

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



Volume 14, No. 7

Published at

Guthrie, Oklahoma

25c Per Year

October, 1943

Do Not Give Up

O soul that's sinking in despair,
Is your trial too hard to bear?
Do you hear the devil say,
"Why not end it all today?"
Yield not, but raise the shield of faith
Plead the blood and ask for grace.
Resist the devil, he will flee
For greater is the One in thee.
You say you have become too weak?
Then listen to this promise sweet.
"In time of trouble call on Me
I'll hear and I'll deliver thee.
Stand still and I will fight for you
Fear not, just trust, I'll see you thru."
His eyes are running to and fro
His strength in your behalf to shew.
More than conqueror you can be
Thru Jesus Christ who died for thee.
In the clouds, tho sight unseen,
God's army comes upon the scene
And routs the demons that oppress.
You'll find a sudden peace and rest.
Your roots, now deeper in the Rock,
Can better stand all strain and shock.
So lift your head, take heart, dear one
'Tis thus we learn to overcome.
How do I know? Ah, I've been thru—
What He did for me He will do for you.

oOo

The Fiery Trial

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you." 1 Peter 4:12.

John Bunyan, immortal dreamer, author of "Pilgrim's Progress," a work so akin to the Bible tells of Christian's journey to the celestial city, and his meeting Apollyon (Greek for devil) in the way who used every means in his power to tempt, discourage and stop Christian in his journey. Failing in all his attempts, Apollyon stood hard in the way and wrathfully said to Christian, "I am void of fear in this matter; prepare thyself to die, for I swear by my infernal den that thou shalt go no further,

here will I spill thy soul." A furious battle ensued and Christian with the whole armor of God on and the sharp double-edged sword of the spirit (Eph. 6:17) was able to withstand Apollyon and to defeat him.

Christian's great victory was the result of possessing a hundred percent faith, doer and demonstrator of a hundred percent full gospel ministry of the revealed and inspired Word of God. To resist, rebuke, fight, and overcome Satan and wicked spirits and their whisperings one must constantly have on the whole armor of God with the sword of the spirit (Word of God) or a doer, interpreter, and demonstrator of the truth of God that does not compromise with anything short of it.

Sectish, apostate, worldly deceptive religious organizations have no such rich, priceless goods to offer, for they oppose a sinless, holy, sanctified, set-apart (from worldliness) life dedicated to God.

Many years ago I knew a married couple, both sweetly saved and thus equally yoked together in one heart and life. The wife became sick and passed away. The husband in due time felt his need of another mate or companion to keep his home together. He was not careful and vigilant to heed 2 Cor. 6:14 (this quotation though referring to God's people mixed up in various sects, is also applied to saved people who are considering marriage). Some time after marriage this brother felt his mistake. His unsaved wife became hostile to his righteous way of living and Satan used her as an agency or tool in attempt to break down this brother's faith and loyalty in Christ and made life in his home miserable and trying. It was indeed a fiery trial and ordeal that this brother had to pass through to deliver his soul. Take heed and warning ye (man or woman) who are contemplating marriage, especially widows or widowers who have children under care, not to marry an unsaved person, lest unhappiness curse your home life. Rather obey the Word of God and thus live in sweet peace and happiness together as God so wills.

To overcome these fiery trials and sore temptations, persecutions, etc. the saved must have in storage renewed spiritual reserve power by daily living up to the highest standard of gospel doctrine. God through Christ has promised the Christian hope

and deliverance from the enemy of our souls. In 1 Cor. 10:13 we read, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape that ye may be able to bear it." "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation [overcomes] for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." James 1: 12.

I am firmly convinced that many a fiery trial and fierce temptation, even persecution is experienced in the home life of untold numbers of saved people who did not heed the danger signal of 2 Cor. 6:14. Then it's too late to lament upon what you ought to have done. How tragic, sometimes fatal when either party becomes suspicious of the other and begins to nurse that hideous, green-eyed, satanic monster, jealousy leading to separation or divorce. Usually the first indications are that the wife gets offended (or vice versa) when her husband looks at or speaks to another woman. When both have genuine heart-felt salvation and are living a beautiful, sweet, holy life such cannot well happen, for holiness of heart and life purges that curse of Satan out of one's life. It requires holy, sanctified living with the whole armor of God (full gospel ministry) to be fully able with God-given authority to rebuke, resist, bind (destroy) the works of Satan in your own and others lives. Matt. 16:19.

Since Satan is an accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10) he will attempt to make it appear as though one were guilty of dis'oyalty to Christ by using false accusation. I am thinking of one whom I personally know who has passed through the fiery trial and sore temptations in the home. It was as though he had passed through the valley of the shadow of death and down by the border lands of hell. This man rejoiced in the Lord when he emerged from his sore fiery trial as one who had won a great victory over the chief enemy of God and his own soul. It often happens in the home life where satan or evil spirits use as a mouth piece or agency through ones mental powers to oppose and fight the saved wife (or vice versa.) Suggestions from evil spirits is to resent, declaring you are a fool to take such tongue lashings. "I would fire back (eye for eye, tooth for tooth, Matt. 5:38, 39) just as contemptible evil fiery words and actions as they give you." When Christian was passing through the valley of the shadow of death he was accosted by an evil spirit who whisperingly suggested greivous blasphemies against God. Contrary to Christian Science doctrine, the reality of Satan or evil spirits is positively not just an idea or imagination. The absolute truth of God answers and rebukes anything to the contrary for the mystery and reality of Satan and hostile evil powers that fight and oppose constructive righteous works becomes a positive reality to those who have been born of God. See 2 Thes. 2:8.

Contrary to many minds, it is not God that tempts and tries you or causes the fiery trial to

test you out. It is none other than Satan who is hard on your trail to doom your soul. Listen to the inspired word of God; "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man; But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed." James 1:13, 14. The valiant servant of the Lord does not flee from the presence of evil for fear of being overcome. Have faith in God who has confidence in you to endure. Stand your ground without compromise and demonstrate your ability and God-given power and decision to overcome any evil powers. Put into action your God-given authority and will powers, for Satan can not overcome anyone unless they first consent to yield. "The rod of the wicked [Satan] shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous, lest the righteous put forth [yield] unto iniquity." Psa. 125:3. God expects all His saints (the redeemed) through faith and power vested in them by Christ Jesus to possess a firm decision to overcome all wicked powers. Thanks be to God that we can have a part in this great victory which is greater than all earth's victories. If sinful thoughts and lusts trouble your mind and peace, there is a definite remedy and cure which enables every saved person to bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor. 10:5) who can and will give you authority and power to rebuke all such. "Resist [rebuke] the devil and he will flee from you." James 4:7

Control your mental powers when evil thoughts and whisperings come to you by being able to instantly quote the words of sound convincing gospel truths found in the following quotations: Matt. 4:10 and 24:30, 31; 1 Thes. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:24, 26, 55, 57; Acts 17:31; 1 Pet. 5:8; James 4:7, 8; John 8:44; Matt. 25:41; Luke 4:8; 1 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6; 2 Cor. 7:10. Copy all these off and study daily and rehearse until you can recite part or all by heart. Satan and his evil spirits sorely dislike to be reminded of their final doom and end. They are as red hot fiery destructive darts or God's double-edged sword that Satan and his imps hate and will in rage flee from. Evil spirits cried out in alarm, "Art thou [Jesus] come hither to torment us before the time?" [last day]. Matt. 8:29. I heartily sympathize and pray for every one who reads this message that is passing through fiery trials and sore temptations that the Lord will help them to pray and contend more earnestly for perfect victory over Satan and the whisperings of evil spirits. —John H. Griffith

oOo

Contentment

In 1 Tim. 6:6 we read, "But godliness with contentment is great gain." Oh, how I thank the dear Lord for contentment today. We notice the writer says godliness with contentment is great gain. What have we gained by being Godly? Oh, our tongue can not express, and contentment along with godliness is great gain. So in order for us as the children of God to have great gain in our life

and in the world to come we want to be contented with our lot in life. Many times the enemy works to try to make one think if their life could have been otherwise, oh how much better it would be, and by his often coming he gets one all disturbed. If you listen to his discouraging words there will be a discontented life on your hands. But as we think of the word of God where he says we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, it encourages us. In order for us to be contented we must take everything as something sent from God, for not one thing can come near a trusting child of God only as the Lord permits it.

