

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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The Man Of Galilee

Have you ever heard the story
Of the Man of Galilee?
How he trod the earth in sorrow,
And died for you and me?

How they found Him in the manger
In the town of Bethlehem;
And they heard the angels singing,
"Peace on earth, good will toward man."

He lived humbly with his parents;
He was faithful, kind, and true.
Then one day He told his mother
He had other work to do.

Then we see Him at the river
Where his ministry began;
And we heard his Father saying,
"This is my beloved Son."

And this man healed the lepers,
And He made the blind to see.
He's the man of many sorrows,
He's the man of Galilee.

And we see him at the bedside
Of a little girl that's dead,
Then to her, "Arise, my daughter,"
Were the words the Master said.

Then He told them of his Father,
How like Him that they should be,
"For you must live pure and holy,"
Said this Man of Galilee.

In divisions you are wandering,
And the way you do not see;
Don't give up and get discouraged:
Ask the Man of Galilee.

Then when life down here is ended,
And you for that city flee,
You'll receive a hearty welcome
From this Man of Galilee.

—Bert Mead.

GOD'S WILL

In Matt. 7:21, Jesus tells us, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Every honest heart that is seeking eternal life is desirous of entering into his kingdom, as it is the only eternal kingdom and the only way of eternal life. How can we enter in? By doing the will of the Father in heaven. What is His will? 2 Pet. 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." Now if any of us perish, it is our own will that we do so, and not his will. It is his will that we come to repentance. Therefore, when we repent from the heart of all our sins and wrong doings, confess and forsake them and turn to God in righteousness, then in that far we have done His will, and thereby have entrance into the kingdom of heaven. Then and then only are we in touch with Jesus and His Father's will concerning us. Then we earnestly desire to know of Him and His will.

Then in 1 Thes. 4:3, 4, we read, "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication. That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor." How can we do His will in this? Rom. 12:1, 2, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God." Now note, we first did His will, which was repentance, and thereby we became alive in him, were made new creatures through the power of his blood. Therefore we have a live offering to offer in seeking sanctification; and in doing His will as to our sanctification, we come to know the perfect will of God. By doing His will we have entered into his eternal kingdom, and his glorious kingdom is set up within us. We are no more conformed to this world, but are delivered from this present evil world to live and reign with him in his

kingdom so long as we continue to do his will.

"If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." John 7:17. We have learned that his will is for all to repent, and not perish; and it is his will that all brethren be sanctified, that thereby they might know the perfect will of God. And now there are legions of false doctrines being preached and taught all over the earth, and our only way to be protected from them is to continue to do his will, for thereby we shall know of the doctrine.

Remember that we are instructed to walk in his steps, who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth. It is Father's will that we do so. Jesus tells us that his meat was to do the will of Him that sent him. Also it is our meat to know and do the whole will of God. Meat means food. It is soul food to do his will at all times, and by so doing we have a knowledge of Him and his will. Our eternal salvation is to live in obedience to Him and his will. If the cup seems bitter, yet we gladly submit to Him and his will, knowing it worketh for us an eternal weight of glory. There is only one place of happiness in this world or the world to come, and that is to, through Him, be subject to all His will. We must not have one selfish thought or desire, but have our all committed to his will—in fact, have the mind of Christ who said he did the Father's will in all things: "I do always the things that please him." Do we want to be, and are we the brother or mother of our Lord and Saviour? Jesus says in Mark 3:35, "For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother." This is a heavenly place. No wonder it is called the kingdom of heaven!

Souls, the only way to serve Him is to do his will. By so doing we get saved, and by continuing to do so, we keep saved. And if we faithfully do his will to the end, we shall sing his praises throughout eternity. Let us seek his will concerning us, and do it. Sometimes after we have done the will of God we have need of patience that after we have done the will of God we may receive the promise. Pray for me, that I abide in His will in all things.

—Sam Wilson

—oOo— NOTHING OVER

"And when they did mete it with an omer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack; they gathered every man according to his eating." Exodus 16:18.

The Lord sent manna to the children of Israel in the wilderness after their exodus from Egypt. They were only to gather enough for a day's eating at a time, excepting on the sixth day they were to gather enough for the Sabbath day. If they undertook to lay up ahead, it "bred worms and stank," and went to nothing, so that they had "nothing over." They did not profit any by being greedy.

Consider how like the unlawful gathering of the manna are the gatherings of thousands of people of the transient things of earth these days. It goes to

nothing and they have nothing over. When the sun waxed hot the manna melted and vanished away. So like this do the transient gatherings that men are grabbing at here melt and fade away. O Lord, that men could be awakened to take warnings against such things seriously! Myriads who have reveled in wealth and luxury down here in this little short life, and looked with disdain upon the humble poor, will be the worst paupers imaginable through an endless eternity. Jesus said, "Take heed and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." Luke 12:15. But an overwhelming majority of earth's population are paying no more attention to this than if it had never been uttered. Indeed, today thousands are swallowed up in covetousness. Just now, while this awful war is raging and it would seem like death is reigning almost unparalleled, instead of the people being awed by this and other words of Jesus, covetousness has taken a great leap forward. Cruel, relentless war is now not only murdering the human family, but another one of its consequences—the hitherto unheard of high prices paid men now—has brought thousands of men and women under the irresistible suction power of covetousness. We read in 1 Tim. 6:10, "For the love of money is the root of all evil, which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." O saints of God, God help us to beware! If we are brought under the suction power of present day covetousness, it will "breed worms (spiritually) and stink," before God. We shall "have nothing over," but will be in danger of being eternal paupers! —J. H. Pierson.

—oOo— CHARITY

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy [preaching] and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge: and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing." 1 Cor. 13:1-3.

Charity is the love of God implanted into the soul, or the heart, of the redeemed of mankind. Charity is the Holy Spirit of God reigning within an earthly temple, the house made of clay, an earthen vessel: which was dead, but has been made alive through the precious blood of the Lamb of God.

Without CHARITY, all men or women professing godliness are only as tinkling cymbal, or only as sounding brass. That is, God does not hear or honor their work, nor their petitions. We need not deceive ourselves: the Bible is very plain, and is full of warnings to us. Without the working of the Holy Spirit in our souls, we are none of His.

What is a lamp good for, if it cannot be made to give out a light? And what is our life good for, if God

cannot turn on His LIGHT, or shine His love through us? and give light and understanding to others? If one professing holiness does not show love and goodwill unto others, can he or she be used of the Lord to draw others to Him? No wonder Paul preached so clearly upon this theme of love.

Without CHARITY (love) God cannot use us, and He will not use us to accomplish His work in the church. Instead of drawing souls to God, one without the love of God would drive them away, and they would shun him when help is needed. Often there is a coldness and a stand-offishness that resembles disdain about such a person, yet he thinks he is executing God's judgment upon others. If the one without charity is a preacher, he and his meeting house will finally be deserted, for there is a push-off toward man, woman, and child, yet he professes to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Remember, the Spirit of Christ is a drawing Spirit, especially toward His own. The Spirit of Christ is a loving Spirit, which draws us toward God, peace, and heaven. A push-off Spirit has no place in the heart of a saint. Those who have a push-off spirit will not be sought in time of trouble. The saints will seek others for consolation.

When one becomes lifted up in his own opinion, proud, and arrogant, little good will he be to his fellowman. Saints will leave him for better pasture, and his empty house witnesses against him because of a lack of love; which is truly a lack of CHRIST and the HOLY SPIRIT.

This heavenly LOVE is God's only way of drawing souls unto himself, and without God's LOVE in the heart toward our fellowman, there is no drawing power in us. One without God's love is like a broken wire in an electric light bulb, nothing but darkness around; though one may know all the truth, yet has no power with God without LOVE, CHARITY. So we must be filled with God's love if we will bring the lost to God.

—I. Edith Kriebel

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Ye Are The Light Of The World

Matthew 5:14

What kind of a light are ye? "The light of the body is the eye, if therefore thine eye be single thy whole body shall be full of light." Matt. 6:22 "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world, he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life." John 8:12.

When people accept the light, then they have light and when they accept the truth, the word of God, the light shines forth. Praise his name. When the light shines forth it speaks louder than an amen with no light behind it.

Paul tells us in 1 Cor. 2:13, 14 that spiritual things are spiritually discerned; and how true this is. There is an old saying that the countenance is a mirror to the soul and if that is true, and the writer believes it is, think of the awfulness of the soul that does not have the light of Christ. Matt. 6:23, "But if thine eye be evil thy whole body shall

be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness."

