

The Old Paths

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“Weapons In Our Evangelistic Arsenal”

Jarrod Jacobs

Recently, there has been some stir in the newspaper concerning Catholicism. Specifically, whether or not Christ established the Catholic church and whether or not Peter was the first pope. Our brother Gary White had written on the subject, and was answered by Robert Edge, of Owensboro, on November 5th. Due to the newspaper’s editorial policies, Gary could not answer Robert in the same month, but our brother Dan Clark had the opportunity to do so. His response to Mr. Edge is below:

Peter a man, not a pope

Robert Edge on Nov. 5 made some assertions that cry out for answer. He stated that Peter was the first pope and that study of history reveals that there has been an unbroken chain of popes for 2,000 years.

Peter told Cornelius not to worship him because he was just a man as is recorded in Acts 10:25-26: “*And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.*” Christ also taught that we are to call no man our Father in Matthew 23:9: “*And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.*”

From this basic study of the Bible we see that Peter rejected the very thing Mr. Edge attributes to him, and Christ forbade it. Pe-

ter was given the Keys of The Kingdom, and he exercised them in Acts 2:14 when he first preached Christ crucified to the Jews and in Acts 15:7 when by his mouth God revealed that salvation was available to the Gentiles. This in no way indicates a succession of power as Peter had the keys and he opened the door to the kingdom that remains open to this day.

Dan Clark

I reprint Dan’s letter here as an object lesson, teaching us what we can do to help spread the gospel message in Owensboro. Evangelism is a part of a Christian’s duty (II Tim. 2:2; I Thess. 1:8; Eph. 6:4; II Tim. 1:5; etc.). All Christians have the responsibility to spread God’s word whenever we can. Evangelism includes invitations to gospel meetings, to debates, to Bible studies, sending correspondence courses, as well as invitations to worship services. Evangelism also includes personal letters, one-on-one conversations, personal Bible studies with people in the community, family Bible studies, teaching bulletins, radio programs, Bible web sites, TV programs, letters to the editor on spiritual subjects, etc. In addition to this, may we remember the non-verbal ways in which we can lead others to Christ, including our good examples, godly behavior, and faithful living for the Lord (Matt. 5:16; I Pet. 3:1-6; I Tim. 4:12). It is abundantly clear that we have several avenues available to us for spreading the gospel today.

When Jesus told His apostles to “Go” (Mk. 16:15), “how” they went was up to them. They could use any authorized means of locomotion at their disposal (boat, walking, mule, etc.). In like manner, when He said to “*preach the gospel to every creature*”, the methods applied could be wide and varied. They could not (nor can we) use sinful methods to spread the gospel (Rom. 3:8). They could not (nor can we) use bait-and-switch tactics, and the like to spread the gospel. They could (as can we) use all authorized methods and means at their disposal to spread the truth/ evangelize. This is what Christ wants.

In the 1st century, folks used various means of locomotion to go and spread the word of God (Acts 8:4, 11:19-20; etc.). The gospel was spread “by mouth” if you will, and was later written for the admonishment and instruction of the lost as well as Christians. In commenting on the work done by the Christians in Acts 8:4, Matthew Henry’s commentary states:

“Samson’s riddle is here again unrid-dled: *Out of the eater comes forth meat, and out of the strong sweetness.* The persecution that was designed to extirpate the church was by the overruling providence of God made an occasion of the enlargement of it. Christ had said, *I am come to send fire on the earth;* and they thought, by scattering those who were kindled with that fire, to have put it out, but instead of this they did but help to spread it.

I. Here is a general account of what was done by them all (Acts 8:4): *They went every where, preaching the word.* They did not go to hide themselves for fear of suffering, no, nor to show themselves as proud of their sufferings; but they went

up and down to scatter the knowledge of Christ in every place where they were scattered. They went every where, into the way of the Gentiles, and the cities of the Samaritans, which before they were forbidden to go into, Mat. 10:5. They did not keep together in a body, though this might have been a strength to them; but they scattered into all parts, not to take their ease, but to find out work. They went *evangelizing* the world, preaching the word of the gospel; it was this which filled them, and which they endeavoured to fill the country with, those of them that were preachers in their preaching, and others in their common converse. They were now in a country where they were no strangers, for Christ and his disciples had conversed much in the regions of Judea; so that they had a foundation laid there for them to build upon; and it would be requisite to let the people there know what that doctrine which Jesus had preached there some time ago was come to, and that it was not lost and forgotten, as perhaps they were made to believe.”

(source: e-sword)

As technology has advanced, we have been able to use newspapers, radio waves, internet cables, super computers, power point slides, videos, CD recordings, DVD recordings, and the like to spread the gospel message far and wide. I imagine if the apostles had the same advantages we do, they would have used them without hesitation; so long as they remained true to the Lord's command to "*Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.*" In coming years, who knows what technology might be available? Yet, we would be wise to use all at our fingertips for the spreading of the

most important message in the world. This obviously includes writing letters to the editor of the newspaper from time to time in order to spread and defend the truth.

Several of our brethren here have used the medium of the "Opinion/ Editorial" page to spread the gospel through the years. Brother Clark's letter is just the most recent example of such. Sadly, such letters are subject to the editor's whims as to their frequency in the newspaper, but let us not be discouraged by that. Let us be encouraged as faithful and able brethren (II Tim. 2:2) participate in one of the many ways we can spread the gospel today.

Conclusion

Let us be mindful of how we can spread the gospel to others this week. Remember, we have the greatest message for man. The gospel is God's power to save (Rom. 1:16). We have the power to change innumerable lives in Owensboro and beyond when we put God's plan into practice daily. Think about it: What methods of evangelism might *you* be able to employ this week? Could it be a written letter? The word of mouth? By example? Challenge yourself to evangelize this week. "*The fruit of righteousness is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise*" (Prov. 11:30).

Why I Am A Member Of The church Of Christ

A.C. Grider

I didn't join the church of Christ. I didn't select the church of Christ as "my choice" from among many churches. It never occurred to me that I had a choice nor that I desired to make a choice of churches.

I started thinking about my spiritual condition down in Tennessee some years ago — several years ago and made up my mind that I should do something about it. I began to consider what the Lord wanted me to do. I started to study my Bible.

I found that I was a sinner and that Christ was THE savior. I found that if I were ever saved it would only be by Christ. I considered His word relative to what to do to be saved. He said I should **repent**, Luke 13:3, I did. He said I should **confess** Him, Matthew 10:32. I did. He said I should **be baptized**, Mark 16:16. I did. He said if I would do these things I would BE SAVED. I was. But the BIBLE taught that when I was saved the Lord added me to the church, Acts 2:47. He did.

Now, WHICH CHURCH did he add me to? HIS, Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; Romans 16:16. Thus I am a member of the church of Christ because I had NO CHOICE and wanted none. I just wanted to be saved. And I was!

Past Bulletins Are Posted At:
www.southside-churchofchrist.com



I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!

Come and meet with the church at Southside.

Our address: 2920 New Hartford Rd. Owensboro, KY 42303

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Bible Study _____ 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship _____ 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship _____ 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study _____ 7:00 p.m.

"What Is Written": Sunday (12:30 p.m.) on 94.7 & 100.5 FM.

Call: 683-9246 (WBIO) with your Bible questions.

"The Ancient Landmark": airs Monday (9 p.m.), Wednesday (5 p.m.), & Thursday (11 p.m.) on channel 52.

Website: www.southside-churchofchrist.com (Updated weekly!)

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"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." (Jer. 6:16)