

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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Look Forward

Look forward! there's a crown before
That's worth while to obtain,
Do not look back; keep pressing on
If you the crown would gain.

Look forward! press with faith and hope
Nor let your zeal subside,
But like a sailor strong and brave
Move on against the tide.

Look forward! there's a light that shines
To light the way before,
For those whose courage will not fail,
The prize is held in store.

Do not look back, there's nothing gained
By backing down the stream;
Keep pressing, toiling, moving on,
To reach the land of dreams.

If trials come; and burdens too,
That seem so hard to bear;
And if your friends go back on you
And seems they do not care,

Keep looking up; do not look down
There's One who loves you yet,
For you He wore thorns for a crown
Do not His love forget.

Look forward! He will hear your cry
If you're in deep distress;
He'll move the dark clouds from your sky,
And give you perfect rest.

Look forward till the battle's fought,
Until the race is run;
Till all your trials on earth are o'er
And you shall have the crown.

—Ulysses Phillips

When Man Sees God

This is a very important question that should expressly concern each of us. We wish to refer to some Bible instances of what actually took place when

people came in touch with God. We remember the occasion when the disciples were assembled in a place and the doors were shut on account of the fear of the Jews. Then came Jesus and stood in the midst of them and spoke these most beautiful words unto them, "Peace be unto you." After speaking to them he had something to show them; the hands that had been pierced by the nails that had hung him on the cross, and his side that had been pierced. When the disciples saw it was the Lord, it brought great rejoicing to them. John 20:19, 20.

The word "see" has a variety of meanings but we shall give the one here which seems to be more appropriate at this time. To see is to find out or learn by observation or experience. Christ had been crucified because of the sins and transgressions of man against God. He had gone through the great ordeal of death upon the cross and was buried in the tomb and in due time was resurrected by the power of God, and He brought eternal redemption and deliverance into the world. When the disciples saw the scars in the side and hands of him who had demonstrated such love and care for the souls of men, truly it brought great rejoicing to them to know they were permitted to be in the presence of the Lord, the lamb of God and to behold him in their midst. "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God." 1 John 3:1. Through the testing problems of life the Lord wants us to be able now to behold him.

Another beautiful rendering of the word "see" is to find out something by inquiry. We shall now consider another Bible character in the person of Zachaeus who sought to see and find out who and what Christ was and would be to him. As Jesus had entered and was passing through Jericho, it aroused his curiosity to see just what Jesus looked like. He, being a small man, in his eagerness to see Jesus, ran on before and climbed up into a sycamore tree, determined to see Jesus for himself. He was a man who ranked high, being chief among the publicans and a rich man, too. But upon hearing of Jesus, the charms of his high standing in the world and his possessions began to lose their value to him. Luke 19:1-10. He became anxious to see Jesus and to come in contact with Him, the son of God, the one who stands as a mediator between God and man. So with his understanding of the best method to behold him

and because of the large crowd there, he went on before and settled himself in a sycamore tree, determined to see Jesus for himself. No doubt he thought he was in just the place to see Jesus. Many today think themselves in a position to see the Lord and are surrounded with the favor of man and earthly possessions and lifted up in their own estimation. They plan out their own way of living independent of the word of God when Jesus says, "I am the way. Follow me." (St. John 14:6.)

When Jesus came to the place where Zachaeus was located in the tree, he sensed the presence of someone in the tree who was anxious to see him and was inquiring of him. It caused the Saviour to look up and he beheld Zachaeus there in the tree. He looks in mercy upon the wicked condition of man in the world with sinful, ungodly, and deceitful hearts and minds. When he saw this man in the tree he spoke these words to him, "Zachaeus, make haste and come down for today I must abide at thy house." Behold now is the accepted time and the day of salvation. 2 Cor. 6:2. When Zachaeus saw and heard Jesus speaking to him he did not hesitate but immediately came down and received the Lord joyfully into his house. So everyone who will come down from his own high, exalted position and seek and enquire of God will experience the same joy from the same source as Zachaeus did when he came down and welcomed the Lord into his house. Then Zachaeus became more acquainted with Jesus and learned more about his way and desired to have a conscience void of offense toward God and man. (Acts 24:16.) His mind began to reflect back upon his past life as to how he had come in possession of both his high ranking and his wealth. He had a desire to be clear in every way and to know Jesus for himself. There is no other way for a person to be a real child of God only to meet every requirement of God's eternal truth and measure his life accordingly. There is no middle ground; we are either a child of God by obeying the word or we are not a child of God by disobeying the word of God. Zachaeus saw there were some things in his past life that were not right and that pressed heavily upon his conscience. He became much concerned about the matter and began to talk to the Lord about it and to confess the matter unto Jesus in earnestness. He said, "Behold Lord, I am anxious to have everything clear between my fellowman and me. My riches have lost their value to me. My high rank in the world means not so much to me now. I am willing to take the way of the cross and deny myself and make the needed restitution in order to enjoy the fullness of favor with God. Now of my possessions, the half I give to the poor. And to those whom I have robbed, I will restore unto them fourfold." This touched the loving, compassionate heart of Christ and he again spoke unto Zachaeus these beautiful words, "This day is salvation come unto this house for the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." That is what happened to Zachaeus when he saw Jesus.

