:23ff). The righteous people of the Old Testament walked with God, building a close relationship with Him (not the type of “buddy-buddy,” “daddy” relationship as some shallow, flippant souls would aver today). Study the faith and reverence demonstrated in the worship of Abraham, Moses, David, and others. Enoch walked with God: David was a man after God’s own heart; Daniel was greatly beloved.

(Excerpt from Curtis A. Cates’ book on Worship: Heaven’s Imperative, or Man’s Innovations [\$3.50 plus \$1.50 postage and handling].)

(Elkins: Continued from Page 1)

*But There Are More Than Just Three Steps
In God’s Plan Of Salvation*

To **leave out even one step** changes the gospel. It changes the plan of salvation just as surely as *adding* an unauthorized act would change God’s plan. Compare Galatians 1:6-10. Suppose we are giving someone directions to a certain destination. And suppose there are *four* turns he must make. We must tell him correctly about all four turns. If we neglect to mention any turn—just one turn—then that person would not get to his destination.

For half a century, Billy Graham has consistently failed to include **baptism** when he tells those seeking salvation what they must do to be saved! Billy Graham has been reading from the Scriptures and using passages from the Bible in his preaching for more than fifty years. Now, the most puzzling question ever: **How Could Billy Graham Have Failed To See In The Bible The Command To Be Baptized For The Remission Of Sins?**

Billy Graham readily sees the command to believe in Mark 16:16: “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.*” He clearly sees the commandment to repent in Acts 2:38: “*Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins.*” Yet somehow, incredible as it seems, he has never seen Jesus’ command to be baptized to “*be saved*” (Mark 16:16), or the command

to “*be baptized...for the remission of sins*” (Acts 2:38). Seemingly, all through the years, Billy Graham has looked at these Bible verses as though they read, “*He that believeth – shall be saved*” (Mark 16:16), and, “*Repent – every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins*” (Acts 2:38). How could Billy Graham have failed to see Jesus’ words “**and is baptized**” in Mark 16:16? How could Billy Graham have overlooked Peter’s words “**and be baptized**” in Acts 2:38?

AN OLD QUESTION

This is not a new question. About fifty years ago, during the Billy Graham month-long crusade in Nashville at the Vanderbilt University football stadium, someone asked a member of the *Billy Graham Evangelistic Association* team this question directly: “**Why does Billy Graham not include the command to be baptized in his preaching?**” The short and very unsatisfactory answer was: “**Because it is a controversial subject.**”

A further insight into this strange phenomenon came to light a few years later with the publication of Leslie L. Spear’s book, *The True Religion and Religion of Others*. When that book was published, one chapter attracted immediate attention, and created intense interest: **Chapter 2 – an exchange of letters between the author and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in Minneapolis.**

The first letter, dated January 12, 1963, was written by Leslie L. Spear from Oak Ridge, Tennessee, in response to a Billy Graham *My Answer* column that had just appeared in the *Knoxville Journal*. An inquirer had asked Billy Graham: “Please give me a simple answer to, ‘**What must I do to be saved?**’”

Billy Graham completely failed to mention **baptism** in his reply! In Leslie Spear’s letter to Billy Graham, he quoted the words of Jesus: “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved*” (Mark 16:16). Spear says that Graham might have included *that* Scripture as part of an appropriate answer to the question. Spear then quotes the words of Paul the apostle in Galatians 3:27: “*For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*” At this point in his letter, Leslie Spear puts his first direct question to Billy Graham:

“Mr. Graham, why didn’t you give Paul’s answer to the question? You could have told where it was found, so the person could have read it for himself.”

On April 17, 1963, Leslie Spear received a reply from the *Billy Graham Evangelistic Association*. It was signed by John D. Lundenberg, Spiritual Counselor. At last, there was to be an answer to this puzzling question! But the part of the answer that responds directly to the question is very brief: “**Salvation is not dependent upon a person having been baptized....**”

There it is! When people have been steeped in centuries of religious prejudice, they can somehow read right through all the Scriptures that teach clearly that obedience in baptism is necessary for salvation. The doctrine that salvation can occur before and without baptism for the remission of sins has been preached millions of times since it first began to be taught in Europe five centuries ago. That doctrine has been repeated so many times that even otherwise able men like Billy Graham have been saturated with it. They were taught the doctrine just as if it were true—even Biblical!

Yet, to say that obedience in baptism is not necessary for salvation is just as false as it was when men like John Calvin invented and propagated the doctrine in the 1500’s.