I often wonder why many times, we as the dear children of God will begin to be fearful because of something that's not going just as we wish or think it ought to. Dear child of God, the eyes of God are ever over you and he is guiding your soul to its final resting place. He sees many times that it will be necessary for us to go up some mountains and hills and sometimes he sees a few tears will help us on. They will water the next hard pull, thus we need everything that comes our way. How blessed it is to have this great contentment when seemingly everything is going wrong.

Are you willing to be used to God's glory in every way? Some times the Lord will see fit to place us in the furnace to be tried. There are so many, many kinds of trials to try the dear children of God. Jesus will have a tried people. Are we willing to be talked about for Jesus' sake, our name cast out as evil, our reputation lowered, our influence bruised? Are we really contented when all these things are coming? Oh, for that innocent life of Jesus to dwell within us each day so that when we are reviled we will not revile again, but just be contented! Oh, what joy, what glory there is in a contented life. All is well with our soul, nothing to disturb. Jesus is stilling the tempest and storm and He's walking on before. Dear child of God, be not afraid to follow on.

How blessed it is to live near the cross for there is only contentment there. Many dying men and women are looking for the vain things of time to gain contentment. But alas, it will never be found except in Jesus. Neither money nor fine homes and cars will bring happiness and contentment. The love of money is the root of all evil. In these awful days as we are just nearing the end of the way, people are in a mad rush after money, money, money and our dear boys dying on the battle field, yet these money lovers cry, "Just let the war continue, we want to make more money." No wonder Paul said the love of money is the root of all evil. Dear children of God, let me warn you as one that loves your soul, of these things. We read in Luke 21:34 where Jesus says to take heed to yourselves lest at any time your hearts be over charged with surfeiting and drunkenness and cares of this life and so that day come upon you unawares. There never was a time when people were more interested in the things of this world than now and we need to beware, for the

devil would like so well to ensnare the souls of the dear children of God.

May God bless every one of his little ones and help them to live a happy, contented life. Thank the Lord for your lot and be contented. Dear child of God, He will care for you. We brought nothing into this world and it is a sure thing we will not carry anything away, so with food and raiment, let us be content. Thank God for a salvation that makes us thankful for all His gracious dealings with us. He brings down and He lifts up, therefore He knows best. Lead me on, dear Jesus, till I reach my heavenly home. However the wind may blow, it only brings me closer to home, sweet home.

—Lottie Joiner

— oOo —

What Card Playing Did For A Sunday School Class

While a friend of mine was conducting a meeting one morning, a tramp came in and said, "My father and mother used to set in this pew. It is the first church I ever attended. My father was an officer in this church. Seven boys used to set in this pew in the Sunday School Class.

"We had a great love and respect for our Sunday School Teacher. Saturday afternoon she invited us to her home, entertaining with music, eatables and a look over the lesson. She was anxious to please and hold us, so after awhile she taught us to play cards. We became enthusiastic over it, learning different games, none of us had ever played with cards before. After a while we would not give so much time to the lesson, but she let us have more time for playing cards, and would show us how to do some more new card tricks.

"After a while we were off in the cotton gins playing cards and not going to her home. Later we failed to go to Sunday School. Cards led to cigarettes, then drinking and gambling. We all at different times left our homes. Two of those boys have been hung; three are in the State Prisons for life; one a vagabond like myself. No one knows where he is, and if the authorities knew I was here I would be arrested and put behind the bars.

"All I wish is that that teacher had never taught us to play cards."

As he stood there broken-hearted, a lady dressed in mourning arose, went to where the man was fell on the floor with a scream, and said, "My God! I am that Sunday School teacher!"

You are quite at liberty to print the story in tract form, and I would like to add, "The story is true and can be easily substantiated."

—J. W. Chapman

— NOTICE —

Books wanted that were printed by the Gospel Trumpet Company prior to 1912. Let us know what you have in this line of used books,

whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace saith my God to the wicked." Isa. 57:20, 21.

Wicked men are generally thought to be those that are continually doing evil deeds and so they are but did you ever stop to think what a wicked thing it is for any one to reject the Savior who bled and died to save men from sin and give them power to live clean and holy every day? To reject the Savior who is the only escape God has provided to keep men out of hell and torment is doing wickedness toward your own soul and trampling under your feet the mercies of a loving Creator. To slander any one, speak evil of them, or take up a reproach against them is breaking the commandments of God and it would be impossible for such a one to love God as they could have nothing more than just a feigned love for God. Jesus says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" and again he says, "If a man loves me he will keep my words." John 14:15 and 23.

o-o-o-o-o

The "Faith and Victory" paper stands squarely against all division, schisms, isms, and all unsound doctrines and teachings of men. The reason there are so many man-made religions in the world today is because so many back-slide in heart and become filled with their own ways and are not in a condition to receive the brighter shining light from heaven, but drink out of a stagnant pond and gradually poison others whom they influence to do the same. Self-righteousness was the great sin of the religious Pharisees in Jesus' day and time on earth and it seems that such now has multiplied a thousand fold.

o-o

Campmeeting Report

The Dover, Okla. Campmeeting which convened Aug. 27 to Sept. 5 has come and gone and is numbered with the events of the past. The results of the meeting and the good it has done is known to God and we trust that the effect of the same will roll on until it reaches the shores of eternity. The saints began coming in from the first and continued coming from day to day until the close. Three or four claimed salvation, three were baptized and a goodly number of saints took part in the ordinance services. There were about twenty-two ministers present. In spite of the severe drouth that has been in continuation in these parts for some time, the needs of the meeting were well supplied as consecrated saints gave freely of their means and goods to the glory of God. Some said it was the best meeting they had witnessed for some time.

On Tuesday, Aug. 31, the writer was called to Oklahoma City to preach the funeral of Sister Dora Williams' husband who had passed away at a ripe old age. Truly time is carrying us on and the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. It behooves us to watch and pray that we may be found worthy in that day. Pray for us that we keep in the order of God.

Yours in His service,

—Ulysses Phillips

Obituaries

Bro. T. B. Armstrong, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Armstrong, was born April 15, 1859; departed this life Aug. 17, 1943 at the age of 85 years, 5 months, and 2

days. He was married to Rena Jones on July 5th, 1884. To this union six children were born; two girls and four boys, one son, Herbert preceded him in death.

Bro. Armstrong was saved in the year 1918 and dearly loved the way of the Lord and would have the ministers to come in his community to preach the gospel that others might be saved from their sins. One of Bro. Armstrong's favorite songs was: "Oh how happy are they, Who their Savior obey, And who have laid up their treasures above." While on his sick bed he would join in the singing and said he had good visions. His life was an example to the community in which he lived.

He leaves to mourn his passing a devoted wife, three sons; Ruskin, Leslie, and Theoprolus, two daughters; Mrs. Mae Brown of Chandler, and Julia of the home, one brother, a number of other relatives and friends.

A precious one from us is gone,

A voice we loved is stilled

A place is vacant in our home,

Which never can be filled.

God in His wisdom has recalled,

A friend his love had given

And though the body slumbers here,

The soul is safe in heaven.

Funeral was conducted by Bro. Ulysses Phillips, assisted by Bro. M. J. Phillips. Text, Rev. 14:13, "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord." Interment made in cemetery near Meeker, Okla. May the God of all grace comfort the bereaved is our prayer.

o-o-o-o-o

Bro. M. Edward Griffin of Kansas City, Mo. was born near Wishart, Polk County, Mo. in the year 1880 and departed this life in Wadsworth, Kansas, Sept. 10, 1943, at the age of 63 years. He leaves to mourn his passing his wife, Mrs. Myrtle Griffin, 3 sons, 2 daughters 2 brothers, and many relatives and friends.