I want to illustrate this in a way that will make it very plain, using three light bulbs. One bulb gives a clear light. The person who has accepted Christ as his Savior and is walking in the light is as this bulb. Another bulb is clear but gives no light and on looking close, we notice a small wire that has no connection with the power-line. It gives no light, which is as the person who has had light but failed to walk in the light. When the word of God comes plain and sharper than a two-edged sword, the countenance is clear but no light; no connection with the power line. Friends, beware, walk in the light; accept the truth, the word of God. Repair the wire while you have time and opportunity. If you do not, then you will be like the third bulb which is burned out. We see a dark streak across the bulb very plainly which resembles the person who failed to walk in the light, later rejected the light and that light became darkness. God withdrew his Spirit and when the truth on holiness and a clean life is preached and the word comes plain and sharp or when some one testifies to Divine healing or any of the gifts of the Holy Ghost, that person gets angry and the dark streak comes across the countenance so plainly any one can see it. How sad, yet how true.

The writer has been reading the book, "God's Gracious Dealings" in which there is quite a bit said about disbelief. Some three or four years ago after we had had the lesson about the fish swallowing Jonah, a man came to me and said, "Do you believe that story in the Bible about the fish swallowing Jonah?" I told him that I did. He had only been saved about four months then. He told me that they had had that lesson one Sunday and his teacher asked him if he believed it to be true. When he said he did, the teacher laughed at him and said that he did not believe a word of it. I told the man that unbelief does not and can not change the word of God. We know that in the latter days there will be a falling away from the faith. I have heard more people say that they did not believe the word of God in the past six years than I ever heard in my life and I am past fifty years of age. The Lord laid it upon me to write this as a warning to someone to beware lest they be deceived. Walk in the light to the glory of God.

—F. E. Woodring.

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Birmingham, Ala.—Dear saints, It affords me great pleasure to greet you all in the name of the Lord. I am well and am so glad to know I am saved from my sins. I was saved through reading tracts and papers that you sent to me. I cannot express how much I have enjoyed the truth. I gave them to others and all seem to enjoy reading them. Some have said they will also send for tracts.

People ask why you sent the literature to me. I am sure it was the plan of God. The Holy Spirit leads the children of God to do according to His good pleasure.

I would not attempt to pay for the encouragement I have received, but am sending an offering.

Yours in Christ,

Annie Herren

"FAITH AND VICTORY"

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

This non-sectarian paper is edited and published each month (except August of each year, which is campmeeting month, and we omit this month to attend these meetings) by Fred Pruitt, assisted by Mary A. Pruitt, and other consecrated workers at FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Okla.

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Single copy, five years	1.00
Five copies to any address, one year	1.00
Twelve copies to any address, one year	2.00

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the promulgation and restoration of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from the world and entire devotion to the service and the will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God; no test of fellowship but the indwelling spirit of Christ; and separation from all human organizations—such are not authorized in the Word of God.

This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21 and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the same gospel which Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced; including the Divine healing of the body. James 5:14, 15.

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way the Bible and the Holy Spirit teaches you to do or stirs your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Exodus 24:2; 1 Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Free-will offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord and used in the furtherance of the gospel work as God directs unless otherwise specified. All personal checks and Post Office Money Orders should be made payable to Fred Pruitt, or to

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma

Gary, Ind.—Greetings to all the saints,—I have been rejoicing as I read the wonderful testimonies from the saints everywhere. While it made me glad to read them, I was sad as I realized I had failed to testify.

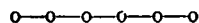
The tracts which you sent me have been a great help to me. I want to tell all of you who have been praying for me that the Lord has touched my feeble body, and today I feel much better. I believe the Lord will heal me completely and will put strength in my legs so that I will be able to walk again. I am still asking all the saints everywhere to please continue to pray for me. I am an invalid. Your brother in Christ, Thomas Williams

Editorials

The office force has been extra busy for the past month setting type for and printing the new book entitled, "The New Testament Church and Its Symbols, Metaphors, and Analogies."

We were burdened for some time about the need of a book in which the truth relating to the church could be set forth in such a way as to help men and women to see clearly the one "body" and become established in Him so that all the winds of doctrines that the enemy of souls has blowing will not move them from the truth. In this book we have tried, by the help of the Lord, to show the scriptures in a clear, concise manner so that saved men and women can see and feel the need of being "not of the world" even as Christ and his disciples were not of the world.

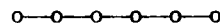
We are praying God to bless the readers of this little volume, even as He blessed us while writing it. You will find this book advertised on another page of this paper.



The first verse of the 91st Psalm ought to be very precious to every saint of God. "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

First, we should see to it that we are abiding in the secret place of the most High. That secret place is where the world is all shut out and we become dead to every selfish interest, and then just abide or continue in that condition. To be in this secret place means much more than just saying that we are in that place. When one is really in this secret place, he then will be able to clearly hear the voice of God talking to his soul, and the Lord will open up to him the hidden treasures of his word and make clear to him the way of life. His soul will feed and feast on the hidden manna, and he will have many fresh things to speak to the edifying of the whole body.

The latter part of the verse says that he "shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." He will shield us from all the scorching words of Satan and his agents or subjects and will continually be our shield and buckler, our strong high tower, and we can run into Him and be safe. He will cover us with his wings of love.



"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Prov. 28:13.

This verse alone should be a great help to any one who is seeking the Lord for salvation. Another scripture reads, "An open confession is good for the soul."

When one desires to be saved, the first thing he needs to know is that he or she is a sinner, and that unless he gets to God and receives forgiveness he will be eternally lost and will suffer in endless torment. Then when real godly sorrow fastens upon his soul—in other words, when he becomes exceedingly sorry because he has sinned against a just God—he can repent from the heart, confess his sins to God, promising God that he will by His help forsake all

his sins. Then God will have mercy upon him and will forgive him and peace from heaven will flow down into his soul. His soul will then begin to prosper in the Lord. The Lord has promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us, but will give us over-coming grace, and we can have victory over sin and the world. Blessed state!

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Just to stir up our pure minds by way of remembrance, we wish to quote a few scriptures pertaining to the manifestation of God's exceeding great love toward us poor mortals of earth.

"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Titus 2:14. This verse of scripture should have deep meaning to us who are saved by his grace. In the first place, it says, "He gave himself for us." Do we remember in what way and how he gave himself for us? Let us read what Paul says in 2 Cor. 5:21, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." Our loving heavenly Father gave his only begotten Son over to the will of wicked professors who abused him and brought him to shame and contempt. They hung him between thieves and robbers, making him appear to be sin or a sinful man worthy of the cruellest treatment and a most shameful death. In this way God gave his Son for us. He went to the slaughter as a Lamb and opened not his mouth, but willingly and meekly bore it all that we might be redeemed from all iniquity; and then by the fiery trials of life be purified, being a peculiar people to the carnal professors of religion and scornful observers, while we continue to be zealous in doing good works.

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Campmeeting Notices

1944 NATIONAL CAMPMEETING

The National Campmeeting of the Church of God will convene this year, the Lord willing, on July 21 and close the 30th, and to be held on the saints' campground at Monark Springs, Mo., which is five miles east of Neosho, Mo.

A cordial invitation to attend this national gathering of God's people is extended to all lovers of the truth. It is held for the saving of the sinner, sanctification of the believer, divine healing of the sick, and the edification of the church in general.

Those coming by bus or train will have to come to Neosho, and then take a taxicab to the campground at Monark Springs.

Very few rooms or cabins will be available to rent. Tents may be rented on the ground for \$3.00 each and cots 75 cents each. There may be a shortage of cots, so bring your own if possible. Your bedding and straw ticks will be only what you bring, so come prepared for very cool nights which sometimes occur there. Straw will be furnished. If you want a tent and cot, please send your order, with money, direct to Bro. Sam Barton, R. 3, Box 119, Tulsa, Okla., by July 10th. Bro. Barton is business manager of the meeting, and Sister Barton is supervisor of the dining hall, etc.

Meals will be served at the dining hall and financed by free-will offerings and free-will contributions of fresh, dried, factory-packed and home-canned fruits and vegetables. Bring your sugar and point ration books. If possible, bring one granite plate, one small bowl, one knife, one fork, and one spoon to donate to the dining hall equipment.

