



Oologah Observer

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:20

Church of Christ • 13800 S. 4080 Road • P.O. Box 527 • Oologah, Oklahoma 74053

A Gospel Famine

M. O. Daley

“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God,
that I will send a famine in the land,
not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water,
but of hearing the words of the Lord” (Amos 8:11).

The word “famine” implies a great scarcity of the thing mentioned. Here the commodity is “hearing the word of the Lord.” In a general way, it could be said that a famine of this sort has existed from the beginning, but a particular famine is here predicted — an unusual one. Just when the prediction came true, if it has, we are not told, but I know of no period of time since Amos made the prediction wherein its existence is more apparent than now. That the Lord would send this famine in the same manner that he “shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie” (2 Thessalonians 2:11) is no doubt true. Surely God would not hang the eternal destiny of mankind on “hearing,” and then deliberately make it impossible for man to hear. Isaiah explains the matter thus: “For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them” (Matthew 13:15).

Since “doing the will of the Father” is dependent on “hearing the words of the Lord,” and salvation is conditioned upon both, our refusal to “hear” produces a “hearing” famine. It also

produces a gospel famine. Through all the ages, the first sign of the approaching famine here mentioned is the demand to “speak unto us smooth things” (Isaiah 30:10), which is all too often complied with by the preacher. Notwithstanding, God has said, “I am against the prophets that smooth their tongues” (Jeremiah 23:31, marg.). Compared with the amount of preaching done today, it is safe to say that never before has the percentage of gospel preaching been so low and the disposition to hear so feeble.

But the filing of complaints against the deplorable condition does not release us from the responsibility laid upon us nor is God under obligation to revise “his words” because they have grown into disfavor with the masses. All through both Testaments warnings abound to “speak my word faithfully” (Jeremiah 23:28) and to “reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Timothy 4:2). “Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3). When we were “a feeble folk,” a determined effort to heed the above warnings was in evidence. Denominational practice was revised because of it, and its entire structure was made to tremble. Every teaching was measured by the word of God, and when found wanting, it was condemned openly. Then we reprovved and rebuked with the doctrine of Christ everything that opposed it. We are now pointing out those doctrines peculiar to denominationalism as we did formerly. As a result of this change, our people are not as familiar with false teaching as they once were.

Present-day Tendency

The present-day tendency is towards placing all religious bodies on an equal footing — all good and whatever differences there may be between them is not vital. Denominationalism itself is leading aid to such tendency, and it is growing in popularity. Evidence abounds that “our” people are not immune to its evil influence and not a few are unacquainted with those great doctrines for which the church of Christ stands and which differentiate it from all other religious bodies. If I am even tolerably correct here, the condition existing may be the outgrowth of “we located preachers,” ambitious to develop “our” church into a greater working body; and in accomplishing that goal, it is possible that we may have emphasized the “growth” process at the expense of the “birth” process and are overlooking the fact that before Christian growth can begin, there must be a submission to “the righteousness of God” (Romans 10:3). Of these conditions, in the language of Jesus, I say: The one you ought to have done and not to have left the other undone (Matthew 23:23).

Union Verses Unity

Many are being deceived by the wave of “unionism” now sweeping over the land; churches “federating” for some particular service or for all services; whole religious bodies uniting, etc. The Lord prayed for it, we are told. Let no one be deceived. Church federation and church union are a long ways from the “unity” for which Christ prayed. I have yet to

hear of any one forsaking any belief or practice in these “unions” or “federation”; in fact, denominationalism is today what it has always been, in so far as doctrine is concerned. Just because it has proposed an “armistice” is no reason we should subscribe to it. There can be no compromise between truth and error, and it is as necessary to preach the truth and expose error today as it ever was. To fail to “declare all the counsel of God” is but to bring about a “gospel famine.”

Gospel Advocate, February 25, 1937

God Is Thicker than Family

Ricky Clay

There is a beautiful story told of friendship in the Old Testament between two men — Jonathan and David. Jonathan was the son of King Saul, yet his heart was with David. David had already made a great name for himself in the land by his victory over Goliath. This made Saul quite jealous of David. Jonathan had to choose where he would stand with his relationships between his father and David.

