



# The Gospel According to You

By Arthur McPhee

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John  
Are read by more than a few,  
But the one that is most read and commented on  
Is the gospel according to you.

You are writing a gospel, a chapter each day  
By the things that you do and the words that you say;  
Men read what you write, whether faithless or true,  
Say, what is the gospel according to you?

Do men read His truth and His love in your life,  
Or has yours been too full of malice and strife?  
Does your life speak of evil, or does it ring true?  
Say, what is the gospel according to you?

## Queries and Answers

By Robert F. Turner, April 1965

*When one congregation is disciplining a brother who is in sin, what is the responsibility of neighboring congregations? Should they receive one who is rejected by the first congregation?*

**Reply:** Common sense, and respect for the actions of brethren whom we hold to be sound in the faith, should make a church wary of one who is disciplined by another church. It seems reasonable that the "home" church would be better able to determine the light or darkness of his course than others.

However, it is error to consider the rulings of one congregation binding upon all others. Fellowship is hinged upon truth (God's word), not upon the actions of any congregation (1 Jn. 1:3-7; 2 Cor.10:12). Sometimes men keep fellowship with one who has walked in darkness and is no longer in fellowship with God (1 Cor. 5). It is also possible for men to refuse fellowship with some—putting them out of the church—whom God continues to fellowship (3 Jn. 9-10).

Disfellowship calls for collective action (Mt. 18:17; 1 Cor. 5:4), and the organizational structure of the church is limited to that of a single congregation. One church cannot take disciplinary action for another,

any more than it can take any other action on behalf of another. Each must make an independent decision as to whom they receive into their number, with a view to pleasing God, according to His word. Any other standard will denominationalize the church.

## Fixating on What's Important, 7-5-20

By Bill Fix

At this time of year (Independence Day), we often remember the sacrifices others have made for us to enjoy the freedoms we share in the USA. We recently saw a decorative sign in a home décor store that read, "Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you: Jesus Christ and the American G.I. One died for your soul; the other for your freedom." However, some major differences exist between the sacrifices made by soldiers and our Savior:

- Soldiers endure many hardships: training, absence from family and friends, mental trauma, and risk of injury & death. (See 2 Tim. 2:3)
  - **Jesus endured hardships** unlike what anyone else ever faced, including direct temptation from Satan after a 40-day fast (Mt. 4:1-11), homelessness (Lk. 9:58), betrayal by one of his closest friends (Mt. 26:21-25; Lk. 22:47-48), and a criminal's execution (Lk. 23:32-33). "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but **was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin**" (Heb. 4:14-15).
- All Americans benefit from the service of our soldiers who fought to gain and keep our independence, even if some choose to protest it.
  - While Christ died for all mankind (2 Pet. 3:9), only **those "who are in Christ Jesus"** and walk "according to the Spirit" will have the benefit of "**no condemnation**" (Rom. 8:1).
- We frequently recognize active duty military members and veterans for their service. This common courtesy shows respect for them, especially since many made a conscious decision to enlist.
  - **How often do we express gratitude for the sacrifice of Jesus?** "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mt. 20:28).

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you." — Jn. 15:13-14