Bro. J. E. Kurtz has been physically unable to continue as caretaker of the campground. A few weeks ago he returned to Kentucky for his daughter to care for him. Remember him in prayer. We need a man to take his place on the grounds. Who will volunteer for the Lord? If you will, then write at once to Bro. Barton.

Much work will need to be done at the campground and dining hall in preparation for the meeting. Several able-bodied, consecrated men are needed to come a few days before the meeting to assist Bro. Barton in these preparations. If you can come to help, write Bro. Barton beforehand so that he may know whom to expect. The Neosho congregation has always been faithful in helping to prepare for the meeting, and the usual cooperation can be expected this time. In the world's history there has never been a time when the gospel has been more needed to be preached and practised than at present, so let us be "workers together" in fulfilling our responsibilities to a lost world.

Each individual and congregation should have a special fund for the national campmeeting. Please send the offering to Bro. Sam Barton or to the undersigned by July 10th.

Come praying and expecting a glorious and profitable meeting.

—L. D. Pruitt, Secy-Treas.

1005 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla.

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Tulsa, Okla.—To all the dear saints scattered abroad:

I greet you this day in Jesus' dear name. We are now planning for the Monark Springs Campmeeting. May God see our weak efforts and bless in a wonderful way. It takes much team work to have a campmeeting. The grounds have to be cleaned of all weeds and limbs that have fallen off the trees, so helpers are needed for that. Then the kitchen has to be cleaned, stoves set up, tables cleaned and repaired, seats fixed, lumber bought for seats, butane system put up, electric wiring to be done, and many other things to be done; so let us look to the Lord by saying, "What can I do, Lord, to make this meeting be what you would have it to be?" But that is not all we need. We need Holy-Ghost preachers and saints to make it what it ought to be. There should be much praying done before, that God will send us showers of blessings and save souls, also that He will send out the people.

—Bro. and Sister Sam Barton

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The Annual General Southern Campmeeting of the church of God will be held on the campground at Hammond, La., from June 30 to July 9th. It is located about one mile southwest of the I. C. railroad depot. Highways 51 and 190 lead here. We have good bus and train service, also mail service. It will be run on the free-will offering plan. Provisions or money that anyone feels led to donate will be thankfully received. Straw furnished free, also sleeping quarters on the campground. Please bring your straw ticks, bed linens, and towels, also sugar and point ration books. Send provisions or write to Max Williamson, in care of the post office, Hammond, La., Secy-Treas., or Mr. and Mrs. Ray Key, Box 370, Hammond, La., residing ministers.

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The Oklahoma State Campmeeting at Guthrie, Okla. will begin August 4th and continue ten days.

Lord willing, we shall have another campmeeting in Northwest Mo., August 18th to 26th inclusive. This campmeeting will be held seven miles southeast of Langdon, Mo. and nine miles southwest of Rockport, Mo. Those coming by train, come to Langdon. Those coming by bus, come to Rockport. This is a new field and we need the cooperation of the saints. This meeting will be run on the free-will offering plan. Bring rationing books. Those desiring tents should let us know before campmeeting so arrangements can be made for them. Bring bedding.

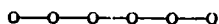
For further information write Egbert Allen, Langdon, Mo., residing minister, or Mrs. E. O. Bade, Secy.-Treas.

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A NEW BOOK

A new book entitled "The New Testament Church and Its Symbols, Metaphors, and Analogies," is just off the press. It contains 131 pages of solid reading matter which will be deeply interesting and enlightening to all who are interested in the works of God in the last days. It has a nice paper binding. It will be postpaid to any address in the U. S. for 25 cents or six books for one dollar. Help spread this evening light truth, for the end of this world has come upon us.

We also have a few of the eleven monthly issues of "Faith and Victory" paper for 1943 bound together in book form, which will be sent to any address for 40 cents each, postpaid.

We also have some large print New Testaments in stock; just what old folks need. They will be postpaid to any address for \$1.50 each.



Obituaries

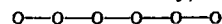
Audrey Augusta Jennings, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Jennings, was born in Oklahoma City, Okla. March 12, 1923, and departed this life April 20, 1944 at Berkley, Calif. at the age of 21 years, one month and eight days.

On August 1, 1942, she was married to Harley Adams, who since Sept., 1942 has been in the service of the U. S. government. After her husband was drafted, she made her home with her father at Okla. City until after their baby was born, Dec. 5, 1943, at which time she made her home with her sister, Sister O. C. Porter of Guthrie, Okla. until she went to Calif. about three weeks preceding her death to visit her husband who was home on furlough.

When Audrey was only fourteen years of age, her mother, who had been so earnest in teaching her children the ways of God and truth, passed to her reward; and Audrey, left without the protecting care and sound advise of her mother, chose the ways of the world and sin, but soon learned that its prospects all deceived, and at the age of 18 years she gave her heart to God. Though she was again overcome by Satan and sin, she was very tender-hearted and knew and loved the truth. Her relatives have the comforting hope and believe that her mother's prayers were answered and that she had sought and obtained forgiveness from God before her death; because some time before she was stricken with her fatal illness her thoughts began to run in earnestness toward God and His ways; she expressed regret for the ways she had lived, and began to pray and read her Bible; and when she realized that her time had come to die, she expressed no feeling of fear, but rather expressed a desire to depart. She and her husband had often expressed their desire to live for and please the Lord.

She is survived by husband, Pvt. Harley Adams; son, Harley, Jr.; father, A. C. Jennings of Oklahoma City; sisters, Bonnie Porter of Guthrie, Oklahoma and Wilma Bass of Reddings, Calif.; brothers, Pvt. Clyde Jennings stationed at Ogden, Utah, Leroy of Guthrie, Merl and Fred of Okla. City.

Funeral service conducted at the church of God chapel at Guthrie by W. C. Murphey. Text, "Thy will be done." Interment, Summit View Cemetery, Guthrie, Okla.



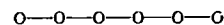
Olive L. Leeper, daughter of Cephas and Samantha (Hughes) Leeper was born near Brock, Ohio, Feb. 3, 1867 and departed this life at the home of John and Mae Nottingham in Union City, April 5, 1944 at the age of 77 years, 2 months, and 2 days.

She grew to womanhood in the vicinity in which she was born. In 1884 she was united in marriage to Hiram Fidler. To this union six children were born, four sons and two daughters.

At an early age in life she gave her heart to the Lord, and lived a devoted Christian life, ever ready to help those in need of help. She was a loving mother, a good neighbor, and one in whom you could confide. She was in failing health for a number of years, but the last 3 or 4 weeks, was seriously ill. She bore it patiently, and never murmured and would ask many times for those who visited her to pray, as her trust was in the Lord.

She leaves three sons and two daughters, namely, Mae Nottingham of Union City, Ind., Will of Versailles, R. R.; Charles A. of Columbus, Ohio; Bernard of Yorkshire Ohio; Boneita Weidle of Miambsburg; 9 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, 1 great-great-grandchild, 1 brother and 1 sister. Her husband, one son, father, mother, one sister and one brother preceded her in death.

Funeral Services at Yorkshire were conducted by Bro. Dale Oldham of Dayton, and Bro. Everett Abbott of Union City.

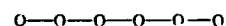


Sister Beneava Alsup was born at Wealthy, Okla. April 29, 1919 and departed this life April 14, 1944. She was the daughter of Monroe and Ora Austin who preceded her in death.

From childhood she loved the Lord and always wanted to do the right. Early in life she sought the Lord and got saved. She lived a Christian life for about two years after which she became discouraged for a short time, then renewed her covenant with the Lord to which she was faithful unto death.

On March 6, 1938 she was united in marriage to Ray Alsup and was a faithful wife. She was in poor health for four years, but was patient and trusted the Lord, saying that she wanted to be an example in trusting the Lord for soul and body and was going to trust Him to the end, which she did. When her suffering would get severe she would call for the saints to come and pray with her. Each time she would get help.

She leaves to mourn her departure a husband, three brothers, two sisters, and a host of relatives and friends. Text: 2 Cor. 5:1, by Bro. Sam Barton.



Testimony of a Backslider

As I lie here on my bed of affliction paying the price of my folly, I feel led to sound a note of warning to any of God's children who might be discouraged to the point of giving up. If you feel the cross is too heavy, perhaps you will be encouraged after reading my testimony of the price I've paid for backsliding.