My dear friend, when we meet the requirements of God's word we can hear the same beautiful words

unto us as Jesus Christ is the same today according to his word. Heb. 13:8. The same wonder-working Jesus wants us at this time to enquire and seek him and to behold the same experience as others have when they obeyed the word of God by confessing and forsaking the ways of disobedience and transgression. There are at this time and age so many things for man to see that is not of God that it means everything to each of us when we really see God as he is and come in direct contact with Him.

Let each one do all we can to see Jesus as he is and ask Him for grace to obey the word of God by living for Him. T. T. Holden

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Hold To God's Unchanging Hand

While attending a revival meeting several years ago, I was very definitely spoken to by the song, "Hold to God's Unchanging Hand." Though the song was not new, yet I was never so impressed by it before; especially when the chorus was sung did I feel that each word was to me. I could not understand just what it all meant, but I did know that God had spoken.

One day after the meetings were over, I heard a knock at my door. When I opened the door there stood two little boys; one of them spoke. He said, "Mrs. McMinn, Mark (my little eleven year old boy) has been run over by a car; we don't know if he is dead or not—they took him to the hospital." I stepped into the room and fell on my knees and asked God to give me strength to go through what ever was before me. Then came ringing in the ears of my spiritual understanding those precious words of the song, "Hold to God's Unchanging Hand." Then I understood why the words had taken hold of me even in the days in which I did not especially need them; God had seen what was just ahead and He knew my weakness. "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him. For He knoweth our frame. He remembereth that we are dust." Psalms 103:13, 14. Praise His dear name! When I arrived at the hospital, I found only the little tabernacle in which Mark had lived; he had gone to be with the one who said, "Suffer little children to come unto Me." From that time trials came thick and fast, those words whispered by the "still small voice" kept me from despair and served as an anchor to keep me from being overwhelmed by the boisterous waves.

The hardest test came when my dear husband lost his reason and had to be taken to the State Hospital. Quite often I visited him there and saw not only his suffering, but also the terrible condition of many others. By this time I understood what it really meant to "Hold to God's Unchanging Hand." I knew that without the help of the Lord I could not have faced these things, nor could I have faced that which was still future for we knew that my husband could not live very long. When word finally came that he had passed on, I stepped to the phone and called some friends who were in touch

with heaven and told them what had happened and earnestly asked them to pray for me. In my extreme nervous condition I felt that it was more than I could stand in my own strength, but we have one who never fails—again I say, "Praise His dear name forever." Sufficient strength according to His promise was mine as I went to take a last look when the casket was opened. Not a tear in my eyes only praises filling my heart as the marvelous peace and comfort of God filled my whole being, "The peace that passeth all understanding." Phil. 4:7.

Four months later I received a message that my daughter who was in an Asheville sanatorium was dying. Again I knew that I must have help; past grace would not be sufficient now, so I called my dear pastor to stand with me in prayer that I might have new strength for each trial. Again, "Jesus Was Near to Comfort and Cheer Just When I Needed Him Most."

Dear fearful discouraged soul, take your eyes off the waves or else you will go down; look to Jesus. Do you think that He who loved you (John 3:16) would shed His blood for you and then be indifferent to your despair? NO! NO! NEVER! Take a stronger grip on the "Unchanging Hand" and let Him take a stronger grip on you. "He Will Hold You Fast."

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose I will not, I will not desert to his foes. That soul tho' all hell should endeavor to shake I'll never, No never, no never forsake." —Mrs. Maggie McMinn

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Our Eternal Abode

The hope of glory, which is Christ in me causes me to rejoice greatly as I know that the rich and good things for us (his faithful children) in the eternal heavens far surpasses all the good things that we enjoy in Christ in this life. Now we are cooped up in this little old perishing shack, but then we shall put on our house from heaven, our glorified body, and explore all heaven; talk with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the old prophets and the apostles and loved ones gone on before. The most precious thing is, we will be like Him, our Lord, having inherited a glorified body like unto His. We shall talk with him and understand a great many things that we do not understand now. It will be an exceeding great rejoicing time.

The words which are used in Revelation to convey to us how God sees us as his people in this time world are inadequate to express the grandeur and exceeding beauty of the eternal heavens. We look into the starry heaven at night and we can see with the natural eyes the twinkling and the sparkling of the stars. Thus God looks down into this world from on high and sees his children in the sufferings and trials of this life standing true to him and they are being polished and brightened and they sparkle and twinkle in His sight. He likens us to the most precious jewels. He uses the choicest words that we mortals can understand to symbolize and convey to us

the exquisite beauty that the Church is reflecting back to Him as they hold their integrity and shine as lights in this world.

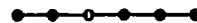
We rejoice for the hope that is in our souls of the eternal heavens. We know that we cannot form words to express its grandeur and beauty. In Heb. 12:2 we read how that Jesus, for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame and is now set down at the right hand of the throne of God. He has a wife now, whom he has purchased with his own blood and she is a great joy to Him.

We who remain faithful to him through this life will inherit glorified bodies like the Lord and it will be a great and eternal joy to us. Praise God for the hope of glory which is in us. (Col. 1:27.)