THE RESULT

Think of the multiplied millions who have heard and accepted Billy Graham’s teaching. Every one of these souls will one day stand before God in the Great Day of Judgment. They will not be able to account for why they were not baptized for the forgiveness of their sins—except to say, honestly, “*Billy Graham didn’t tell me I had to do that!*” And Billy Graham will face God in judgment, too, as all people—great and small—must do. What will he answer if God asks, “**Billy, why did you never tell all these millions that they must be baptized to be saved?**”

“...be baptized, and wash away thy sins...” (Acts 22:16); “...baptism doth also now save us...” (1 Pet. 3:21).

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED TO MAKE THE 2004 LECTURES A GREAT SUCCESS

The 2004 Memphis School of Preaching Lectures, on the theme “Sin and Salvation,” are now history. We rejoice to think of how blessed we are to have this time each year to study together, to renew acquaintances with dear friends, to have our spirits lifted, to be encouraged to greater service to our God, and to be filled with hope and joyful anticipation of Heaven. Attendance was high at all sessions (1,159 present on Monday evening) with brethren attending from many states and even foreign countries, and interest was great. Each speaker presented the Truth, and did so very capably, sincerely, and reverently. Their scholarly, scriptural presentations combined to deliver a splendid treatment of our theme both orally and in written form in the two-volume set of books.

It was truly a delightful time for which we are thankful. Our hope and prayer is that our efforts brought glory and honor to God, and brought men closer to Christ by helping all to be strengthened, warned of sin, and encouraged to salvation. Hopefully, generations yet to come, if this world continues, will benefit from the books and recordings of these lectures.

We are deeply grateful to the wonderful brethren of the Forest Hill congregation for, without them, there would be no lectureship. We are happy to extend our thanks to all the members of the Forest Hill Church of Christ for their countless hours of labor, and for their cheerful attitudes in working so hard. They expended their own resources, gave of their time, and worked willingly and lovingly—as always. What a great church!

Thanks to all the brethren who prepared the buildings and kept them clean, prepared and served the very delicious meals, made our surroundings beautiful and comfortable, made decorations for special events, welcomed guests into their homes, helped with the RVs, parked cars, taped lectures, worked with the sound systems, recording, and internet broadcasting, led us in thrilling singing, cared for children, taught children’s classes, directed visitors, worked in the book display, “and such like.”

A very special thanks to brother Barry Grider for his cooperative, enthusiastic spirit, to Celicia Grider for her work with the Ladies’ classes, to the students and their wives for all they did, and to the members of area congregations who helped provide delicious meals.

Thanks to brother Curtis A. Cates for his encouragement and wise counsel, to all the faculty, with whom it is truly a blessing to work day-by-day, and to the staff, especially sisters Brown, Jones, Earls and Thompson who have been busy for months to make sure every detail was handled, who worked with a wonderful spirit of cooperation, and whose planning and organization was flawless.

We are truly grateful to Paul Sain and his staff for the advice, expertise, and excellent job of printing our books, and to April

Meacham for her valued help in proofreading. Thanks to all our speakers for contributing their time, utilizing their talents, expending countless hours, and, for some, traveling some distance to be with us. Thanks also for their making possible two volumes of 1,292 pages of excellent, timely, needed material which, we hope, will be of value for years to come.

Finally, thanks to all who attended the 2004 Lectures. Some said it was their first time, but it would not be their last. Above all, we express our thanksgiving to God the Father for His great mercy and loving kindness, and for the opportunities and blessings which He provides. To God be the glory, honor, and praise. We look forward to 2005, to the last Sunday in March and the Thirty-Ninth Annual Lectureship on the theme, “What Is Man?” We seek and encourage your prayers for us and we look forward to your presence with us then.

Bobby Liddell

Where Are You Going?

Our Lord said, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).

Graduates of Memphis School of Preaching are going into all the world, and proclaiming the gospel of Christ with distinctive preaching. Hundreds of faithful men have successfully completed the intensive two-year course of Bible instruction and preacher preparation. Their work has brought forth the good fruit of souls won to Christ, and glory and praise given to God.

Still, there are billions of souls who have yet to hear the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. More preachers are needed, but who will go? Will you?

If you are willing to invest two years to prepare yourself to take the gospel to the world, come be a part of the growing student body at MSOP. Visit our web page or contact us today for information or a free brochure, and get ready to go into all the world, and preach the gospel!

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I wish to order the following from the MSOP Bookstore.

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2004 MSOP LECTURESHIP A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

I wish to congratulate brother Bobby Liddell, Associate Director, for doing a superb job of directing the Thirty-Eighth Annual MSOP Lectures. The Monday night crowd numbered 1,159, from at least twenty-five states and some foreign countries. Hundreds of additional brethren attended other various sessions. The lectures were excellent, as are the lectureship volumes.

*Thanks to all who attended, as well as to all who contributed to the program’s tremendous success!
Curtis A. Cates, Director*