Fourteen years ago I gave my heart to the Lord, and, for nearly twelve years, had blessed fellowship with Him. In spite of many heartaches and persecutions, I held to the Saviour's hand and marched steadily onward.

During that time I became a victim of Tuberculosis, and spent many months in bed, most of the time in a Sanatorium. I was a hemorrhage case and became so ill the doctors and nurses gave up all hopes of my recovery, and my name was marked on the death list. But I was trusting God for healing. The doctor, who was an unsaved man, seemed to rejoice in showing me the large cavity in my lung, as shown in the X-ray picture.

But I was not discouraged, even though the time came when I was so near gone I lay in a coma for hours. During this time it was my blessed privilege to see a vision of Jesus arising from His throne and advancing toward me as if to bid me welcome to the heavenly city. In His hand He carried a crown, and across His arm a beautiful robe. Friends and relatives were gathered near my bedside awaiting the end. At midnight I rallied, and three weeks later, to the amazement of everyone, I arose from my bed, dressed and went home, and prepared the evening meal for my husband and family.

A few weeks later an X-ray was made. The Lord had so wonderfully healed me there were no cavities present and no T. B. in evidence. I have the doctor's report in my possession now. I was pronounced a walking miracle by saints and sinners alike.

I did all my own work in a seven room house, conducted children's meetings, was Sunday School Secretary and Treasurer visited the sick and did personal work wherever the opportunity presented.

But the devil had seen the same vision I had—that robe and crown—and he set about to rob me of it.

I was healed in 1939 and in the fall of '41 my husband died of heart trouble. I was left with six school-aged children. It was a severe blow. I tried to rise above it, but I became discouraged finally, and began to think my cross too great. It was then I should have prayed more and read my Bible oftener. But instead, the devil suggested I just "end it all," and I tried.

Step by step the enemy led me away from God, until I had wandered far away from Father's house. Sometimes I could hear a voice calling, "Ruth, come home," and I felt like the little lost sheep. The voice I heard was that of the Good Shepherd. But I turned a deaf ear and went on my way.

God spoke in a louder tone, and although I was fearful, I failed to respond. My health began to fail, and I decided to come to Arizona. I didn't need Arizona, I needed the Lord; but I came on to Arizona.

I have been in Arizona seven months and have been bedfast four and a half of that time. My health broke so completely and I had such severe hemorrhages I was glad to call out in desperation for the Lord to save my soul and spare my life.

The Good Shepherd, still seeking His own, found me.

"Out in the desert He heard my cry,
Sick and helpless and ready to die."
He carried me safely back to the fold in His loving arms. Oh, the mercy of God! But, dear ones, as "a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Now I lie here reaping. Day after day the suffering goes on, and I've lost so much strength I am helpless—the wages of sin!

My friends, the price of sin is too high. Get a fresh grip on God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

I will be going home to glory one of these days. My children are scattered and soon will be motherless as well as fatherless. If I had only obeyed the Lord, I'm

sure I could have had many precious sheaves to lay at His feet. Now I must go empty handed. So, dear ones, take warning: The way of the transgressor is hard! Be true to Jesus! His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

May God bless you. Ruth G. Campbell

(Sister Campbell has now moved to West Main Road, c.o. J. W. Ferguson, Conneaut, Ohio. Write to her if you have received encouragement from her testimony.)

—o—o—o—o—o—o—o—

Laurelville, Ohio—Dear Brother and Sister in Christ, I have been a reader of your paper for a long time. The letters from brothers and sisters in the Lord have been food for my soul. I am glad to know that God is able to save and to keep us from all sin, and he is able to heal our bodies. I have trusted my body in his care for over twenty-six years, and never tasted medicine during that time. I still believe God is able to heal. I have an ailment in my body and am asking you to pray for me that God will heal me. I know He is able to, bless His dear name.

I have three sons in the army. One is in England and two in Mississippi. They are not saved although one is under conviction. He says he cannot live a Christian and kill. He says if the Lord will bring him home he will serve him. Please pray for them. Alma Arledge

Hallsboro, Kans.—Dear saints of God,—May the dear Lord bless you all and keep you in His fear with much prayer and waiting on our dear Lord and Saviour as we realize how good the dear Lord has been to us. When He saw us groping in the darkness of sin not knowing whither we were going on the downward road away from God, He found us and drew us near to him. He also healed us when we were sick and afflicted.

In December I had a stroke which left me in such a condition that I could scarcely talk. I could just say a few words and they were just turned backward so I could get no meaning out of them. The dear Lord only knows what it was. I want thank the dear Lord for healing me. And may the dear Lord bless every one who took an interest in praying for me. I am so thankful to the dear Lord and Saviour for healing me, and He gets all the praise and honor. A. J. Hiebert.

E. Akron, Ohio—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt and all the dear workers at the publishing house, and saints scattered abroad,—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I am saved, sanctified, and kept by the power of God and feel led to testify how the Lord is so wonderfully caring for me.

I suffered about seven years with sinus trouble. Two weeks after I sent a request to the publishing house for prayer, Bro. Jackson also prayed earnestly to God to heal me. While he was praying it seemed as if someone kissed me between my eyes. The Holy Spirit said that God had touched my head and that I was healed if I would claim healing. I accepted it at once, praise God.

The Lord also wonderfully healed Sister Jackson. I stayed by her bed two months as she lay between life and death. One morning I saw that she was passing. She was speechless, and I could hardly tell she was breathing. I had seen many people pass away, and knew that death was near. I could see no further use to pray. Her husband came in the room and I left, for I had no faith and I knew that without faith it was impossible to please God. I said, "If I can't help, I will not hinder." Her husband prayed three times and she revived and is now well. That meant so much to me. I praise God for all those experiences and that I am growing in grace.

May God bless all is my prayer. Mary Bell White

The Second Coming Of Christ

The Bible, Old and New Testaments contain a full and perfect revelation of God and His will concerning man as he was, as he is, and what will happen to all men and this present world at Christ's second coming.

Consider Acts 1:11, "Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." This is God's own word to us and should be taken seriously. The subject of the second coming of Christ is discussed about as much as any other topic of the Bible. The Devil through the mouth of false prophets has twisted scriptures concerning it to deceive people, until it seems that the majority of people believe that Christ will come to this earth again and establish his kingdom and reign a thousand years, which gives man the impression that life for him is just beginning. But, oh, poor sinner, don't believe them, for there will be no age to come. If in this life you do not find Jesus, death will seal your awful doom. When Jesus comes again the career of all men will end forever on this earth. For proof of this statement read 2 Thes. 1:7-9, "And to you who are troubled, rest with us: when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power." 2 Thes. 2:8 says when the Lord comes the wicked will be consumed and destroyed and again in 2 Thes. 4:17, those who are righteous will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and shall ever be with the Lord.

These scriptures prove that the wicked will be destroyed off this earth and that the righteous will be taken off this earth to their eternal reward. Furthermore, we have Bible proof that when Jesus comes that there will not be an earth left here on which to establish a kingdom. This is in 2 Peter 3:10, "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 therein, shall be burned up."

Many are expecting the devil to be bound with a chain during the fancied thousand-year reign. They think when he is bound and cast somewhere in a pit that he will then have no power over men to cause them to do wrong. If all understood the true nature of the devil, they would understand better what it would take to bind him. In Luke 9:42 the Devil is called an unclean spirit: in Luke 4:36 he is called by the same name; in Acts 8:7 the same title is given to him. 1 Tim. 4:1 says, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." Here again the devil is called a seducing spirit. In Rev. 16:13, 14 it is recorded that the Revelator saw three unclean spirits

like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon (which represents Paganism), the beast (Roman Catholicism) and the false prophet (sectism). The Devil has different spirits, or attributes, which he sends out to work and deceive in any way he can. An evil spirit could not be bound with a chain and cast into a pit.

In Rev. 20:2 we read where the angel bound the dragon. Revelation is a book of symbols and cannot be taken literally. Many of these symbols are explained in the first part of the book, and others are explained in other parts of the Bible. Angels in Revelation represent ministers or messengers. The dragon signifies an unclean spirit, not the prince of devils. We know that the dragon mentioned in Rev. 16:13 refers to Pagan Rome, the ruling religion of its time. The Devil or false spirit was bound by the preaching of the gospel of Christ. But even though that spirit was bound so it could deceive the nations no more for a space of time, the prince of devils proceeded to use other spirits to deceive them.