We find much more in Revelation in symbolical language of the true Church which is represented as the "City of God" than we do of symbolical language telling of the fallen church of Babylon the great, the mothers of harlots. The grandeur and beauty of the Church here in the world is small in comparison to the glory and exceeding greatness of the church in its glorified state. I often long to be loose from this earthly house that I might enter into my house from heaven, a building not made with hands, a glorified body like his, eternal in the heavens.

Brethren, I love you as laborers and companions in tribulations. Let all of us continue to be laborers together with God, for after all it is God that gives the increase. We are nothing only as we allow Him to live in us and work through us both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Let the man be humbled and God be magnified. They that sow to the Spirit, shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. Glory to his precious name. Your blood bought and blood washed brother,

—Fred Pruitt



Fremont, Mo.—Dear Saints,—I feel it would please the dear Lord for me to write for the paper. Today finds me pressing on for Jesus. He has been blessing my soul and caring for me since I found him precious.

So many souls are living in pleasure which does not satisfy. What shall it profit a man if he should gain the whole world and lose his own soul? (Mark 8:36) What shall he give in exchange for his soul? I'm so glad that Jesus made it possible for us to make heaven our home if we obey His word and come his way. He left us an example; may we follow in his steps who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth. We need to be born of the Spirit of God in order to live the Christ life and keep free from sin.

Jesus was crucified to take away our sins. 1 John 3:6. Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not. Sin is doing contrary to what we know is pleasing to God and according to His word. Before we were born of God we lived in sin, taking no serious thought of the commandments of God or if mindful of them we found we were without strength and courage to obey. As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons (or children) of God and all such souls are not living in sin.

May the Lord speak to the hearts of all who are not ready to meet Him. I have found that His yoke is easy and His burden is light. Jesus will soon come to gather His own where there will be no pain or sorrow. It is wonderful to have a Savior who is a very present help in every time of need. In Jesus' name, —Myrtle Glass.

"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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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

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Jane Lew, W. Va.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—May the Lord bless you and all at the Lord's print shop is the prayer of my heart. I also wish to greet all the dear saints of God in the lovely name of Jesus. He is a dear loving friend to all His trusting children. All who do His will have joy and peace.

What a blessing to abide in the Lord and be partakers of this great salvation. I praise the good Lord for His love and the holy Bible. He is keeping me by power divine. I am so glad for the "Faith and Victory" paper. I enjoy all the good testimonies and the truth it teaches.

The Lord has blessed me with a long life, I am past 88 and have good sight both natural and spiritual. With my spiritual eyes I behold the beauty of the Lord and my own nothingness. He is all in all to me. Your brother in Christ,
—F. W. Spour

Editorials

Since the office workers have been attending campmeetings and very little work has been done in the office so far as printing is concerned, we have much to do now, and this printing office is getting to be a very busy place. Evodna Thurman, the new worker from Dallas, Texas, is taking hold of the work nicely and is happy in knowing that she can be working for the Lord and giving her full time in His service. It is a pleasure to see these young workers so earnest and zealous to do heart service in His kingdom and receive comfort in their hearts from the Lord.

We ask the prayers of all the saints everywhere that God will keep everything going at the print shop and all will fulfill His will in such a way that His presence and glory will continue upon all the work that is done and that the Gospel going forth by the printed page may increase and that more souls may be reached than ever before.

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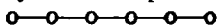
Your servant had the pleasure of attending three campmeetings this summer; the Hammond, La. campmeeting, the National campmeeting at Monark Springs, Mo., and the State campmeeting at Guthrie, Okla. I can truthfully say that I have only a good report to bring to you of all three meetings as the Lord manifested Himself in a very precious way in saving souls, sanctifying believers, healing the sick, and feeding, strengthening, and encouraging the saints. The preaching of the Word went forth under the power and anointing of the Holy Ghost as He chose and put in the pulpit the minister whom he could use to the edifying of the body in love. The unity and oneness of the saints was very precious and on special occasions the Lord poured out His spirit in such measure that it seemed the whole camp was lifted into heaven. This holy way is truly a heaven to go to heaven in. Anyone attending these meetings and failing to see the true Church of God functioning in her holy ways would be much in blindness and self-conceit and would be an object of pity rather than censure.

The Guthrie State campmeeting was well attended and there were ministers present from Oregon, Missouri, and Louisiana, and a dozen or more from the state of Oklahoma, making a total of near twenty-five ministers in attendance and the Lord used them in giving rich soul food to His children. One hundred five took part in the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and washing of the saints' feet, thus obeying the scriptures found in the 13th chapter of St. John. It was a precious service and the saints were happy as they lovingly obeyed the teachings of Jesus.

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We are receiving an unusual number of calls for the book entitled, "The New Testament Church and Its Symbols" which was printed here in May, 1944. Many of those who have read one of the books have ordered from six to two or three dozen to give to their friends. We are having more calls for this book than any other book we ever printed. It makes the family of God so plain and clear to the Christian and

helps to settle one into God as no other teaching could do. Our stock of these books is fast diminishing and we will soon have to print another edition. Those who are impressed of the Lord to help keep this book in stock at the "Lord's Print Shop" can send in their offerings at any time and it will be used in this way as we are desirous to supply the demand for it. The book will be postpaid to any address for 25c or six books for \$1.00. It will be sent free to those not able to pay the cost price.