Bro. Griffin was a child of God and ready to go. His body was brought to Springfield, Mo. for burial. The funeral service was conducted at the Clinger Funeral Home by John W. and Essie Wilson. The remains were laid to rest in the National Cemetery. Text, 1 Sam. 20:18 and 2 Sam. 12:23.

o-o-o-o-o

Martha Avline Stafford was born in Dallas County, Mo. on Feb. 8, 1859; died August 21, 1943; age 84 years 6 months, and 13 days. She was married in June, 1878 to John L. Hardison who preceded her in death on Nov. 13, 1932. To this union were born eight children, two of whom died in infancy, and one son, Felix M. Hardison died August 30, 1910 and Parker B. Hardison who died December 18. She is survived by four children, Roy L. and Paul B. and Mrs. Guy Reed and Mrs. Walter Hanson. She is also survived by one sister, Mrs. Tenny Norton and two half-sisters, Mrs. Eva Jackson and Mrs. Melton Southwick and two half-brothers, Curtis and Floyd Stafford, and by 13 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

She and her husband spent most of their lives in Dallas county, Mo. where she leaves a host of friends. Her chief interest in life was God and church work. Her wonderful faith in God sustained her and made life beautiful to her and the life she lived is a monument to all who knew her. She was one of the Springfield congregation and was loved by us all and was a real saint of God. She always had a testimony or prayer and was a real worker for the Lord. We will all miss her so much but our loss is Heaven's gain. She was a real mother and sister to all the saints.

Services were held at Union Mound, August 24, at 2 p. m. by John W. Wilson. Text was Numbers 23, last part of 10th verse and Psalms 116:15. Interment made in Union Mound Cemetery.

—oOo—

DINING HALL NEEDED ON CAMP GROUND

About two years ago plans were made to build a dining hall on the National Campgrounds at Monark Springs, Mo. At that campmeeting offerings were given and pledges made for that purpose. Most of the pledges have been paid, and a part of the funds received were used to purchase foundation material which is now on the grounds ready for use. However, since other building material is so expensive and some not available, the trustees decided it would be better to wait awhile, perhaps until after the war emergency, to complete the building.

The present construction plans call for a three-floor building—a full basement for storage purposes ground floor for dining hall proper, and a story above for sleeping quarters.

The concensus of opinion of the saints at the campmeeting this year was that the dining hall fund should be added to and increased now while money is rather plentiful, so that the building could be completed as soon as the materials are available. The present balance in the dining hall fund is about \$190.00 and this should be increased to \$1000.00. It has been suggested that each person send \$1.00 per month to this fund. This is a good plan, and one could send \$10.00 now which would pay the amount until next campmeeting. The main point is that everyone should do something definite in supplying this need, and through co-operative effort the building will be built, the Lord willing.

Here is the plan that Paul gave the Corinthian church: "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him . . ." 1 Cor. 16:2. They were to give something every week according as God had prospered them. In those times, many are prospering with good wages, etc. so you give cheerfully as unto the Lord of what He has given you. An investment in the cause of Christ for the spread of the gospel will pay greater dividends than war bonds.

Kindly send your liberality to Bro. Sam Barton, chairman, R. 8, Box 119, Tulsa, 15, Okla., or to the undersigned. Thank you.

—L. D. Pruitt, Secy.-Treas.

1005 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla.

—oOo—

Make It Right

"I will restore." 1 Samuel 12:3

Make it right, my brother, just as far as you have the ability to do so. If you have sinned against God, get His forgiveness. If you have sinned against man, get his forgiveness also. If there is any further way that you can make it right, do so at any cost. It is through failure to make things right that so many Christians are shorn of power and have so little joy. We know that it costs, but it is worth

it. If it is money that you have wrongly taken, return it. If there is a debt that you have not paid, pay it. If you have slandered another, not only ask God's and the person's forgiveness, but go to those to whom you have falsified and do all you can to make it right.

Deal honestly; try to pay back with good interest, for the wrong done has been spreading its baneful influence. Failure here dries and dwarfs your Christian life. You will go through life handicapped because of something that needs to be made right. Do a thorough work on this line and the heavens will open and God will speak forth His forgiveness and approval. If you lose your friends, you will have God as your friend.

If you have not full ability, restore up to your ability. God will then accept the will for the deed. But when restitution is necessary, do not lull your conscience to rest by confession to God alone. Confess and make right to men as well.

Remember it is not necessary to confess to those who have no right to hear your confession, but let your confession be as public as your sin. Those who have morbid consciences had better get the help of some wise and spiritual friend as to God's way of restitution.

To all who need these words, we say, Do not procrastinate. Act now! —C. H. Pridgeon

—oOo—

God's Holy Family

Jesus said in the 16th chapter of Matt., "Thou art Peter; and upon this rock [the solid truth which he had spoken, "Thou art Christ the Son of the living God," Jesus Christ is the chief corner stone, Eph. 2:20] I will build my Church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against IT." By referring to the church as "IT" we know he has but one Church. In the 6th chapter of the Songs of Solomon we read, "My dove, my undefiled is but one: she is the only one of her mother." In the next verse he breaks forth concerning the church and says, "Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners?"

Paul in the third chapter of Eph. 14th verse says, "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named." The name of the Father is God and as the family is the Church so the proper name according to the sacred scriptures is "Church of God."

In the 17th chapter of St. John, Jesus prays his earnest prayer before being captured and crucified and says concerning the disciples, "Holy Father keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one as we are." The name of the Father is God and the disciples were the family or church so the name for us to be kept in if we are really saved and disciples of the Lord is "Church of God." And he also prayed the Father that they be one as he and the Father are one.

There is no division between the Father and the Son, therefore God does not sanction any division between any of his truly believing children; in fact there is not a scripture if properly interpreted that teaches God's truly "born again" children to be divided, but all the scriptures teach them to be together and in oneness.

In the 12th chapter of 1 Cor. Paul compares the "Body of Christ" or the "Church of God" to the human body and shows the different offices and how the members staying each in its respective place, functioning and working harmoniously together as the well organized human body. He goes on to show that "God hath set the members in the body as it has pleased Him and says that we are many members, yet but one body. He shows how needful it is that all the members work together, each in its place and how we ought to honor the weaker members that there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. In the first chapter of 1 Cor. 10th verse we read where Paul was teaching against division and said, "Now I beseech you brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind, and the same judgment." In the next few verses where division was creeping in Paul sharply rebuked them and said, "Is Christ divided?" The implied answer would be "no."

God's true church is not divided and neither is there sin in the church for as soon as any commit sin they automatically are out of the church; for God has said, "Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book." Exodus 32:33. Again in Rev. 3:5 we read, "He that overcometh the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels." One who is committing sin is not an overcomer, therefore he is numbered among the "blotted-out ones." God knows how to keep his Church free from sin and division and he is going before; the sheep and lambs are following Him. Jesus says, "I am the good Shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine." John 10:14. In the 4th verse he says, "He goeth before them, and the sheep follow Him, for they know his voice."

Many today are lodged up in man organized bodies who need to hear his voice and come out of them and abide only in Him; so he can place them in the body, which is the true church which is the gate-way to heaven; and there they can function freely to the glory of God and the salvation of their own soul, as well as the salvation of others.

The true believers today are not of the world any more than were Christ and his disciples. They are not conformed to the world in any way and have no apologies to make, neither do they wrest the scriptures from their proper meaning to uphold such, but are willing to bear the reproach of the cross and have the full favor of God upon their souls.