The Devil is a spirit. He controls all who have not been born again and received into their hearts the Spirit of God which can only be received through repentance and the new birth of the soul. 1 John 3:8 says, "He that committeth sin is of the devil." That is, we are controlled by him, and are his servants. 1 John 3:9 says, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin." When one is born of God the devil is bound and cast off his throne in that heart. This is the only way that we can have the Devil bound here on this earth. In order to bind the devil for all people, God would have to force the new birth on all, and this is contrary to Bible teaching. The Lord tells us that He sets before us life and death for us to make our own choice. Could you visualize the Son of God who has all power in heaven and earth, coming here to reign without any power to oppose him? That would be a reproach on God's mighty power over sin and the devil. It would make it seem that we could not be endued with enough power from God to overcome the Devil unless God binds him and puts him in a place where he couldn't even tempt us any more.

Suppose that God were speaking literally in Rev. 20 and that Christ should come here to reign on the earth (It mentions Him reigning with those beheaded for His cause a thousand years, but it doesn't say on the earth.) and the devil should be bound that time and then turned loose again at the end of that time, what would be accomplished? The idea would be something like this: Suppose I should rescue a number of children from a burning building by putting out the fire. Then after a certain time I give my permission to have the building set afire and burn up all the children that I once rescued. This is the true meaning of the Millennium teaching. What good would Christ have accomplished?

Dear friends, Christ is now reigning in the hearts of his people and will continue to reign until the last enemy is conquered which is death. This enemy, death, will be conquered when He comes. We shall receive glorified bodies when He comes in Judgment. 1 Cor. 15:53.

—R. M. Whitehouse (revised)

Young People's Section

SOLD !

It may not be for silver,
It may not be for gold,
But still by tens of thousands,
The Prince of Life is sold;
Sold for a godless friendship,
Sold for a fleeting trifle,
Sold for an empty name;
Sold in the mart of science,
Sold in the seat of power,
Sold in the shrine of fortune,
Or sold in pleasure's bower.
Sold where the awful bargain
None but God's eye can see.
Ponder, my soul, the question,
Shall He be sold by thee?
Sold! Oh, my God, what moment
Stifled is conscience's voice;
Sold! and a weeping angel
Records the fatal choice.
Sold! but the price, accepted,
To a living coal shall turn,
With the pangs of a late repentance
Deep in the soul to burn! —Sel.

—oOo—

Editorials

From almost any point of view this is in truth a dark, cold world; but it is many times darker to the unsaved soul. In the path they are choosing they have no hope for satisfaction and contentment in this world, and neither in the eternal world. Jesus said positively, "Ye . . . shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come. For if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." Jno. 8:21, 24. Such is the miserable condition of one whose sins have not been washed away by the blood of Christ. The immortal soul of man cries out for rest and contentment, but which can be had only by complete harmony with its Creator, and that is attained only through Jesus, the mediator between God and man.

It is true also that the child of God is living in this dark world, and like the darkness of Egypt, it can be felt, figuratively speaking. Nevertheless, he is the Light of life in his soul, and a glorious hope both sure and steadfast that when this fleeting life is over, he has a home eternal in the heavens. Jesus is the Light of the world, and the saints are His lights in the world. In Him is no darkness; they are in the world but not of the world. They are "strangers and pilgrims" here and following after Him who is "the way, the truth, and the life." They are feeding on Christ who said, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever." The child of God will never die. Death is merely a separation of soul and body, and through this entrance the saint passes on

to those eternal realms with God. What a bright anticipation while walking in the light! "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." Psa. 16:11. Thank the Lord, there is no darkness in this picture. Let us lift up our hearts in worship and praise.

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To many people today, the gospel of Christ is as a "hard saying." They say it is too strict, the standard of holy living is too high, the way is too hard and difficult, and many have turned and are turning back to the way of "least resistance." Jesus encountered this attitude in His ministry. At one time He was teaching on some vital points, and an individual asked, "Who then can be saved?" On another occasion when He was teaching His disciples, many of them murmured and said, "This is an hard saying; who can hear it? From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God."

When people leave the Lord and forsake his teachings, to whom shall they go? There is no other way, and no other name given whereby we can be saved. Those who turn away are closing the only door to heaven, and the last offer of mercy. Christ has the words of eternal life. Choose this day whom you will serve, and strive to enter in at the strait gate, for many shall seek to enter in (in their own way) and shall not be able. —L. D. Pruitt.

—oOo—

"Better, though difficult, the right way to go,
Than wrong, though easy, where the end is woe."

—o—o—o—o—o—o—

"Often thus, through sin's deceit,
Grief and shame and loss I meet.
Like a fish, my soul mistook,
Saw the bait but not the hook."

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Bartlett, Kans.—Dear saints,—We feel thankful to the Lord for His keeping grace which He bestows upon us. We are still saved and sanctified and enjoying this blessed holy way.

We get very homesick to see some of the dear saints, and wish many times there were at least just one to be with; but on the other hand we feel thankful too that our Saviour made it possible that we could have His Spirit abiding with us here the same as if we were with a great number of His people. He truly has been good to us and we give Him all the praise for His goodness to us.

I remember before I married and we lived in the country there at Guthrie, there was a place in the pasture with a great rock cliff that I often went to in my trials and poured out my heart to Jesus there. And it seemed that the Lord was just a little closer to me when I went there for prayer. But after I married and moved almost

one hundred miles away from there I found Jesus just as near and precious and just as willing to answer prayer there as under the big rock. Many have been the victories God gave me at my new home. He leads me through the fiery furnace, so to speak, but all praises be to my heavenly King, he never left me alone. When my heart would almost despair, he would permit his unfailing arm to uphold me and give me new strength. Now we have moved over two hundred miles from there, but praise the Lord, He is still ever near to answer prayer and give us victory over the devil.

"Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus
Just to take Him at his word,
Just to rest upon His promise,
Just to know thus saith the Lord."

We do enjoy getting the "Faith and Victory." It has so much soul food for us. We read the good testimonies of the saints and tears of joy flow. While we rejoice to hear how God blesses his people, then we read of some who have burdens and trials we take their burdens to the Lord in prayer. We love all the people of God whether we have met them or not.

We earnestly ask all the saints to pray for us, that we will be shining lights here. Bro. and Sis. Albert Eck.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Laurelville, Ohio—Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,—I am glad that I can give a testimony for my blessed Saviour. I have been saved over a year, and by the Lord's help I expect to go through with Jesus whatever the cost may be. I know if it weren't for the Lord I could never stand the sorrow and heartaches I have.

My husband is in the army at Camp Shelby, Miss. He has been in over a year. He got under conviction before he left and promised the Lord if he would put something in the way and send him home he would be saved and live for Him. By the Lord's work he has something wrong with his back and is not able to do much of any thing. We are praying that the Lord will show them his condition and send him home. I know He is a friend that will never leave or forsake us. I am trusting Him more every day and I believe my husband will soon be home. Pray for him. The Lord has promised whatever we ask with faith believing it shall be done. I know He has answered my prayer before and He will now.

We have a three-months-old baby who has gone on to be with Jesus, and I expect some day to have a better home than I have in this world of sorrow and trouble. Our little boy, two years old, and I live with my parents and his parents.

I want to do more for my blessed Saviour every day, and let my light shine out that some other soul may find Jesus before it is too late. Mrs. Nolan Arledge.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Troy, Ala.—Greetings in our dear Lord's name.—I thank the Lord for saving my soul. Jesus is so precious to me. It is good to trust God with all our troubles. Praise His name! My husband was called to the army. After he passed the physical examination I was very miserable until I went down on my knees and gave God my heart and life. Now I am satisfied about it. But he has not been taken yet and I believe God can and will still get him out of it. God is so wonderful to us. My husband is seeking the Lord, also my brother.

How sweet it is to fully trust in Jesus. Dear people, I am asking all who read this to please take more time to pray. Pray more for the boys overseas and for the boys who are about to be called to the different camps. Let us beg God to save precious boys. Jesus is able to stop this war. I believe if people would spend as much

as an hour each day for the war to come to a close that God would undertake. We know that if there was ever a time that we needed to pray and change our ways and walk with God, it is now. He is able to save. Oh how sad it is to think of so many souls going out into eternity who do not know Christ or how to be born again. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16. Well, glory to His name! I want to tell the world that God hears and answers prayer. He has really blessed my family and healed us time after time. He healed my husband's foot when he cut it badly with an ax.