We have been encouraged of late with the hope of getting a song book printed as we have some offers for the printing. The book will contain 400 pages with songs selected from the "Select Hymns" song book and the "Reformation Glory" song book. It will be cloth bound and as printing, labor, and material is very high the retail price will be \$1.00 each or more, some less by the dozen, post paid. I will let you know more later as we are just negotiating with the company in regard to the matter at present and have no definite knowledge of the matter.

Obituaries

Mary McMillan (nee Lowe) was born Oct. 10, 1869 in Pickens County, Ala., and died June 19, 1944. Age: 74 years, 8 months, and 9 days. She joined the C. M. E. church in her youth and lived to all gospel light she had. She was married to John W. Mustin Sept. 19, 1886. To this happy union two children were born, a boy, and a girl whom the Lord took at the age of 18 months.

Death having claimed her husband in 1916, she was again united in marriage to G. W. McMillan in 1918. She shared with him both his burdens and his blessings unto death. In 1928 she embraced a full knowledge of God's gospel truth, was saved and baptized the Bible way and lived in full fellowship with the saints the rest of her life. It seemed that it pleased the Lord to bring her through the furnace of afflictions. The Lord wonderfully healed her of heart trouble when she promised him that He would be her only doctor for soul and body as long as she lived. To this promise she was true unto the last. In her last illness she often told her husband that she was sick unto death and ready to go, and that the Lord was not going to heal her this time. She lived a consistent Christian life, was a dutiful mother, faithful wife, and a happy, loving, humble saint of God.

She leaves to mourn her passing a husband, one son, four grandchildren, four brothers, two sisters, and many relatives and friends. Funeral conducted by M. Spears. Text, Rev. 14:13.

Verda Callie Flowers was born in Barnsley, Ky., December 22, 1896. She departed this life June 18, 1944 in Visalia, Calif. at the age of 47. She was the daughter of J. U. and Dannie Hayes of Okla. City. She is survived by her husband, Lewis Flowers, four daughters, Mrs. Ruby Diwan, Casa Grande, Ariz., Mrs. Doris Sales, Tulare, Calif., Joy and June Flowers, Casa Grande, Ariz., one son, Billy Ray Flowers, Tulare, Calif., her mother, Mrs. Dannie Hayes, Okla. City, two brothers and one sister.

She and her family made their home at Casa Grande, Ariz. for the past six years until six weeks before her death when she came to Calif. for her health. She had a long illness but trusted God even though she was sepa-

rated from the people of her faith. She was prepared to leave this world for a better one which is a great comfort to dear ones left to grieve for her.

Interment in the Visalia cemetery.

Bro. Ashford Newell, born March 3, 1865 passed away May 16, 1944 at his home in High Point, N. Car. His first companion passed on in 1924. To this union six children were born, four of whom survive. His second wife also survives.

Bro. Newell was faithful to God during his five months of suffering with heart dropsy. He did not resort to medicine nor desire hospital treatment but trusted in God. A short time before he passed on he said, "The Lord is mine and I am His." What a blessed thought. We all miss him very much. The parting was sad indeed but how blessed to know he is at rest with the Lord. He was a kind and loving father and it seems as though our hearts will break but if we keep our hearts right with God we shall meet him some sweet day never to part again.

Mrs. Irene Evette, P. O. Box 4, West Durham, N. Car.

Bro. Fred Stahnke, Norwalk, Wisc., passed on to be with the Lord June 10, 1944. He was 76 years old. He was born in Arnoldsdrof, W. Prussia, Germany on Aug. 28, 1867. He came to America at the age of 14 and lived in or near Norwalk all his life. In later years he lived in Norwalk with two of his sisters, Louisa and Julia who survive him. Another sister, Tillie Stahnke of South Bend, Ind., and a brother of Orlando, Fla. also survive. Many other relatives and friends feel the loss of this Godly man.

He had a clear hope in his soul of being ready to meet the Lord in peace. Two weeks before his passing he said, "If I should die tonight I know I am saved." Those who miss him so much have the hope of seeing him in the glory world. May God bless and comfort his loved ones and encourage them to be ready as he was.

Mrs. Minnie Elizabeth Madden was born March 16, 1894 and departed this life June 5, 1944 at the age of 50 years, 2 months, and 20 days. She was united in marriage to Clide M. Madden, May 4, 1915. To this union were born 8 children; 7 sons and one daughter, all of whom are living except one son, little Bobby, who passed on a few years ago. Sister Madden was saved several years ago and lived a consecrated life. We visited her when she had not heard a sermon for years and found her still faithfully living for her Lord. Truly her life and faithfulness and her faithful trust in God is very outstanding to us. Though so isolated she trusted fully in God to the last. We have known her twelve years and visited her a number of times. The family have lived for several years near Newalla, Okla. Sister Madden leaves to mourn their great loss her husband, seven children, two brothers, one sister, two grandchildren, and her mother was living at that time but has since passed on, and other relatives and friends. Her faithful life is an inspiration to us all. Funeral services were conducted by O. B. Wilson. Text Rev. 14:13.