Such are the clear, distinct, exclusive, body of believers that constitute the Church of God which Paul speaks of and says, "That he might present IT to himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Eph. 5:27.—Fred Pruitt

Worldly Conformity

Romans 12:2

The Bible plainly teaches us how we should dress to the glory of God.

The following are a few references on this subject: Gen. 35:2-4; Ex. 33:4-6; Isa. 3:16-23; Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 Tim. 2:9; Jas. 1:21-27; 1 Pet. 3:3, 4.

"What does that gaudy ribbon and those ornaments upon your dress say to every one that meets you? It makes the impression that you wish to be thought pretty. 'TAKE CARE! You might just as well write on your clothes, 'No truth in religion.' It says, 'Give me dress, give me fashion, give me flattery and I am happy.' The world understands this testimony as you walk the streets. You are living epistles, 'known and read of all men.' Only let Christians act consistently, and heaven will rejoice and hell will groan at their influence. But, O let them fill their ears with ornaments and their fingers with rings—let them put feathers in their hats, and clasps upon their arms, and heaven puts on a robe of mourning and hell holds a jubilee."—Finney

"Christian parents are bound to refrain from putting ornaments on the dress of their children as much as on their own clothing. Those who indulge their children in superfluous ornaments commit the double sin of doing wrong themselves and teaching their children to do what God has positively forbidden."

SOME EXCUSES FOR PRIDE ANSWERED

1. Oh, I desire to look like other people. 'Nothing superfluous should be worn simply because it is in fashion.' 'Be not conformed to this world.' 'If any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him.'

2. Other professors of religion wear the same fashions. 'What is that to thee? Follow thou me.' 'Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil.' Christians should set, not follow the fashion.

3. Why, our minister says there is no harm in adorning the body. 'If any man preach any other gospel to you than that you have [already] received, let him be accursed.'

4. I love God and my heart is not set on these things. You may not think so, but if all your ornaments were stripped off you would soon find the contrary. 'This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.' 'He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him.'

5. One might as well be out of the world as out of the fashion. 'Ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world.' A dead bird has no use for feathers.

6. I can afford to wear these things. 'Ye are not your own; for ye are bought with a price: there-

fore glorify God in your body and spirit which are God's.' 'So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.'

7. I never had the light. 'Thy word is a light unto my path.'

8. I do not believe it is wrong to dress as one pleases. 'If we believe not, he abideth faithful; he cannot deny himself.' 'We ought not to please ourselves, . . . for even Christ pleased not himself.'

9. Why, I never think of these little ornaments. 'Well if you never think of them, why do you remember always to put them on?' 'If any man be in Christ, he is a NEW creature, old things are passed away; Behold, all things are become new.'

10. It makes no difference how you dress if your heart is right. You might as well say, 'It makes no difference how much you lie if your heart is right.'

11. The 'General Rules' of the Methodist church after stating a great variety of sins, including the putting on of gold and costly apparel, which the candidate is required to avoid, says: 'And all these things we know H's Spirit writes on truly awakened hearts.' According to these 'General Rules' thousands in the Methodist churches today, who wear gold, jewelry, feathers, flowers, etc., including many who profess holiness, are not so much as truly awakened.

—A. Sims

—o0o—

Lost Bomber Pilot Puts Faith in God

Alone in a jungle in New Guinea, on a cloudy night, his back injured and his arm broken, without gun, knife, or flashlight, a man understands the meaning of "utter helplessness," says Lieut. Albert Durant Simmons, bomber pilot, who has just returned to the United States.

"I had been the last to bail out when we had to abandon our plane. My parachute caught in a tree, and I had to work myself loose from it and drop to the ground, invisible in the darkness. I fell with a crash, straining my back and breaking my arm. I was in agony but unable to move.

"I asked God to spare my crew and me from death in the jungle. It is difficult to explain the strength and confidence which came to me. The conviction that God would bring me through was as strong as my previous feeling that death was so near. I seemed to feel a Presence near. Soon the day began to dawn, and I was able to get up and walk.

"For hours and hours I walked. Finally I found some water and drank. The sun passed overhead, and began to get low in the west. Just before dark, a party of friendly natives met me. They made a litter and carried me to the squadron.

"Some of the crew had returned before me. Two were still unaccounted for, but within ten days they returned, and all of us were safe. God had answered my prayer.

"I believe that I know something of what the writer meant when he said, 'Have faith in God,'

and I know something of what my father meant when he used to talk to God and of the necessity of faith and prayer, when we used to gather around the family altar back home in South Carolina. I know that God does care, that He does answer prayer, and that He does work all things for good to them that love Him."

The lesson of "utter helplessness" invariably precedes putting faith in God—for if we thought we could do the thing in our own strength and wisdom, we would not feel the need of having faith in God.

This is so in the matter of salvation. For as long as a person feels confident he can save himself by character or conduct, or law-keeping, or the ordinances, or money, his faith is in himself.

To "have faith in God" is to trust Him despite circumstances and feelings. Such faith rests on the Word of God. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17).

It is in His Word that God has given us the record of the atoning death of His Son and His glorious resurrection, and bids us believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved (Acts 16:31).

The only way out of the jungle of sin and unbelief and helplessness is to place personal faith in the Son of God.

And the only satisfactory, successful, and fruitful way through the jungle of life's trials is putting faith in Him who said: "I am with you always" (Matt. 28:20).

—Tom M. Olsen

o—o—o—o—o—o

Keytesville, Mo.—Dear friends of Faith and Victory, I've been a reader of your paper now almost a year and it has meant much to me. I would not be without it. It is food for the soul and has a wonderful motto, "Have faith in God." How blessed it is to walk with him when we can cast all our cares on him. If we enjoy the blessings of heaven we must obey his blessed word. Oh, how I love it. I've been reading your paper almost a year and expect to continue. Oh, what a mighty God we serve. It is not an easy job to do but I am a soldier of Jesus our Lord and nothing can move me. We have to face trials in this old world. It will be a happy day when Jesus comes. Pray for me. A sister in Christ,

—Mrs. Hattie Munden

o—o—o—o—o—o

Occoquan, Va.—Dear Bro. Pruitt, Greetings in the name of Christ. I write to thank God and you for the tracts and the Faith and Victory paper which we received from you a few days ago. We are not allowed to handle money here but when we are free again (if the Lord wills) we will send you a free-will offering. We, as saints, ask special prayer of you that we may receive the full baptism of the Holy Ghost, in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord.

In D. C. Workhouse, —Covington Baucum

o—o—o—o—o—o

Ky. State Prison—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints, I am writing a few lines to you in regards to my soul. I am a lost boy. I got in some trouble and I am here in prison. I was reared by a Christian mother and dad but went astray by obeying the devil and got in bad company. I desire your prayers. Remember me at Eddyville Ky. State Prison, Box 128, Cell 3 B. 15.

—Leslie Vaughn

Young People's Section

ETERNITY

How long sometimes a day appears!
And weeks how long are they!
Months move as if the years
Would never pass away.

But days and weeks are passing by,
And soon must all be gone,
For day by day the moments fly,
Eternity comes on.

Days, months, and years must have an end.
Eternity has none;
It will always be as long to spend
As when it first begun.

—J. Wilbur Chapman

Editorials

Government officials are expressing concern about the rapid rise of juvenile delinquency. This condition of degraded youth is but one of the dreadful effects of war upon the nation. Surely the youth of today need to be brought in touch with the gospel of Jesus Christ which is the only hope of salvation for a nation that has forgotten God. Oh yes, many have a form of godliness, but deny the power of God to keep from sin—the very purpose for which Jesus died—and by their profession they ease their conscience as they drift farther and farther from God all the while. The prophet Isaiah declares, "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness." Isa. 59:2, 3. The good news for those in sin is that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.

"Heaven is a holy place
Filled with glory and with grace;
Sin can never enter there;
All within its gates are pure,
From defilement kept secure,
Sin can never enter there."

