

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark
GOSPEL ARITHMETIC
(II. Addition)

IN SCHOOL a child first learns his "numbers" and how to count with them. The next step of his advancement in the field of mathematics is addition. And so it is in our consideration of Gospel Arithmetic.

When one learns to add, there is one rule that he must soon learn if he is to make a practical application of addition. That rule is that the addends must be alike. Here's an example: You can't add together dollars and donuts and arrive at a simple answer. Nor can you add cats and dogs together. (In the latter case a fight is the usual result.)

Neither can you add oil and water. They simply do not mix. Try as hard as you desire, you cannot add together, sin and righteousness. They are as different as night and day. When light enters, darkness departs. Jesus said that men cannot serve two masters. God and Satan have nothing whatsoever in common and cannot join themselves together nor have any semblance of fellowship. By the same reasoning, one cannot be a Christian and an unsaved sinner. These things just cannot be!



REV. D. M. CLARK

There are certain things concerning the Gospel which cannot be added. One is this: A man cannot add to a covenant. Paul has written in his letter to the Galatians, chapter three, verse fifteen, "Brethren, I speak after the manner of men: Though it be but a man's covenant, yet when it hath been confirmed, no one maketh it void or addeth thereto."

What is a covenant? Webster gives as a definition, "an agreement between persons or Parties." Such agreements are made in the line of business, religion, personal things, etc. Among the ancient Hebrews when such a covenant was made, it was expressed as "cutting a covenant." In the making of the covenant an animal was slain and cut into, the pieces of which were given to the parties involved.

A COVENANT is also a will or testament. It is a disposition of anything that the covenanter has in his possession or within his power to give. God has made this kind of covenant with man. His covenant is a disposition of His grace to mankind that they might be saved upon faith and obedience to His Son whom He sent to seal the covenant with His blood.

To the old Hebrews, a man's word was his honor. It seems things have changed somewhat since then. Today, if a man makes an agreement it is difficult to hold him to it unless it is made in writing and legally notarized. The Jew, however, in Biblical times would not break his promise under any circumstances. When an agreement was made, he would not break it nor alter it in any way.

God made a covenant with Noah following the great flood. He declared that He would never again destroy the world by water. A sign of this covenant was the rainbow which still arches the heavens after a rain. Likewise God made a covenant with Abraham that he would become a great nation (though at the time he and Sarah were childless) and that one of his descendants would emerge to be saviour of the world. The sign of this covenant was circumcision. Although the law was later introduced, it in no wise altered this covenant. Christ was the prophesied seed and heir to the promise. We become heirs to the promise in Christ. The new covenant which is now in existence is a promise that we shall be saved by simple faith in Jesus the Christ, the Son of the Living God. This covenant was sealed in the blood of the Son in His sacrifice on Calvary.

God has not altered, nor added to, nor made void any covenant which He made with man. Nor will He ever add to them, or alter them, or make them void. They have been set and sealed

Ethel Washington Interred West Las Vegas Mourns Popular Cosmetologist

FUNERAL SERVICES for Mrs. Charlie (Ethel) Washington were conducted Tuesday at Second Baptist Church, 500 Madison Ave., by her pastor, Dr. V. C. L. Coleman, who delivered a funeral oration based on the topic, "Christians Moving Day."

Mrs. Doretha Williams and Mrs. Mary Smith eulogized their departed Sister in Christ following Scripture readings by the Rev. Donald M. Clark (from the Old Testament) and the Rev. A. J. Thompson (from the New Testament), and a prayer led by the Rev. F. N. Addison.

Mrs. Eliza Junior read the Obituary while Mrs. Esther Langston sang a solo. Choral numbers were rendered by the church choir and members of the Cosmetiques Club, of which Mrs. Washington was a charter member and treasurer.

The Cosmetiques, almost a hundred strong, also served as honorary pallbearers. Pallbearers were Sam Richardson, Willie Langston, R. G. Reid, Ranzo Webb, J. Q. Hall, Straughter Bowman, Henry Turner and James Robinson.

Interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery under the direction of James A. Gay and Andrew Jackson of Palm Mortuary.

Mrs. Washington entered the field of cosmetology in 1943 and opened Ethel's Beauty Salon at 1216 'D' St. here in 1960. She was a member of the National Hairdressers Association in addition to the Cosmetiques Club and was the winner of several cosmetology awards.

West Las Vegas beauty shops were closed



MRS. CHARLIE WASHINGTON
Requiescat in Pace

during Mrs. Washington's funeral and burial out of respect to the popular cosmetologist and prominent churchwoman.

In addition to her husband, an employee at the Nevada Test Site, Mrs. Washington is survived by her son, Pete Washington, of Los Angeles; two sisters, Mrs. Ora Lee Chocolate, Los Angeles, and Mrs. Carrie Walker, Detroit, Mich.; and three grandchildren.

and are entirely binding. But in addition to this fact, another point needs to be set forth. Since God is Ruler of all creation and since He made the covenants with men for their benefit, then we have no right to change or add to the covenant.

ANOTHER ESSENTIAL to which nothing can be added is the Word of God. No man has a right to add to that which has been given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Regardless of who declares himself to be a divinely appointed representative of God, he cannot change God's Word! This is true whether he be an ecclesiastical leader or scholar or simply an individual with an idea. In the existing religious bodies today many additions have been made in the form of church polity, essentials in the plan of salvation, in credal statements over and above that which is in Scripture which are made tests of fellowship, and in doctrine.

One can say such things are a part of Scripture, but the mere statement doesn't make it so. You can say that a cow has 5 legs but that doesn't make it so. The Word of God is final and cannot be added to by man. "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." (Rev. 22:8,19). With those words, God Himself stopped talking and hasn't added a word or subtracted a syllable since. What right then has a man to add unto His Word?


Now let us consider what man is expected to add. There is only one place in the New Testament where man is commanded to do any adding. That is recorded in the second epistle of Peter, verse five of the first chapter. "And besides this, giving all diligence, ADD to your faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity (or love)."

Doesn't this remind you of those long column addition problems back in grade school? Someone has described this passage with the picture

of a pebble tossed into a pond and the concentric circles that come forth. Peter in verse ten puts the cap on this addition problem that is set forth by saying, "... give diligence to make your calling and election sure; for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall" and continuing, "For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

The question is have you added these things correctly without leaving any one out or adding anything else? It is God who checks the papers. A wrong answer is given the grade of "O"; added correctly the grade given is LIFE in the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

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The Cove Hotel

400 Jackson

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