— NOTICE —

The Church of God congregation at Batchelor, La., is badly in need of a little meeting house. They have been meeting in the different homes for the past few years but find this rather inconvenient so have decided to build a meeting house if sufficient funds can be obtained. If any of the saints are interested and have any of the Lord's money to donate to a worthy cause, please send same to me and it will be used accordingly.

H. S. Jackson, Batchelor, Louisiana.

Campmeeting Report

Hammond, La.—To all the dear saints scattered abroad,—It is with joy that we greet you again in the name of our blessed Lord. Some time has passed since we reported through the "Faith and Victory" paper but we've been very busy in the Lord's work, in which we take pleasure. The saints of God are near and dear to our hearts and we often are made to thank the Lord for ever giving us the privilege of meeting them in this world. Before I met them I thought the dear Lord had taken all of them to heaven but I am glad I lived to know there were some on earth, too.

Last spring, in the month of April, Bro. Key and I left home for Minneapolis, Minn., where we stayed a few weeks with the saints there. We found some good material that the Lord can use with a little encouragement. Those dear ones have been struggling along alone much of the time but the Lord has helped them to have courage to hold fast and to wait on Him to send them the ministerial help needed; some established, consecrated minister to live among them. They are isolated from other congregations and haven't had the opportunities others have who can mix with other congregations of saints and also receive the benefit of God's ministers coming through now and then. They've had very little help compared to other places and very few saint ministers have visited them. Let us take them on our hearts and pray God to undertake in sending them the one whom he can use at that particular place for He has a place for all of His saints to fill. Praise His name! We were never treated better anywhere than while there and there is a golden opportunity to get the truth to those twin cities—Minneapolis and St. Paul. There are such few saints in the Northern states and who will go and help them? Then we also visited the Union City, Ind. congregation one Sunday and found a congregation of precious saints there and felt the sweet spirit of unity. Then we visited Bro. Key's parents who are holding fast to the Word of life. We enjoyed our few days stay there. Bro. Foster of Yorkshire, Ohio was in very frail health but used what strength he had in the Lord's service. He needs our prayers, too. We stopped with the saints in Chicago a short time and had a good time with them in three services. Then we were in Ft. Wayne, Ind., a few days and had services each night. God has a few there too, who are pressing forward.

On our return from this trip we came home to make preparations for our campmeeting here at Hammond which was truly a wonderful meeting. The Lord sent many of the saints here from different states and localities of this state. I with others think this the best campmeeting held here for years—I feel sure it was the best since I have been in this country, around twenty years. All seemed to work in harmony and the preaching was especially deep and searching which just suits me. Several out-of-state ministers attended among whom were Bro. Sam Wilson of Oregon, Bro. Egbert Allen of Missouri, Bro. Fred Pruitt, Bro. Charles Smith, Bro. Darius Gibson, Sister Myrtle Grice, and Sister Betty Tait all of Okla.; Bro. Cecil Carver of Shreveport, La., Bro. Geo. Stephenson of Lake Charles, La., Bro. Everett Hilbun of Miss., Bro. Clyde Lea of Kentwood, La., besides the home ministers. The ordinances were observed by ninety-seven saints which was especially precious for surely we are happy when we observe all the Word of God and when we wash the saints' feet and partake of the Lord's supper. It draws us nearer together in the Lord. We are looking forward to the time when we can be in one big body throughout eternity,

praising the Lord forever. We trust that as long as time stands we shall be able to assemble at campmeetings here at Hammond and we invite all the dear saints from other places to meet with us or visit us any time you can, for our hearts and homes are open to you. The Lord has a people down here whom I believe are just as fixed in the Lord as those in the days of the martyrs, who mean to go through.

About twelve days later we had the privilege of attending the Monark Springs, Mo. campmeeting in which my soul again feasted and was so glad to see so many saints there from different states. I saw more states represented there than for some while and the spirit of unity seemed so precious. One thing that especially attracted my attention was several young ministers present whom the Lord is sending forth with His Word to preach to "every creature." One of the greatest burdens of my heart has been that more laborers be raised up to carry the gospel to dear honest souls scattered about over the earth. I believe these young brother and sister ministers mean to be true. May God bless them with all they need in order to be their best for Him. I think it was wonderful that we could have a national campmeeting and may they continue to get better from year to year, as long as he sees fit for this world to stand. May God bless each of you. We desire your prayers that we may faithfully hold up the truth and close our lives in His service. Christian love to all. Yours in Him,

—Mrs. Katherine Key



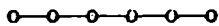
Tulsa, Okla.,—To all the saints scattered abroad,—We greet you in Jesus' dear name. Today finds us in Guthrie at the campmeeting which is very good. How much the Monark Springs meeting was enjoyed by all can never be told. Truly the Word is true where it says, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." As we looked on the large crowd of saints at both meetings we were made to think of that day when we will gather at the judgment bar of God. How we want to have a clean record.