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Nina Divine

CORRESPONDENCE

Rosebud, Texas—Dear saints,—It has been a long time since I sent in my testimony, so I just want to speak for the Lord in the little paper. I am yet a witness for Him and do say He can save and heal. He has done much for me. I am much better than I have been. My heart doesn't bother like it did.

I wish to tell how the Lord healed my little girl May 13th. She suddenly took very ill. My husband and I began to pray for her, but it looked for awhile like it was in vain. We prayed again and the Lord immediately healed her.

I have one boy in the army and one might go any time. I ask all of you to pray that the Lord will save their souls.

I receive much good to my soul from reading the little paper. May God bless you and the work. I would like for everybody to read the "Faith and Victory."

I hope some of the saints will write to us.

A true servant of God,

Mrs. A. L. McIntyre

o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Houston, Tex.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—I do not want to be without your wonderful Christian paper. It is so full of the glory and food of present day needs in these perilous times. God bless you, Bro. Pruitt, for the great work you and your good co-workers are doing to spread the blessed gospel of Jesus Christ in these latter days.

My health is some better than when I wrote you the last time, and I give God the thanks and praise. Remember me in your prayers.

The harvest is white and the laborers are few. The world is facing and is in very strange days. The great invasion in Europe may be a tremendous turning point in human events and history. We don't know.

May God bless and keep you in the blessed work you are doing until He says, "Come up higher."

Faithfully yours,

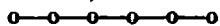
Jesse J. Gorman

o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Sandusky, Ohio—Dear saints of God scattered abroad, greetings to you all in Jesus dear name,—I feel led of the dear Lord to send my testimony in again. I am still saved and intend to go all the way with the dear Lord by His help and grace. I am more determined now than ever before, for I see we surely need the dear Lord in these evil days. I do want to thank the dear saints of God everywhere for their prayers for the healing of my body and keeping of my soul. I am not well, but I am able to work around the house. I do thank and praise the Lord for it, and I am expecting complete healing. Please pray for my healing. My case is too hard for man, but I am so glad to know it is just a small case for God. I am leaning and depending on Him for everything. Pray that I might be all in this life that He would have

me to be. Please remember my unsaved children.

Your sister in Christ, Nellie Hudson



Grants Pass, Oregon—To the dear saints everywhere—While reading the testimonies in "Faith and Victory" of many dear ones whom I know and many more whom I shall know in that heavenly home where our names are enrolled forever, my soul was made to rejoice.

I was saved at the age of ten years in a neighborhood prayer meeting among Baptist and Methodist people. Not once in my life did I give up the Lord. I made many mistakes by not being prayed up to date, also a lack of understanding of the scriptures. After a few years I met the saints. It seemed to me they were the dearest people on earth, and yet for some time there were many things I didn't understand. But I am thankful the Lord was merciful, spared my life, and let me feast at His table and drink of the water of life. Our heavenly home is just a short distance from here now.

A Brother and Sister Stubbs lives in the country thirteen miles from here. They are humble saints of God. We have been praying the Lord to send us a messenger or messengers to hold a meeting and probably raise up a congregation. But several weeks ago while Bro. Stubbs was at work a boulder fell from eighteen feet above his head and broke three ribs and a bone in his leg rendering him unable to work for some time. The Lord healed him, for which we give God the praise. He is unable to resume that heavy work again, and is moving into Grants Pass where he can get lighter work. The devil is either hindering our having a meeting or the Lord isn't ready yet. Be agreed with us that the Lord will open up a place for us and a way. Nettie Loraine

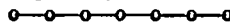


Birmingham, Ala.—To the publishers of "Faith and Victory" and all its readers, I send greetings of love in the sweet and precious name of Jesus.—I enjoy reading the good testimonies in the little paper, also the good articles. There are so many saints whom I would love to write to that I just decided I would write through the paper in testimony.

I am glad I can testify to the saving and keeping power of God. I feel his abiding presence in my heart. He is very precious to me. I find him a friend in every time of need. I carry all my burdens to him and he gives me sweet relief and whispers sweet peace to me. Bless His matchless name! I would not give up my title to that future world of bliss for the shining gold and silver of a thousand worlds like this. I am determined to press the battle on. I know the trials of this life will seem nothing when we get to the end of the way. I just want to endure hardships and trials as a good soldier of Jesus Christ and count the sufferings of this present time not worthy to be compared to the glories of heaven. I want my life to be a beacon light to others, pointing the way to Christ. It is my desire to be busy doing something for my Lord if it is only doing something for others. "Have thine own way, Lord, in my heart and life," is my daily prayer.

Dear saints, let me admonish you, each and every one, be true to God and stand firmly on the solid Rock, Christ Jesus, and his words, earnestly contending for the faith that was once delivered to the saints. It will not be long until our troubles and trials will all be over and we shall pass through the portals of glory to be forever with our blessed Saviour and the holy angels and all the redeemed. Then we shall be able to sing and shout to our hearts' content.

I ask an interest in the prayers of all who know me, that I may ever be faithful and true and do the things that would be pleasing to my Lord. Cora McMillian



Visalia, Calif.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt and all the dear saints scattered abroad,—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I have felt for some time that it would be pleasing to the Lord for me to write my testimony to "Faith and Victory" and tell some of the things He has done for me.

I have been trusting the Lord for soul and body for more than thirty years, during which time I have passed through many trials, temptations, sickness, and bereavements; but God has never failed me once, but has always been a present help in every time of need. Praise His name!

My heart is rejoicing today in the love of God. I wouldn't exchange the peace and joy I have in my soul for all the world. If it were possible to lay the wealth of this world at my feet, I could say with the poet, "Take the world, but give me Jesus."

I am so glad that He has taken from my heart all desire for worldly amusements, worldly dress and everything that is unlike God. My only desire is to live to please my blessed Lord who has done so much for me, and to do the things He would have me do.

For quite awhile my heart has been made sad because so many of those who profess to be followers of God have drifted so far from the truth and are absorbed in the things of the world. I felt quite like Elijah did when he said, "And I, even I only, am left." (1 Kings 19:14). About that time the Lord let a copy of "Faith and Victory" fall into my hands. Through it, I learned of the Faith Publishing House and that God still has a remnant who are standing true. Oh, how my heart rejoiced! I subscribed for the paper and soon Bro. Pruitt sent me the book, "God's Gracious Dealings." I sat up far into the night and read its pages. Many times I would stop and praise the Lord while tears of joy would flow. I never cease to pray for the publishing work and for the dear saints everywhere, that God will keep them true to Him.

For the glory of God and the encouragement of others, there is one more thing I wish to tell. On the night of March 30, 1941, while I was at meeting, I was stricken with a heart attack. I became unconscious and the death dew was on my brow. The dear ones held on to God in prayer and the Lord raised me up. A short time after that I went to a doctor and told him what had happened and that I wanted a heart examination. He gave me a thorough examination. When he had finished he said that he couldn't understand for there was nothing wrong with my heart and that it was in good condition. I have not had any symptoms of the trouble since the night the Lord healed me.

I desire an interest in the prayers of all who read this that I may be just what God would have me be and that He will use me as He sees fit. Mrs. Nora Barker



Hubbard, Ore.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt,—Greetings in the Master's name who saved us by His precious blood upon Calvary. We are born into that glorious body, the church of God, who's builder and maker is God, washed in His cleansing blood and have on that spotless garment, praise His holy name. I can praise God today for victory in my soul, saved and sanctified, and on the highway of the King, with Jesus as my Captain. I was saved at the age of twenty-one and was a member of a sect for thirteen years, when God showed me, at death's door, the

glorious church of God and raised me up and healed me. I got mixed up with the Year Book and Ministerial association adjustment committees. There was no liberty in the Lord, only bondage. God had called me a few years before this, but my eyes were blinded, still looking for a people that taught the Bible. I became very sick and went to a doctor. He told me that I couldn't live and nothing could be done. Then I really began to think. When I got home I fell on my knees and asked God what was wrong. He had always healed me before. Then God began to speak and I was ready to listen.

The Lord said, "Take your name out of the Year Book, Ministerial Association, and follow Me." I said, "Yes, Lord. I will go all the way with you."

I wrote a letter to the president of the association of the Gospel Trumpet of Oregon and asked them to take my name off the Year Book and association. When I obeyed, the blessing came and the power of God filled the room and the Lord completely healed me. God can only use us when we give our all, leave the things of the world behind, and cut loose from all human organizations. "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." *Psa. 133:1*. How precious it is to worship with God's saints who adorn the doctrine of God's word, with the Holy Spirit as our teacher and leader.