—L. D. P.

oo—oo—oo—oo—oo

Faith Pub. House.—To all the dear saints and readers of "Faith and Victory": Greetings in the precious name of Jesus Christ our blessed Lord. This finds me still saved, sanctified, and happy in the Lord. Truly, I am enjoying this wonderful salvation of which the Lord is the author. I am truly thankful for all the blessings of life and of God, but chiefly for this wonderful salvation which turns us from darkness into light, from a sinful life, to a holy life, from a life of selfishness to a life of sacrifice, from a life lived for the devil to a life lived for God who loved us and gave his only begotten son that we might not perish but have everlasting life. Praise the good Lord for such a gift

and for such love wherewith he has loved us. Oh may God help us poor weak creatures of his to do all we can by his grace to get people to turn to our God that they might have everlasting life. If they only knew that time shall soon end and then they will be lost forever. Instead they could have been saved and lived forever with God and his holy ones. God have mercy on the children of men and help them to turn before it is everlastingly too late. Dear ones, my heart and soul are stirred for people who are neglecting this great salvation. I know if they continue to do so they will be lost forever. I am also stirred lest we saints fail to live close enough to God that we can let the life of God shine out to the lost. I want to do all I can by the help of the Lord to get people to live right before God. Just think of people going down to eternal night to be lost and punished forever when they could have been saved had they not neglected their salvation. How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?

I would to God that the sinners could hear what a holy man of God saw. "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation and kindred and tongue and people: Saying with a loud voice, Fear God and give glory to him for the hour of his judgment is come; and worship him that made the heaven and earth, and the sea and the fountains of waters." Rev. 14:6, 7. Dear friend if you are a sinner and reading this remember that the everlasting gospel is now sounding and now is your time to call on God for mercy. For soon shall the Lord return and then there shall be time no longer. "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." 2 Pet. 3:10. I exhort all you unsaved readers as one who has your immortal soul's welfare at heart to repent and turn to God. Lord Jesus, help us to sound thy pure, holy, and everlasting gospel through out the ends of the earth. Your Bro. saved and sanctified by the blood of Christ,

—Vada McMillian

—oo—

Self and Pride

A little over two years ago I gave my heart to the Lord and by his help and grace am still serving him. I have had trials as have all of God's children. The one thing that has hindered me most has no doubt been a hinderance to most or all who are saved and serving the Lord. And that is self. Some of us have more pride and ego than others. Just recently at the California campmeeting I had a trial with self. One day I had a spell of weakness on the camp grounds and some of the saints laid hands on me and prayed for me. The Lord in His mercy touched me. Then that old SELF rose up and I had a feeling of importance in my heart at all the attention I was getting. This was wrong. Now, understand I didn't intend to feel that way but it was just there. Maybe I need a deeper experience or maybe it was just the devil. Anyway, I began

to feel miserable. For several days when someone would ask how I was feeling, I would feel a sense of guilt because I had had such a thing in my heart. I grew more miserable and one day a sister preached on keeping all clear with God and one another. I felt I should stand and acknowledge that I was not worthy of attention with that attitude of importance in my heart but the enemy made it look so big I just didn't. I thought, "Now everyone here likes me and has confidence in me and maybe if I tell them, they won't." So the meeting closed and after I came home I have felt worse and worse over it and realize the necessity of dying out to self. Just today it has been so clear that we must esteem ourselves as nothing. In Luke 16:15 "For that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." See also 1 Sam. 16:7 how the Lord looketh on the heart and if it is full of self it can't be full of the love of Jesus. I hope everyone who was at the campmeeting will read this and forgive me and pray for me that I may completely die out to self. Like I've said, it was nothing I meant to feel but it was just there and only the Lord can take it out. I am thankful to Him that I was close enough to feel condemned about it and I want to get closer and closer and live every second of my life to His glory. Godliness is profitable and we should give ourselves over completely to it. In John 5:30 "I can of mine own self do nothing." We are not to seek our own will but to be like Christ and seek the will of our father in Heaven.

I remember one time before I was saved I went to another church. I was fifteen or sixteen at the time. I was in a program for Easter or Christmas or some occasion. I was to be an angel and had a piece to say. But my mind was on myself, on how I looked and etc. A sheet was draped around me and a crown of sparkling tissue on my head. I held a wand with a shining star in my hand. I was to raise the wand, look up at it and say my speech, all memorized. Before I went to the stage I was careful to get my make-up on my face just so and had my hair all curled and set. More than once I looked in the mirror to see how I looked and just which angle to hold my head to the best advantage of my looks. Ah, how my very heart and life was full of pride and self. God hates pride. Prov. 8:13. There are many scriptures against pride and a proud heart but just to know God hates it is enough for me to want to get rid of it quickly and keep humble. To be a child of God we must be humble and we cannot be proud and be humble. Before I was saved I had my heart in clothes and even after I was saved I bought me two new dresses that were short and modern. One day at church I had one of them on and the preacher's sermon touched on the topic of dress. He said, "Some women wear dresses cut way down at the neck, cut off here, and cut off here" meaning short skirt and short sleeves. I whispered to the girl next to me, "Sometimes you have to wear what you've got." Then I heard the preacher say, "And they'll make excuses here

and excuses there." Well, I thank the dear Lord for that sermon. It was surely sent to me but the preacher didn't know who it was for. I began to pray and I got rid of those dresses and made me some more. There's a difference between godliness and ungodliness. We can't dress like the world and look like a saint. Yes, there is more to being a saint than just dress, but dress is part of it, too. I don't mean to be old-fashioned to the extreme but enough to be modest. At first it was hard for me because of the proudness in my heart and the desire to be SOMEBODY. I believe self is one of our worst enemies. If it is permitted to exist in the heart it can lead to many things such as greed, envy, jealousy, etc. Dear ones everywhere, let us search our hearts and keep pure and holy. I desire to get deeper and deeper in the things of God and to be more like Christ. —Virginia Elwell

o—o—oo—o—o

English, Ind.—Good Morning to all the children in many states: It has been a few months since I have testified in the Faith and Victory paper. I have many things to thank God for this morning. First of all, the love He had for me, a poor boy in the hills of Southern Indiana. I was reared in a home that was poor in this world's goods but was taught, when a child that Jesus loved me and died on the cruel cross for me. I was reared by a praying mother and that is worth more than all the riches of this world. She would call us children around the old fire side night and morning and ask God's hand to care for and guide us into righteous paths. Those prayers are fresh in my memory today. They are the cause of me preaching the gospel of His kingdom. How we need more family altars and praying mothers.

Dear ones, if there are any discouraged, don't give up. Victory is ahead. Keep trusting and obeying. The angels will be disappointed if we fail. —J. Linton

o o o o o

Laurelville, Ohio,—Dear Brother Pruitt and all, I sit down to write in Jesus' precious name. I am so glad that I can report victory through Jesus Christ our Lord. I have been through some dark times but I thank God that the darkest hour comes and then day. I am going to testify to what God has done for me. I am working in the canning factory in Circleville. While working one cold night, I got a sore throat which got worse on Friday. I worked till Saturday evening and then went home. My throat was so sore that I couldn't eat and got so bad that I couldn't even swallow. I brought my wife and children up from home on Monday. My trust was in the Lord for healing. On Monday I had a bad chill but thanks be to the blessed Lord, on Tuesday morning He came to my rescue, heard and answered prayer and completely healed my throat and ears. I was able to go to work Tuesday noon and have been working from 8 to 15 hours a day ever since. I am glad to report that he has been my healer and keeper for 22 years and thank the Lord, what he has done for me he can do for others. If they could only see the church and read the 5th chapt. of James and others which concern our soul's welfare and also the 11th chapt. of Hebrews and believe, they could receive the promise, too. I expect to meet the saints on the beautiful shore and receive a bright starry crown. May God help you all is my prayer. I am glad I'm saved and on my way to Glory. Your brother in Christ, —Leman Rodgers