Usually a man will stand on the side of his blood kin. Overlooking many of his family’s faults, we will consistently stand by them. Often we will make excuses for their mistakes and even cover for them when their actions would put them at risk. And if all else fails, we will try to change the rules to fit their situation rather than rebuke our kin. It is refreshing to read about Jonathan’s willingness to stand up to his father, even with the possibility of losing his inheritance and his standing in the kingdom of Israel. There is nothing more important than standing for the right. Principles of goodness, justice, and mercy do not change.

Sometimes in wanting our children to be happy, we may try to explain away God’s divine laws regarding marriage, divorce and remarriage. To keep peace in the family, sometimes we compromise our religious beliefs. It might be that we fail to teach them the whole counsel of God. Relationships that are based upon compromise of right principles or tolerance of sin in one’s life are relationships that are doomed from the beginning. Jonathan realized that his father was wrong and acted according to his conscience.

Friendships in life are essential to all of us. The desire to have those who will support us and stand by us is good. “It is not good for man to be alone.” But those relationships must be based on a view of the future more so than only the present. It would be tragic if a friend gave such attention to food, clothes and the physical needs of those around him and forgot the importance of the soul.

Observations and Concerns

February 7, 2024

Welcome Visitors! We are so glad you chose to be with us.

Praise in Psalm: “Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms” (Psalm 95:2).

Declaration of Appreciation: Remember in your prayers of thanks the men who lead us in worship and make decisions to keep us on the straight and narrow way.

The Wednesday evening adult Bible class will continue watching the fourth video on **Personal Evangelism** by Rob Whitacre. The title of this lesson is *Let’s Not Argue About the Method*.

T-Roy Hass from the Bible Institute of Missouri will be our speaker this coming Sunday morning.

Our **monthly potluck luncheon** is this Sunday after morning services. All are encouraged to stay!

The theme of this year’s lectureship is “**Conversions in Acts**.” The date is March 22–24. Please plan to attend and invite others. Flyers are available in the foyer.

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ **Andy Hudson** has a stomach ulcer that is causing him problems.
- ▶ **Dicie Jackson** had a CT scan that revealed two spots on her lungs. The doctors plan to rescan in a few months.
- ▶ **Pat Taylor** is having neck problems.
- ▶ **Darla Smith** has a new phone number and an updated address. Please see Chelley if you need them.
- ▶ **Margie Casebolt**, mother of Jody Northrop, is recovering from a fall and plans to have a CT scan on Wednesday.
- ▶ **Pat Gray**, sister-in-law of Sammy and Nelda, is recovering from a heart attack.

February Birthdays: 3 - **Brooke & Brecklyn Nelson**; 10 - **Brenson Nelson**; 12 - **Walter Jackson**; 18 - **Brianna Nelson**; No anniversaries this month.

Schedule of Services	Assignments		
	Wednesday, Feb. 7	Sunday, Feb. 11 AM	Sunday, Feb. 11 PM
Sundays			
Announcements	Bill Dilks	Chris Nelson	Ross Swearingen
Prayer	Bill Dilks	Chris Nelson	Ross Swearingen
Worship 9:30 AM			
Worship 10:30 AM			
Worship 5:00 PM			
Wednesdays			
Lord’s Supper (speaker)		Chuck Northrop	Chris Nelson
Lord’s Supper		Ross Swearingen	
Lesson	Chuck Northrop	T-Roy Hass	Chuck Northrop
Prayer	Doyle Jackson	Doyle Jackson	Bill Dilks
Door Attendant	Doyle Jackson	Ross Swearingen	Chris Nelson

Schedule of Services

Sundays
 Bible Classes . . . 9:30 AM
 Worship 10:30 AM
 Worship 5:00 PM
 Wednesdays
 Bible Classes . . . 7:00 PM
 Website: oologahcofc.org