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"IT IS WRITTEN"

Grand Prairie, Texas
August 4, 1949

To all the Brotherhood;

Bro. Earl Atchley and I have discussed for some time, the need for some way for members of the Church of Christ to become better acquainted that each may know the different localities of the church. It is our hope, and we trust the hope of every church member, that good might be done.

Its Purpose-

To serve as a messenger to the members of the Church, the reports from the field, and from time to time teach the word of the Lord. It is our hope that each lesson can be sent forth in hope of Eternal life. Our prayer is and shall continue to be, that each time an article is written, that it might be that of SOUND WORDS.

With Christian Love,

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Brother Garrison has written an article of introduction to which I would like to add a few words.

I'm sure most of you know that Brother Beddingfield has had to give up his publication of the little paper "It is Written" on account of his health.

A little over a year ago I had the pleasure of meeting Brother Beddingfield and Sister Beddingfield and spent the night in their home which was a pleasure. At that time he said he was sure he could not continue with the paper much longer and ask me about taking over. Then when he became ill he wrote me about it. I didn't feel that I could shoulder the whole thing alone, so I began corresponding with Brother Garrison, and we have finally gotten together for the first issue.

I feel sure that most of you realize that Brother Beddingfield has made a great sacrifice financially as well as otherwise in trying to present the gospel to the readers of "It is Written". I hate to see him have to give it up as I feel it has been a great help to those who have read his articles and his good admonitions to Christians. I hope we may do much good in our efforts to continue with a paper for those christian people who are endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. Eph. 4:3

Of course we may not all agree with Brother Beddingfield on all things, but I feel that any one doing this kind of work will find some that do not agree on all things. If I don't agree with some one on a whole subject I'm ready to discuss it and try to find out which is in error. If I am the one then I'm ready to get right. So that is the way we are going into this work. We are open at all times for correction if we make any misapplication of the scriptures.

Our aim in the publication of this paper is to do all the good we can and if possible no harm at all. We want to try and bring all the churches closer together rather than farther apart.

When we get out and travel over the country as my wife and I did just last year, you can see the need of all true churches working together. The churches are so few and so far apart that we had to have services just the two of us several times. We really should have unity if we expect to accomplish any thing in our work for the Lord.

Let us read the 17th chapter of St. John the 4th verse; "I have glorified Thee on earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do." Friends these are the words of our saviour. I wonder how many of us can truthfully say those words. Yes, we all have work to do, and a part of that work is striving for that unity that our saviour prayed for in this chapter. Notice verses 11 and 22. The only way we can have that unity is by studying our bibles and accepting the things as it is written. After all we are to be governed and judged by the divine word of God, presented to us through the bible by the Apostles who were inspired of God. So why look for any other form of teaching? 1st Thes. 5:21 "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. How are we to prove all things that we may be able to hold fast that which is good? Let's read 2nd Tim. 2:15 Paul says "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

If we would spend more time studying the word of God and less time trying to find something wrong with our brother we will gain a greater knowledge of God's word and be better prepared as a workman to rightly divide the word of truth. If we are able to rightly divide the word of truth then there should be no cause for division among us, because we would all speak the same things and be of the same mind. See 1st Cor. 1:10; also Eph. 4:16. Wouldn't this be a wonderful place to live if every one would accept the bible as is, and then live it in our daily lives? According to the scriptures we will have a wonderful place to live when our journey here on earth is ended. "If?" Yes, if we have done as Christ said He had done in St. John 17:4 "I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do." And as Paul said in 2nd. Tim. 4:7 "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." If we have done this then that same reward will be waiting for us, "A crown of righteousness" in that heavenly home with our saviour.

Isn't that worth our efforts while here in this world, trying to keep that unity? I believe it is.

Written in love and the hope of drawing each one of God's children closer together, that we may all work together in his vinyard as one.

Earl Atchley

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This issue of the paper we will send several copies to those we have on the mailing list. We notice on the list there are several different names from the same locality or congregation. It would be less work and expense if we could mail enough copies to one member and let him distribute them among the brethren and anyone who might be interested. Would like to hear from any or all about this. If it would be better and can get the names and addresses we will mail out seperately. We want everyone interested to have a copy. If any of you receiving a copy know of a congregation, brother, or anyone you would like to have the paper, please let me or Brother Garrison know and we will see that they get it. There will be no charge. Of course all of you know there will be quite a lot of expense and if you feel that the paper is worth anything we will appreciate the help of the brethren, either through the church as a whole or individually. Of course Brother Garrison and I intend to continue as long as we can even though we should get no help.

We would like to use a part of the paper for church activities. I think it is good to know of the different churches; where they are, and how they are progressing. So let us hear from you on this matter.

L. E. A.