Thankful For The Truth

In Prov. 23:23 we read, "Buy the truth and sell it not." The truth is what makes us free. The Lord gave his life for us that we might be free. Dear ones, we who know the truth should live each day and keep the truth reigning in our lives. This truth cost the precious Jewel of heaven to give his life for us; that we might live right here in this present wicked world to please him. There are many man-made institutions yet we who know the truth can really be thankful that we have found the right way to heaven. It is sad to see poor souls deceived into thinking they are right and yet be lost if they don't see the light. Dear ones, how we should do all we can to rescue perishing souls. In St. John 15:13 we read, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." The Lord gave his life for us and we ought to be willing to give our lives for others that they too might enjoy this wonderful salvation. We are living in perilous times. The saints need encouragement too, as the enemy is working hard as time is short. We can see there is much that needs to be done. We can pray one for the other. In Phil. 1:4 "Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy." Sometimes the Lord will burden you to pray for some one. They are needing help in some way. We had better obey the Lord when he tells us to do something for him. The love of God will help us to be willing to suffer and do anything we can to help souls and it will help us to be longsuffering with our sister or brother who might make a mistake or blunder when they are doing the best they know how. Truly the love of God does change people. They are new creatures. Let us pray for each other and do all we can to help souls for time is short. The night cometh when no man can work.

—Elizabeth Glass

oOo

Endeavoring to Keep Unity

Any religious sect in the world at its very best can include only a few of God's people, and at the same time exclude all of God's people who are not in its human organization. But the church which Jesus purchased with his own blood, built upon the rock and set in operation on the day of Pentecost, being a spiritual institution, includes every person who has been "born again" of the spirit of God regardless of his race, color, or geographical location on the face of the globe. There is no state or national dividing lines in God's Church, "for by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body." 1 Cor. 12:13.

This oneness being true and ordained by the Lord, then there remains an obligation upon each member of the body of Christ to "endeavor to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace." Eph. 4:3. The Word points out the ways by which the unity of the Spirit may be maintained. Of course, the devil hates the practice of unity because it is

the Christian experience that will convince the world. It is the devil's business (and he is working overtime) to destroy confidence, fellowship, and unity of God's people. He has all others going his way, and is now after the saints with every conceivable scheme from the demon world.

One way to defeat the enemy and maintain unity on a universal basis is for the saints and ministers of one state or district to recognize the decisions of the ministers of other states. In case a preacher persists in a course which is harmful to the cause and it becomes necessary for the body of ministers to renounce him by a signed statement, then the only way to preserve the unity of the entire body is for the saints and ministers of all other states to stand by that decision until the person has cleared himself and a statement of release has been signed by those concerned. To do otherwise will lead to confusion, and leave the saints open to deception by any false prophet that would leave the state where he has been renounced and endeavor to preach among the saints of other states. The enemy will go to any extremes to misrepresent the facts, reason with and influence the saints if they will listen. If an individual's standing is in question the problem can be solved by asking him to produce a statement of release signed by original signers. When one knowingly accepts a renounced person as a leader among the saints, he is fostering division and failing to preserve the unity for which Jesus prayed and died.

We appeal to all the saints and ministers to "endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

—L. D. Pruitt

oOo

A Disappointed Soldier

His letter to a radio minister about home conditions
Dear Preacher:

I was at home a few days ago on a furlough and happened to hear you preach on the radio, and I feel that I should write you about what is on my heart. For I think that I will be going to the battlefields within a few days and I want to have everything right between me and God before I go. Preacher I have never seen you and do not know you personally, but I wish you would write me and tell me exactly what to do to be saved and ready to meet the Lord if this should be my time to go. Also, if you wish to read this letter over the air you may do so, for it may help some Mother or Father to wake up to what is going on. Perhaps it may reach my own Mother and help her to see what she should do.

Now, here is the story. When I went home the other week, I went with a feeling of joy, and yet there was a burden on my heart. I knew that perhaps it would be my last furlough home, and that maybe I would never see my folks again. For I know that not all of us are coming back, and as yet I am not ready to die. So as I went home, I went hoping that Mother and Dad would help me to get right with the Lord. I knew that they had never been

very religious, but they belonged to the church and claimed to be Christians. They never had family prayers and did not seem to care much about the real spiritual work of the church. But I had the idea that that would all be changed now. Some how, Preacher, I felt that surely this war with all that it is bringing would make Mother and Dad really live for the Lord.

So I went home hoping that they would talk to me about being a Christian, and that they would try to help me to get saved and ready to meet the Lord. I went home thinking that surely my Mother was interested in the spiritual condition of her son. I have always thought that my Mother was the finest woman in the world and have been very proud of her. So I told myself that Mother was praying for me and that she was interested in seeing her boy saved, whether anyone else was or not.

But things at home were not what I had expected to find them. I think I came back to camp the most discouraged boy that there has ever been. For when I got home everything seemed to be just about as usual. About the only difference that I could see was that they fussed a lot about having to put up with rationing and because they could not buy just anything they wanted to have. As far as their religious life is concerned I think they must be farther from God than they have ever been. Preacher, they seem to be asleep to what this war is doing, and instead of waking up and getting right with God, they seem to be getting deeper in sin. The Mother that I thought would pray with me and help me to be saved, never once mentioned religion to me. She has even quit going to Church with the excuse that they do not have enough gas to drive to Church. I noticed that they could take a drive and go visiting in the afternoons on Sunday. Anyway the Church is not very far and anyone who was really interested could walk.

Dad is all wrapped up in his job. Of course, it is a defense job but he does not seem to care much about the defense end of it. All he could talk about was the big salary he was getting, and the fact that their local union was pressing for more money. One day when I said something about it being the biggest salary he had ever gotten, he said, "O well, I just might as well get my part out of this war." Preacher, I believe that he is actually glad that the war is going on. He did not seem at all interested in the fact that the longer the war goes on the more people will lose their lives. All he seemed to care about was his pay.

So I spent my entire furlough at home. Time and again I would bring up the subject of religion hoping that Mother or Dad would talk to me about my soul. O how I wanted Mother to pray for me and how I wanted Dad to talk to me. Of course I had never heard Mother pray, and Dad had never said a word to me in all my life about my soul, but I thought that surely this war would make people turn to God. But the full time of my furlough passed and they had not said one word.

Then came the day when I had to leave. Preach-

er, I could not stand it any longer. I know you may think I am a fool, but I broke down and cried like a baby. I just could not help it. It was not because I was having to leave. I did not mind that so bad. I knew that I might never see them again. But that was not what worried me. I just had to cry to think that my own Mother and Dad were not in the least interested in my salvation.

Preacher, I came back to camp determined by the help of God to get saved. But I also came back wondering what would happen to Mother and Dad if God should call them into the judgment. I am not very proud of Mother now. I see that she is more interested in her clubs and visits and clothes than she is in the salvation of her own son. And one day when I smelled cigarette smoke on her breath, I knew that Mother was just as badly in need of someone praying for her as I am.

Now, I know that Dad isn't interested in his son's salvation. Oh, he got a kick out of taking me around and showing the men of the community what a fine looking boy he had, and all of that. But Preacher, Dad does not care about my salvation. He is too much interested in making a dollar. I even caught him drinking one day in a beer joint.

I know this is a long letter and will take some of your precious time, but I write it in the hope that you may be able to say or do something that will wake the Godless Fathers and Mothers of America up to see that they have boys and girls who need to be saved and that they should help them. Tell the Mothers where ever you can, that for God's sake and for the sake of their boys, they should get right with God and quit this foolish, sinful way in which they are going, and get down to business in praying for the boys and girls of this nation. Tell the fathers that they should quit their drinking and gambling and get interested in their children and in God's work MORE than they are interested in making money. Tell the young girls (and I have some sisters) to quit their smoking and dancing and petting, and to be clean Christians so that they will be fit to marry a decent man someday and raise a family.