We desire to report briefly how the Lord did provide for the Monark Springs meeting. The money came from many parts of the world. A dear saint sent some from the fighting zone to be used for the expenses. Truly God will care for His work if we will only trust Him. Long before the meeting started we knew it was going to be provided for in a most wonderful way. I believe all the saints feel their duty toward the Monark meeting. The food for one day would be six lbs. rice, one large box oats, four lbs. butter, one and one-half large slabs bacon, thirteen dozen eggs, four gal. milk, fifteen lbs. flour, five lbs. lard, fifteen lbs. sugar, one lb. salt, one bushel green beans, three gal. creamed peas, one lard stand potatoes, two gal. tomatoes, ten lbs. sliced tomatoes, four gal. slaw, forty-five loaves bread, thirty-five lbs. beef, five gal. soup, four large boxes crackers, one large stick lunch meat, two jars peanut butter, besides other small items used. One hundred fifty lbs. of ice would be used almost every day. One can see this is how the cooking had to be done and figure a large campmeeting like this would take \$50.00 a day expense money. One can guess just how God did take care of His work.

There was a number of seekers at the altar. May God bless them and keep them saved.

We want to thank every saint for their part in helping with the meeting and for the prayers offered in its behalf. We tried to answer every letter we received with a card as we were so busy canning and getting ready for the meeting. We want each of you to call our name in your prayers for we are not so active to take such a

big responsibility as the managing of the Monark work. Surely God has younger men and women who can take our places in the future. May God bless and encourage all who took part in the work. We all donated our time as our part to God's cause. —Brother and Sister Barton.



Scio, Ore.—Dear Ones,—Greetings in Jesus' name. We want to report victory in our souls and also the wonderful meeting the Lord gave us here. There was victory from beginning to the end. The saints were wonderfully encouraged. Many said it was the best campmeeting they were ever in. The Lord surely was in this meeting. There were six who sought the Lord for the pardon of their sins, four claimed sanctification, and thirteen followed the Lord in baptism, five of whom had come out of Babylon and didn't want to bring any of the Babylonian stones. One sister who had just taken her stand for the truth told me she was satisfied with her baptism. When she saw the others baptized, she then, without any preparation for baptism, said she saw her need of it, too and went right into the water and was baptized. The Lord wonderfully blessed her.

Oh, how the truth went forth. It surely was from the Lord and we all are so encouraged. The sister who did the cooking said she had cooked for crowds before but had never seen food hold out like it did during the meeting. We had lots of food left after it was all over. All expenses were met and there wasn't any mention of money made during the whole meeting. The Lord knows what we need and He is the one we should tell and let him direct the giver.

We decided at this meeting that our campmeeting next year would be about the same time as this year. We are looking forward to it already.

Quite a number from here went to California to attend the meeting there. The ministers who attended this meeting were Bro. Darius Gibson, Ringwood, Okla., Sister Nellie Polous, Highland, Calif., Bro. Victor Orr, and Bro. Clifford Carns of Los Angeles, Calif., besides the ministers here.

Remember us in prayer that the Lord will help us to take heed to all we have heard.

Your sister in Christ, —Emma Busch



NATIONAL CAMPGROUND INFORMATION

At the National campmeeting the saints made a special effort to contribute funds to build a dining hall on the camp ground. The plan is to begin the construction work as soon as sufficient funds and building material are available. The amount needed is about twice that which we have on hand, and perhaps many of our readers who are interested in the national campmeeting will want to give "as unto the Lord" for this purpose.

At the national business meeting Brother and Sister James Morris promised to move on the camp ground as caretakers. After completing their personal business affairs, it will be October before they begin residing on the grounds. The saints agreed to give them \$30.00 a month for their support while there, and several congregations have each promised a monthly sum for this purpose.

Kindly send your contributions to the undersigned and specify whether it is for the dining hall or for the upkeep of caretaker.

—L. D. Pruitt, Sec.-treas,

1005 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla.

Seek Me With All Your Heart

"Thus saith the Lord, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place. [Jerusalem] For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. And I will be found of you, saith the Lord; and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the Lord; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive." Jer. 29:10-15. God, here is speaking through the prophet Jeremiah to his people who are scattered in Babylon where they were in captivity for seventy years. But we know by the teaching in the New Testament that it now applies to all people who will heed His call to repentance.

Our heart must be in this seeking if we find the Lord. This is something that we must be wholehearted about. We must desire above rubies or wealth; above everything in this life: husband, wife, children, home, everything that earthly minded people call dear. God must be first, God must be everything to us, and everything else in life be subject to His control and will.

God will not take second place to anything in our life. If we seek Him with all our heart he says that we will find Him and He will be precious to our souls. And if we have Him, we have everything that is good for our soul. People seem to have thought that it was an easy thing to be a Christian and made the mistake of claiming Christianity when they were void of having Him. Nobody can be a Christian without finding God or Christ, for Christ leads us to God. Christ presents us to the Father. Many think that they are Christians because they say they are not heathen or idol worshippers. We don't have to be worshipping idols today to be lost and void of the grace of God. We just have to go through this life, contented to live our own way, have our own friends, and enjoy the pleasures of life, ignore the laws and commandments of Christ, read the Bible, but do not let it have a place in our heart or make a change in our life. We may get angry and fight and do as we please, even make a profession of loving God, but nothing saves us but the blood of Christ and accepting his ways. Let Jesus come into your heart, your life, and you will be a new creature, all things will be changed for you, and your outlook on life will be so different. You will see things as the Lord sees them. In other words, God will put his mark on your forehead, and He will claim you for His own. Then you will not care for the trivial things that you loved while in sin.