Pray for husband and me, that we might help spread the glorious truth and help gather into the sheepfold that lamb that is wandering on the hillsides of this dark world—those who are hungry for the Bible truth of God's Word. We want to help honest souls find their way back home to Father's table so they can drink of the life-giving stream.

Mrs. Alta Mead

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GOD'S CHURCH

Almost two thousand years ago Jesus left his glory circled throne and came to this sin-benighted world to save poor lost men and women from their sins. Wherefore, Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people (his people) with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come. By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to his name; **He is so good**. Oh, how these scriptures from the precious old Book ought to stir our hearts to give our loving Lord more perfect service. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Or in other words: If you keep my commandments then I will know you love me. And 1 John 2:4, "He that saith I know him and keepeth not his commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him." Jesus said, "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you." Also, "These things I command you that ye love one another." "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye have love one to another." But what a sad picture the world gets when it looks at the professed Christians all divided up into hundreds of different factions, in spite of the fact that we, the Christian people are commanded to all speak the same thing

and that there be no divisions among us but that we be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. And Jesus said (*St. John 10:16*) "Other sheep I have which are not of this fold [speaking to the Jews and of the Gentiles] them also I must bring and they shall hear my voice and there shall be ONE fold and ONE shepherd." In *Jno. 17:21*, Jesus said as he was praying for us (the saved people), "That they all may be ONE as thou Father art in me and I in thee, that they also may be ONE in us, that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." Now what does the world think about? when they see hundreds of different factions and denominations, all differing one from the other and each one claiming they are right? As they see this awful confusion it makes them wonder who is right or if any of them are right. But Jesus said "Upon this Rock [Jesus himself] I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Notice, Jesus said, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it," and in the last verse of the 2nd chapter of Acts, we read, "And the Lord [not man] added to the church daily, such as should be saved."

Now notice the difference between the true Church of God and the sect bodies. We get into the church of God by virtue of the new birth. Jesus said, "Ye must be born again." All who get into these sect bodies must join them, but you cannot join the church that Jesus built. The only way we can get into the church that Jesus built is to be born into it, and there is not a sinner in the Church of God. This cannot be said of any one of the denominations or sect bodies. The only way a person can get into one of these bodies is to join it. The names of the members of these sect bodies are kept in a class book made of paper; and the names of the members of the true church of God are kept in the Lamb's book of life in heaven. Jesus said to his disciples in *Luke 10:20*, "Rejoice because your names are written in heaven." The writer of the book of Hebrews says in chapter 12:22, "But ye are come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels. To the general assembly and church of the first born which are written in heaven." When Paul delivered his last message to the elders (*Acts 20:28*), he said, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers to feed the church of God which he has purchased with his own blood." And again we hear Paul saying in *Eph. 5:25-27*, "Husbands love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word. 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." Now let us

contrast this true church, the one that Jesus built, with the average run of sect churches. The Bible calls this congregation of sect divisions, Babylon, or confusion. Rev. 18:4, "And I heard another voice from heaven saying, Come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins and that ye receive not of her plagues. —Geo. W. Stephenson

Attention, Please!

Attention, please! while I relate
Six things I'm told, the Lord doth hate;
The preacher said long time ago
That seven things did grieve him so.

A look of pride God cannot stand,
For God resisteth a proud man;
He that exalts himself must fall,
But humble men will hear God's call.

A lying tongue must take its flight,
It cannot tarry in God's sight.
Ananias and Sapphira died,
Because to God they both had lied.

The hands that murder and shed blood,
God hates them all, they are not good;
The first born son of earth was Cain,
By whom was righteous Abel slain.

Wicked imaginations too,
From evil hearts they do pursue.
All this is wrong and genders strife,
And saps the pleasure out of life.

Mischievous feet that run to wrong,
In little crowds or in large throngs;
Such sinful conduct is not right—
A-bom-i-nation in God's sight.

A false witness that speaketh lies,
And careth not if just men die.
A poison viper too, is he
Who will with such a one agree.

God hates the man that sows discord—
Because he does not serve the Lord;
He is a tool in Satan's hand
To keep confusion in the land.

—Ulysses Phillips.

If We Only Knew

If we only knew the trials of each other as we go,
We would try to be more careful what we say and
how we sow;
For we do not know men's motives—only God can
read the heart;
And He's warned us not to judge them,
Only pray and take their part.

If we knew the burdens one another had to bear,
We would surely be more careful and those burdens
help to share.

For their load at times is heavy, and some fall be-
neath the weight—
Can't we lend to them a helping hand
Before it is too late?

If we only knew the heartaches that are hidden from
our view,

We would want to be more tender and a kinder way
pursue.

We would cry more unto Jesus with a sympathizing
tear,

We would tell them of the Saviour,
Who, in love, would calm their fear.

If we only knew the sorrows of each other day by day,
Our hearts would melt within us, and we would not
cease to pray

'Till our prayer reached unto Jesus for the hearts so
filled with woe,
And they knew the blessed Comforter
Who came long years ago.

If we only knew when Christ would come, how anx-
ious we would be

'To have no stain nor wrinkle for His holy eye to see.
We would surely live, think and act like He has
taught us to,

And see things, O, so differently,
If we only knew!

My dear brothers and my sisters! Let our thoughts be
pure and clean,

And let our lips speak only words to please our
righteous King.

No more uncharitable terms, nor thoughtless words
let fall,

But aim to hear the blessed, "Come,"
At the final Judgment call! —Alma Syas Clay

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PAUL IN EPHEBUS

Sunday, June 4, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations
May 29 to June 3.

- M. Ephesian disciples empowered Acts 19:1-7.
 T. Paul reasons and persuades Acts 19:8-20.
 W. Business men in a riot Acts 19:23-32.
 T. The riot quelled Acts 19:33-41.
 F. God's grace exemplified Eph. 2:1-10.
 S. Strengthened by God's power Eph. 3:14-19.

Printed PortionActs 19:8-10; Eph. 2:4-10; 3:14-19.

Acts 19:8. And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.

9. But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.

10. And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

Eph. 2:4. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5. Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6. And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

7. That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

8. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9. Not of works, lest any man should boast.

10. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

3:14. For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

15. Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

16. That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

17. That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

18. May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length, and depth, and height;

19. And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Golden Text: "We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Eph 2:10

Practical Truth: The grace and power of God are sufficient for all our spiritual needs.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In Acts 18:19 it is recorded that Paul went to Ephesus accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila whom he had met in Corinth. He left Ephesus after a few days to attend a feast at Jerusalem, then returned to find that work for the Lord had been done during his absence by Aquila and Priscilla. Read the full account of Paul's work in Ephesus in Acts 19:1-20.

The epistle to the Ephesians, from which the last two parts of our lesson is taken was written during Paul's Roman imprisonment.

Meditate upon the phrases in verse four which Paul uses to indicate God's attitude toward us. Does it thrill your soul? If not, something is wrong. You need to get in touch with the great love and mercy of God. By his sin, man had forfeited all claim to divine favor, and could

not be restored to that favor by any act or effort of his own. Salvation is made possible by undeserved grace to the rich and poor, vicious and gentle, moral and immoral, and learned and ignorant alike; so no one can glory in himself.

The term "hath raised us up together," has reference to our resurrection from a dead state of sin to have fellowship with Christ with other saints. Surely this is sitting together in heavenly places.

Neither salvation nor the faith that brings it is any result of human worthiness or effort. If God had not sent Christ in the world to be a sacrifice for our sins, we would have to pay the penalty of death ourselves; and if He had not been faithful to give us His Word and convict us of the truth of it by His Spirit we would have no faith, for "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." One cannot win the favor of God by doing good works in himself; but after he is saved by grace, his nature is to do good works. As one has said, "Works do not justify, but the justified man works and thus demonstrates the reality of his new creation." A saved person's good works is not the pursuance of some works of his own planning; but he enters into and performs the works which the Father has prepared for him to do. If some are not careful they'll be ashamed at Christ's appearing because they have followed after their own works instead of God's.

Lack of space makes it necessary to omit comments on Paul's prayer, but our prayer is that the teachers and pupils will have the Spirit of God to teach them and that they will earnestly desire to attain to the state of grace set forth in it.