Preacher, keep telling them the truth, over and over and over again, and please pray for my lost Mother and Father and sisters, and write me just what I must do to be saved, FOR I WANT TO BE A REAL CHRISTIAN AND READY TO MEET JESUS EVEN IF I HAVE TO DIE ON THE BATTLE FIELD.

—Signed by a Soldier

—David P. Denton, Radio Minister

o — o — o — o — o

JESUS AND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Sunday, October 3, 1943

Daily Readings and Meditations

September 27 to October 2

- M. Jesus and the law. Matt. 5:17-20.
- T. Divine requirements. Matt. 19:16-22.
- W. The lawgiver. Exod. 34:29-35.
- T. Knowing the law. Psa. 119:33-40.
- F. The law in the heart. Isa. 51:4-8.
- S. Keeping the law. John 15:12-17.

Printed PortionMatt. 5:17-20; 19:16-22; John 5:39, 40.

Matt. 5:17. Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.

18. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

19. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

19:16. And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

17. And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

18. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

19. Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

20. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

21. Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

22. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possession.

John 5:39. Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

40. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Golden Text: "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill." Matt. 5: 17.

Practical Truth: Christ's approval of the moral law establishes its validity for all time.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Christ did not come to make the law of none effect, or to loose the obligation men are under to have their lives regulated by its moral precepts. Neither did He come to do away with the good things which it promised, but He came to accomplish everything foreshadowed by it, to fulfill its great design by giving His followers grace in their hearts; to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength and their neighbor as themselves; for this is all the law and the prophets. The law was only a shadow of good things to come, and Christ was the substance which cast the shadow, so He completed the Law. We read in Romans 10:4, "Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth." The Law contained both moral and ceremonial laws. Christ and his disciples taught the moral laws. Instead of lowering them in any way he elevated the standard of conduct to such an extent that it would be impossible for man to attain to without the Lord's grace. The ceremonial laws were types and shadows, which represented or pointed to something which Christ would do for His followers in this dispensation,

hence, such were nailed to the cross. The book of Galatians will help Christians to have a better understanding of the purpose of the law.

The only righteousness which would exceed that of the Scribes and Pharisees is the righteousness of Christ in the soul. They were lawkeepers; but only kept the letter of the law that they might appear unto men to be righteous. The righteousness which exceeds that is when the spirit of righteousness is in one's heart making it a joy to do God's will; not because man sees, but because he loves God.

The young man thought he had been keeping the commandments, but if he had previous to the time he met Christ, he failed to then. For he broke the first commandment by allowing something to come between him and the Lord. He valued his possessions more than Christ. We shall study this commandment next Sunday.

The Jews searched the scriptures, thinking that in them life was to be found, but rejected the One whom the scriptures said would give eternal life. Christ is the eternal life.

People today read the Bible (what time they do not neglect it) because they feel it is God's Word which will show them how to get to heaven, but it only testifies of Christ who is the way to heaven. When one rejects Christ and refuses Him admittance into his soul, he is rejecting the teachings of the Bible.

REVERENCE FOR GOD

Sunday, October 10, 1943

Daily Readings and Meditations

October 4 to 9

M. Reverence for God. Exod. 20:1-7.

T. Moses' reverence for God. Exod. 3:1-6.

W. Daniel's reverence for God. Dan. 2:19-23.

T. The sovereignty of God. Acts 17:24-29.

F. The majesty of God. Psa. 99:1-9.

S. "Swear not at all." Matt. 5:33-37.

Printed PortionExodus 20:3-7; Matt. 4:10; 6:9; John 4:23, 24.

Exod. 20:3. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

4. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

5. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

6. And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

7. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Matt. 4:10. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Matt. 6:9. After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

John 4:23. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24. God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Golden Text: "God is a Spirit: and they that wor-

ship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John 4:24.

Practical Truth: In every man reverence for God should be a fundamental attitude of soul.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

This is an important lesson. We learned in a former lesson that the Law is a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. It shows us what sin is that we might realize we are sinners in need of a Saviour who will save us and enable us to live free from sin.

The first of the Ten Commandments is: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Multitudes are breaking this commandment. Are you numbered among them?

Anything that one esteems of more value than Christ or keeps one from giving up all for Him is a god to that person. The young man in last Sunday's lesson let his possessions come between him and God. Judas' god was 30 pieces of silver. The scribes and Pharisees loved their self-righteousness, creeds and ceremonies, pride, and praise of men more than Christ.

Many are the examples in the Bible of people who had other gods before the true God. Let us consider some present-day gods.

Anyone who is not saved and walking in all the light God has shed on his understanding, has some god before the true God. Following are some things which keep people from entering into life or keep them from retaining life after they have once had it.

Love of money, love of fleshy lusts, love of the world, cares of life, ambitions, friends, relatives, pride, worldly honor, worldly pleasures, praise of men, laziness, comfort, skepticism, church doctrines and creeds. Can you add more to the list?

You may think of different things that these weak gods can do for you, but of how many of them could you testify: It is a present help in every time of need? How many of them could go with you through the valley of the shadow of death? How many of them have a heaven for you?

The devil will offer you many substitutes for you to worship instead of the true God. True Christians must treat these substitutes as Christ did in Matt. 4:10.

People of today have lost much of the sense of the hallowedness of the name of God. A true Christian is one who is Christ-like and possesses the spirit of Christ. Could one who is like Christ and ruled by His spirit swear? Impossible. Then on which side does this place many who profess Christianity? Swearing is not the only way in which people take the name of the Lord in vain. Jesus said, "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" If you take the name Christian and are not one in word, thought, and deed, you are taking the name of the Lord in vain.

ooo

JESUS AND THE SABBATH

Sunday, October 17, 1943

Daily Readings and Meditations

October 11 to 16

- M. The day of rest. Exod. 20:8-11.
- T. The Lord of the Sabbath. Mark 2:23 to 3:6.
- W. A holy day. Isa. 58:13, 14.
- T. Keeping the day of rest. Exod. 16:21-30.
- F. Jesus healing on the Sabbath. Luke 13:10-17.
- S. Promises and warnings. Jer. 17:24-27.

Printed PortionExodus 20:8-11; Isa. 58:13, 14; Mark 2:23 to 3:6.

Exod. 20:8, Remember the sabbath day, to keep it

holy.

9. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10. But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

11. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it.

Isa. 58:13. If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:

14. Then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Mark 2:23. And it came to pass, that he went through the corn fields on the sabbath day; and his disciples began, as they went, to pluck the ears of corn.

24. And the Pharisees said unto him, Behold, why do they on the sabbath day that which is not lawful?

25. And he said unto them, Have ye never read what David did, when he had need, and was an hungered, he and they that were with him?

26. How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and did eat the shew bread, which is not lawful to eat but for the priests, and gave also to them which were with him?

27. And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:

28. Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.

3:1. And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand.

2. And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him.

3. And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth.

4. And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace.

5. And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

6. And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him.

Golden Text: "And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath." Mark 2:27.

Practical Truth: The Sabbath, as a shadow, was fulfilled through Christ who brought us a continual sabbath of soul-rest.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

A prevalent question is: When is the Sabbath day and how should it be kept? The tract, "Old and New Sabbath" by L. D. Pruitt answers this question clearly, part of which we shall quote here:

"We can only appeal to the New Testament as our source of authority and discipline in this present dispensation. As to the command of living holy, the New Testament does not exalt one day above another, nei-

ther does it command us to reserve any certain day for rest or worship. However, just as Jesus, and the disciples with Him, preached in the synagogues on the seventh-day sabbath, as was his "custom" (Luke 4:16), even so we follow the "custom" of the disciples after Christ's death when they met together in worship on the first day, which was in commemoration of Christ's resurrection on the first day of the week. Read Mark 16:9 and John 20:19, 20. This day has become universally observed. On the other hand, we notice that there is no record in the New Testament of a Christian church meeting together for divine worship on the seventh day.