Sin must be rooted out of everyone's life in order for one to become saints of the Most High God. Only Christ can do this thing for us. It is the most wonder-

ful miracle in this world, to be born again, made alive in Christ. So we can see why we must seek God with all the heart in order to find Him. We absolutely can't have God and the sins and the pleasures of this world. Our heart can't love this life and God at the same time. One must be given up. Give up this worldly life and find Christ and be a true saint; or love this life and be lost. For man is already lost if he has not come to Christ. Which will you have, your own way or Christ's? We can't serve God in our own worldly selfish way and be His saints. Seek God with all your heart and then He will be found of you, and your soul shall live and glorify God.

—I. E. Kriebel

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Change of Heart and Actions

1 Peter 5:5, "God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."

Until we humble ourselves we will not have the grace to overcome pride or any of the other traits which are displeasing to the Lord. God resists the proud, therefore how can we have pride and expect help from God? We need His grace at all times for no other way can we overcome the things that are a hindrance to our experience with the Lord. We have His grace only when we are humble.

When we get saved we have a change of heart, which causes us to become new creatures in every respect. Sometimes as I look back a few years it seems as though I'm not me. I'm NOT the person I used to be. Nothing but the power of God could cause a person to make such a complete change. What is in our hearts will come out. But when it comes out we must yield to it and not ignore it. When we really have a change of heart and keep it open and honest to accept the truth we must learn to be subject to accept the truth on any and every line. Put the change into action. At the least little feeling of condemnation on any line we should take the safe way and submit to it. We should examine ourselves but not excuse ourselves. Only by being very sensitive to the voice of our Lord and being submissive to it, can He lead us. If we feel the slightest doubt about anything we should just turn loose of it. Sometimes it takes a literal turning loose, an effort. Maybe our heart still has a yearning for something God is not pleased with. It might take a literal effort to get free of that something. It might take a literal putting aside and getting rid of. We might have a change of heart, but if our heart told us it was best to give something up and we refuse to do so we would not be submissive to that wonderful change. Our flesh must act and co-operate with the promptings of our heart. We have to use our literal hands, feet, our whole literal beings to put into action this change.

A deep rooted pride has been the most difficult thing for me to overcome. But we are told in James 4:6 that He giveth MORE grace. It took this MORE grace for me to overcome but I'm praising God from the depths of my heart and soul, He surely delivered me from it. It took an effort but we are told to press.

While I was in school I had very few clothes. In

my heart I longed intensely for pretty clothes. (Now that intensity has changed to a burning desire to serve my Lord.) When I was fifteen I quit school and went to work. I used every bit over living expenses for clothes. I could not seem to get enough to satisfy but just selfishly sought after any pretty thing that would make my attire more attractive. That sinful pride got so deeply embedded in my heart, in my very character that it seemed anyone could have seen that only some great power could purge it out. Pride is selfish. With me it was so selfish, it was just my whole self. The dear Lord, in His mercy called to me. He saved my soul and made me a new creature—but it took MORE grace to purge me clean and holy.

Not long after I was saved I realized my clothes were not saintly. I realized this from the preaching of God's word and from the clothes the ones wore who seemed to be getting the most out of salvation. With some effort I put away those things and replaced them with what I felt would be pleasing to my Lord. He rewarded the effort and the action with such a blessing that I was encouraged to trust Him to lead me on. "Teach me THY way, O Lord, and lead me in a PLAIN path." Psalms 27:11. The way of the Lord is plain and it is beautiful. To me now, the beauty of the effects of the robes of righteousness far exceeds the beauty of the effects of the robes of pride, etc.

Before I was saved a friend of mine had a dress I admired very much and wore it on a number of occasions. Some time after I was saved she gave it to me. It hung in my closet for quite some time. A temptation, of course, and I did wear it several times. But the Lord brought me to the place where I felt it very displeasing to Him. Here it was time for literal action. My feet took me to the closet, my hands took the dress out and got rid of it. It was the change of heart that caused me to do so, but even with the change of heart it took the action of the flesh to actually accomplish the effort. If we refuse to move and obey the flesh instead, we cannot expect to progress in our experience.

Praise the Lord, I have the victory! Not just on the surface, but way down in my heart. Joy, peace, love, and Holy Godliness! The devil doesn't like it but it's down there anyway. I have absolutely NO regrets of becoming a Christian and serving my Lord. By His grace and MORE grace, (He has all we need) we can conquer every foe as we go forward in this beautiful, plain way. I am happy in His service.

—Virginia Elwell

—o—o—o—o—o—o—

Merrill, Mich.— My dear Bro. Pruitt and all the rest of the precious saints who are giving their time to help spread the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,—Greetings to you all in the name of Jesus. Praise Him, praise Him for His goodness and love. How wonderful are His ways for they lead us home to glory. I am reading the little book you sent me through the third time and each time it feeds my soul. I am sending for six more of them, entitled, "The New Testament Church and Its Symbols." May God's richest blessings be yours. Pray for us.