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PAUL PLEADS FOR A RUNAWAY SLAVE

Sunday, June 11, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations

June 5 to 10

- M. Greetings to fellow workers Philemon 1-3.
 T. Recognition of a friend's service Philemon 4-7.
 W. A plea for magnanimity Philemon 8-22.
 T. Two brothers reconciled Gen. 33:1-17.
 F. Joseph forgives his brothers Gen. 45:1-15.
 S. Jonathan pleads for his friend 1 Sam. 20:27-33.

Printed PortionPhilemon 4 to 21.

Philemon 4. I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,

5. Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;

6. That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

7. For we have great joy and consolation in thy love because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee brother.

8. Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient,

9. Yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee, being such an one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.

10. I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom have begotten in my bonds:

11. Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:

12. Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels:

13. Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bond of the gospel:

14. But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly.

15. For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever;

16. Not now as a servant but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?

17. If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself.

18. If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account;

19. I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides.

20. Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels in the Lord.

21. Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say.

Golden Text: "Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Eph. 4:32.

Practical Truth: Christianity is the world's greatest achievement in promoting true brotherhood.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

This lesson is a brief letter from Paul to Philemon, who, we learn by Paul's salutation, was a fellowlabourer in the gospel, in whose house a group of saints met for worship. The purpose of the letter was to plead for his good will toward Onesimus, who was Philemon's slave. Apparently Onesimus had stolen something from his master and had run away and gone to Rome where he had in some way come into contact with Paul who was in prison, and had been converted. When Paul spoke of him as "my son," he meant his son in the Lord. Paul desired to keep Onesimus as a helper, but he belonged to Philemon, so if he had kept him without his consent that would be forcing Philemon to furnish him a helper, but Paul desired only free-will gifts. Paul offered to pay all that Onesimus owed his master, but at the same time brought to his remembrance how that Philemon owed his life—new life and hope of heaven—to Paul's labors. If Philemon had required Paul to pay the debt, would he not resemble the unjust servant in the parable recorded in Matt. 18:23-35?

In those days masters often dealt severely with runaway slaves when they were caught in order to make the other slaves afraid to run away. It would have been hard for Paul to send Onesimus, his son in the Lord, back to an unsaved master, knowing the fate that awaited him; so we can understand that it was partly for this reason that Paul thanked God that he had heard of Philemon's love and faith toward the Lord and all saints. Paul had confidence that Philemon not only obeyed the Lord, but would obey his request, who was an aged servant of the Lord.

Paul said that Philemon would do even more than he asked. What more could he have referred to? Perhaps it was to release Onesimus from slavery or send him back to help Paul. What indicates that Philemon heeded Paul's advice?

This lesson brings in three important subjects: forgiveness, being easily entreated, and Christian brotherhood. Discuss these.

The true Christian Spirit promotes a feeling of brotherhood, which has caused the overthrow of slavery. But even though slavery in almost all parts of the civilized world has been overthrown; yet there are deplorable con-

ditions in the world which exist because of a lack of the Christian Spirit. Can you name some of these?

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A GOOD SOLDIER OF CHRIST JESUS

Sunday, June 18, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations

June 12 to 17.

M. A sacred trust 2 Tim. 1:3-14.

T. Heroic living 2 Tim 2:1-13.

W. God's workman 2 Tim. 2:14-26.

T. A teacher's resources 2 Tim. 3:10-16.

F. The crown of righteousness 2 Tim. 4:1-8.

S. A faithful prophet Amos 7:10-17.

Printed Portion 2 Timothy 2:1-4, 8-12; 4:5-8.

2 Tim. 2:1. Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

3. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

4. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

8. Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:

9. Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evildoer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

10. Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sake, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

11. It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:

12. If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

4:5. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

6. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

7. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

8. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Golden Text: "Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." 2 Tim. 2:3.

Practical Truth: A good soldier of Jesus Christ will be loyal even unto death.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Luke's account of Paul's labors for the Lord in Acts ends abruptly while Paul was still imprisoned at Rome, without telling us whether he was released or not. He was expecting his release when he wrote to Philemon and the Philippian church. The two epistles to Timothy and one to Titus were written afterward, so we understand by them that Paul was released for a little season, during which time he visited some of the churches already established and established new ones on the Island of Crete where he left Titus as overseer. We have no record of all the work that he did, but it is thought that he visited Spain as he expressed a desire to do in Rom. 15:24.

2 Timothy was written from Rome, where Paul had been imprisoned the second time.

Paul had experienced many severe hardships for Christ's sake, but even to the end considered them as nothing compared to what he should gain. In spite of the fact that he expected martyrdom in the near future, he urged Timothy to follow his example by standing firm and enduring hardness, and being willing to suffer.

In these days when we hear much about soldiers, we should be able to get many good thoughts concerning a Christian as a soldier in a spiritual warfare. Soldiers of the country must leave their own business, homes, and friends and be completely under the control of the government. They are required to suffer many hardships in training so they can be toughened for battles. Then in the battle they must be loyal even unto death. This is mostly forced service. A Christian is not forced to fight, but if he would be a Christian he must have such great love for the cause that he will be glad to forsake all, suffer hardships, persecutions, and obey the Commander and diligently fight the good fight of faith. There must be self-sacrifice, endurance, vigilance, enthusiasm, and loyalty to the cause of Christ.

The resurrection of Jesus was infallible evidence of his divine power. The apostle often referred to it.

Paul realized that his suffering for the gospel's sake helped to spread it, and encouraged others to be faithful. Discuss the reasons for the spread of the gospel when Christians suffer for it.

There is no remorse of conscience when one comes to the end of his life and realizes that he has spent it in faithfulness to God.

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THE POWER IN SIMPLE LIVING (Temperance Lesson)

Sunday, June 25, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations

June 19 to 24.

- M. Total abstinence tested Daniel 1:8-16, 19, 20.
- T. A family's ideals Jer. 35:1-10.
- W. Woe to pleasure seekers James 5:1-6.
- T. Perils of insobriety Isa. 28:1-8.
- F. Gluttony, intemperance Prov. 23:1-3, 20, 21.
- S. Temperate living commended Titus 2:1-8.

Printed PortionDaniel 1:8-16, 19, 20.

Dan. 1:8. But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

9. Now God had brought Daniel into favor and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

10. And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.

11. Then said Daniel to Melzar whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,

12. Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

13. Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat; and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

14. So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.

15. And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.

16. Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink and gave them pulse.

19. And the king communed with them: and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king.

20. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

Golden Text: "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank." Daniel 1:8.

Practical Truth: Abstinence from alcoholic drinks promotes one's physical and mental and spiritual well-being.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Daniel and his three Hebrew companions were carried to Babylon as captives, and were under rule of the king, but Daniel purposed in his heart not to defile himself with the king's meat. He had nobility of character, which enabled him to live up to his convictions. If more people would be like this, and not yield to evil influence, God would bring them out with a strong hand. Daniel was away from home, but was faithful to God.

Daniel chose pulse (herbs) to eat, and water to drink instead of the king's meat and wine. Note the results. Overeating and eating too much rich food is harmful to the body. Luke 21:34 says, "And take heed to yourselves lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting [overeating] and drunkenness and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." Also "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." We are to eat to live, not live to eat. John the Baptist had a simple diet.

We notice Daniel totally abstained from strong drink.

In the book of Judges we read about the many times that the children of Israel forsook the Lord and served idols even after He had performed such great miracles for them and given such great promises of His blessing if they would serve Him and curses if they would turn from Him to serve other gods.

One time they had forsaken God and were in great trouble and deep distress, so they began to call on God to help them. God heard them and chose Gideon as a leader to deliver them. Gideon realized they could not have the favor of God upon them while they continued to serve idols so he destroyed their idols and altars. Or would think that the Israelites would be glad to give up anything in order to please God whose help they desire but we read that they were angry and wanted to kill Gideon for destroying their idols.

American people have forsaken the purity and righteousness of godliness and have sold themselves unto idols called "lusts of the flesh," among which are drinking intoxicating beverages, smoking, committing adultery and fornication. The destruction of these idols would be a great step toward God and obtaining His help in this present crisis. They pray to God for help and one would think they would be willing to give up anything to save their precious boys' lives and the country. In fact, they seem to be willing to give up anything—except these idols. But even if the majority are not willing to give them up the true Christians must be Gideons and let them know that God is not pleased with them.