Even though the law of Moses was abolished at Christ's death, the Jewish converts were slow to forsake the ceremonial observances of the same, such as keeping of the sabbath, eating of meats, refusing to eat with Gentiles, circumcision, etc. Therefore Paul was inclined to bear with them when he says: "Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak eateth herbs." (Rom. 14:1, 2). The one who can eat "all things" is the strong man and the one who can only eat herbs is "weak." Paul goes on to say, "One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." He knew that under the gospel there was no difference in the days themselves, but that those who were strong in this truth ought to bear with the "weak" one who was still observing the days of the law. However, we notice that the Galatian church, who had forsaken the old law, was "bewitched" by certain law-teachers who had come in during Paul's absence and persuaded them to "turn again" to the observance of days, so he wrote to them in this manner: "Are ye so foolish?" "Ye observe days (sabbath days) and months (new moons) and times (annual feasts) and years (Sabbatical years). I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain." Gal. 4:10, 11. If we are obligated to observe the seventh day, then is it not true that all the law is binding upon us?

The Ten Commandments contain both moral and ceremonial laws. Moral laws are those binding upon all men at all times, and are inherent from their own nature. Those which have to be established by command are ceremonial laws. The keeping of the sabbath was a ceremonial law. The command said to "keep the sabbath day holy." Ceremonial holiness could not affect the character or quality of anything, but only a change of its use. Inanimate objects are not capable of moral change. The day was not morally unholy in the first place, so could not be made morally holy. Its character was not changed from that of any other day, but only its use—therefore, ceremonial holiness. Apostle Paul asserts that the ceremonial observance of the law was abolished at the cross: "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to the cross." Col. 2:14-17.

We shall show further that the sabbath day was "a shadow of good things to come," (Col. 2:17) even as the other observances served a distinct purpose. The sabbath law was inscribed on the stone tables which were placed in the ark. This is representative of the new covenant laws written in our hearts in this gospel age, (Heb. 8:9, 10). A literal day cannot be written in a man's heart. Not one of the Old Testament ceremonies represent literal ceremonies under the gospel, but every one met a spiritual fulfillment. Therefore, the sabbath commandment reaches its fulfillment spiritually

in the heart. The literal sabbath was bodily rest; the spiritual sabbath is soul rest. How clear! Our great Saviour said: 'Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will you rest, . . . And ye shall find rest unto your souls.' Matt. 11:28, 29. "His rest shall be glorious," exclaimed the prophet (Isa. 11:10), and all the saints bear witness. The writer of the Hebrews agrees with this explanation of the symbolical sabbath. Read Hebrews 4:4-10. This perpetual sabbath of soul-rest is spiritual, for it is obtained by faith, and every day is a day of holiness to the true Christian."

—oO—

HONORING OUR PARENTS

Sunday, October 24, 1943

Daily Readings and Meditations

October 18 to 24

- M. Honoring our parents. Eph. 6:1-4.
- T. Mutual love in the home. Col. 3:12-21.
- W. David's prayer for his son. 1 Chron. 29:16-19.
- T. Piety in the home. 1 Tim. 5:1-4.
- F. Jesus a model son. Luke 2:41-51.
- S. Jesus' care for his mother. John 19:23-27.

Printed PortionExodus 20:12; Luke 2:48-51; Mark 7:6-13; John 19:25-27.

Exod. 20:12. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Luke 2:48. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

49. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

50. And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

51. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

Mark 7:6. He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

7. Howbeit, in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men:

8. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

9. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

10. For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death.

11. But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free.

12. And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother;

13. Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

John 19:25. Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

26. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

27. Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother!

And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

Golden Text: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." Eph. 6:1.

Practical Truth: The honoring of parents is one of the fundamental obligations of children.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Much is said about the present-day alarming condition of the world at war, but it seems that the most alarming condition is in the homes, and but very little is done to correct it. The Word of God tells us that "in the last days, perilous times shall come. For men shall be . . . disobedient to parents . . . without natural affection." 2 Tim. 3:1-3. In Isa. 3:5, speaking of the depraved condition of some people, it says, "The child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient." "Ancient" here means an older person. The righteous laws of the Lord require children to respect older people as well as parents. How sad it is to see the opposite in the behaviour of many children. Of course, this is mostly the fault of the parents, for children will usually honor father and mother and older people as they are taught to.

This commandment is taught in Ephesians 6:1, 2, 3, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."

The tract entitled "The Fifth Commandment" printed at this office would be a good one to study in connection with this lesson.

The fact that this was the first commandment with a promise attached to it shows how much importance God attaches to it.

Jesus set the example of being subject to his parents even after he had wisdom enough to astonish the doctors of the law. He provided for his mother in his dying hour. He rebuked the Jews because they had a way of evading their duty to their parents. This is what one author writes concerning this:

"When a son wished, either in a temporary fit of passion or under the goad of an abiding selfishness to get quit of the importunity of a destitute father or mother, he had just to say, in reference to whatever was craved 'Corban' and then not only was he released from obligation to assist his needy parent, but was actually bound, as by the highest authority, to withhold the desired relief. Nor was it necessary that he should actually make the offering to the service of God: he might keep it himself, or do anything he chose with it save only that he must not give it to his parent!"

Honoring parents includes both deep inward feeling and an outward manifestation of respect and care for them. They have given birth to their children and cared for them when they were helpless infants. They are over them in the Lord, and children owe them deep gratitude and respect, untiring obedience. They should speak well of them, and not be ashamed of them though they may be wrinkled, old fashioned, scarred, and careworn. They should care for them if they are old and helpless, and never cause them pain by evil doing. The Lord says, "Cursed be he that setteth light by his father or his mother."

—o—o—o—

THE COUNSEL OF A FATHER

Sunday, October 31, 1943

Daily Readings and Meditations

October 25 to 30

- M. Duties of the priests. Lev. 10:1, 2, 8-11.
- T. Duties of rulers. Prov. 31: 1-5.
- W. The Nazarite vow. Luke 1:13-16.
- T. Parental influences. Judges 13:8-14.
- F. Personal efficiency. Dan. 1:8-20.
- S. Self-control. Rom. 13:8-14.

Printed Portion Proverbs 4:20-27

Prov. 4:20. My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings:

21. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart;

22. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

23. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

24. Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

25. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.

26. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

27. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left; remove thy foot from evil.

Golden Text: "Turn not to the right hand nor to the left; remove thy foot from evil." Prov. 4:27.

Practical Truth: The advise of a Godly father is safe to follow.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Instead of the usual temperance lesson for today, we thought a lesson on "Fatherly Advice" would be helpful.

Before taking instruction it is important that we consider the source. Or that we know something concerning the instructor. What may be said of Solomon's wisdom as to the source, amount and purpose?

Then we readily admit the one advising us is very capable. Many times young people think themselves able to instruct their parents but a few years later experience a change and regret very much that the instructions were not heeded. Lord help us to remain teachable.

In verse twenty notice the salutation: "My son." How many places in the Bible can you recall these words? In Hebrews we find he speaks to us by His Son. Discuss the close relationship of father and son—likeness, confidence, delight, communion, etc. We can testify with verse 22 that Father's words are indeed life to us. In verse 23 we are admonished to keep our heart. What part have we to do in keeping our hearts? Does our environment, associates, ambition, or feelings affect the keeping of our hearts?

Verse 25. How is our spiritual eyesight? Let us keep a clear view of heavenly things. The prophet said for lack of vision thy people perish.

Verse 26. Ponder our path. Can we say we do always those things that are pleasing in his sight? David said, "Search me O Lord." Since we travel this way but once let us be very careful that we are being led by his spirit.

Character is the foundation upon which we build our life. If our character is not good our life will be a failure. Our character is formed and made with those things that we receive and accept as we are growing up, whether they be good or whether they be bad. Is it not that which enters the heart that defiles? Since this is true may the Lord help us to call mightily upon Him that our lives may be filled with His pure, rich graces of love, peace, joy, longsuffering. —O. C. Porter