Yours in Christ,

—W. T. S. Maurer

Young People's Section

A Soldier Poet Talks To God

(This verse was found on the body of an American soldier after battle somewhere in Italy.)

Look God, I have never spoken to You,
But now I want to say How Do You Do;
You see God, they told me You didn't exist,
And like a fool, I believed all this.

Last night from a shell hole, I saw Your sky,
I figured right then, they had told me a lie;
Had I taken time to see things You made,
I'd have known they weren't calling a spade a spade.

I wonder, God, if You'd shake my hand,
Somehow I feel that You will understand;
Funny, I had to come to this hellish place,
Before I had time to see Your face.

Well, I guess there isn't much more to say,
But I'm sure glad God, I met You today;
I guess the "Zero Hour" will soon be here,
But I'm not afraid, since I know You're near.

The Signal—well God, I'll have to go,
I like You lots, this I want You to know;
Look now, this will be a horrible fight,
Who knows—I may come to Your house tonight,

Though I wasn't friendly to You before,
I wonder God, if you'd wait at Your door;
Look, I'm crying --- me, shedding tears!
I wish I had known You these many years.

Well --- I have to go now God, --- Goodbye
Strange --- since I met You --- I'm not afraid to die!

Editorials

In Jesus' name we greet our young readers. A number of the campmeetings have come and gone, and we are pleased to report that the Lord blessed in a special way in each one. The attendance was much greater than had been expected. Every need was abundantly supplied, both temporarily and spiritually.

We were privileged to attend the National campmeeting at Monark Springs, Mo. The number of camping tents erected on the grounds was just twice that of last year. People came from many states and the Lord sent forth His Word clear and definite which caused many to rejoice in the truth. Souls were saved and sanctified, and bodies healed in answer to prayer. The preaching to the saints emphasized the need for carrying this gospel message into new fields, and some are going "all out" in the work of God.

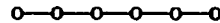
The Lord blessed the young people's services which were held each day. Isolated young saints

especially rejoiced for this opportunity of worshipping with other young people.

The attendance at the Oklahoma State campmeeting at Guthrie was much better than usual, and the young people's services were well attended. The three boys of the Guthrie congregation—Clifford Wilson, Hyrum Ray, and Clark Porter, Jr.—who are in various Civilian Public Service camps, were home on furloughs for all or part of the Guthrie meeting.

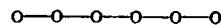
On the last Sunday afternoon of the Oklahoma campmeeting at Guthrie, Mr. LeRoy Dakin, who is a representative of the National Service Board for Religious Objectors, Washington, D. C., spoke to the saints explaining the provisions of the Selective Service law for conscientious objectors and the part the historic peace denominations—Mennonites, Brethren, and Friends—are doing in administering and supporting the Civilian Public Service camps where conscientious objectors "do work of national importance."

It is the business of Mr. Dakin, himself a doctor of divinity and Baptist minister for more than forty years, to contact all denominations who have men in C. P. S. camps and secure their cooperation to continue the spiritual and financial support to their men in camp. He interviewed us to learn what people we were, our background, doctrine, and teaching. We were pleased to give him this information, which made another record in the list of 106 other religious groups that he had contacted already.



The marriage of Clifford W. Wilson and Dorothy Byers was an event of Sunday, July 30, at 6 p.m. The vows were solemnized in the home of and by the editor, Fred Pruitt. The ceremony was attended by a few friends, the parents of the bridegroom, Bro. and Sister Sam Wilson of Oregon, and a sister of the bride, Sister Gertrude Bunting, of Tucson, Arizona.

Clifford worked here in the office until he was called to camp more than a year ago. Dorothy has worked here the past two years, and plans to continue her work for the time being. Clifford has returned to camp. May God's approval continue to rest upon this young couple and we pray that He may bless their lives together and make them a blessing to the world in His service.



With thanksgiving to the Lord, I am glad to acknowledge that He overruled the matter of my having to go to a C. P. S. camp on June 22. Just before that date, the local draft board reclassified me to class 2-B and issued an occupational deferment which expires September 1st. This date is now near at hand, but I am confidently trusting the Lord to keep His hand on the situation, and believe He will work it out in His own good way. Thank the Lord, for His ways are always right. —L. D. Pruitt

The little booklet entitled, "Truths on Sanctification" is out of stock and calls are continuing to come in for it. This book was written by Ostis B. Wilson, Jr. over a year ago and the cost of printing was cared for by the young saints of California. The cost of printing and fixing up a thousand of these books is close to \$35.00 as it contains thirty-two pages. It thoroughly teaches the Bible truths on this subject. Those who want to help get this book printed again to be sent as the need is, can send their offerings in any time now as we shall be glad to print and send it forth in the name of the Lord that it may be a blessing to precious souls.

When Saw We Thee Athirst?

In Matt. 25:31, our Lord tells of His second coming and how all the nations shall be gathered together and He shall separate them and divide His sheep from the goats. He also tells what the great test will be, the service test, by which His people are proved faithful. He will say to the goats, "I was an hungred and ye gave me no meat." Matt. 25:42.

In Amos 8:11 we read of a famine, not of bread nor of water but of hearing the words of the Lord. Are you denying the bread of life to some hungry soul? Are you spreading the famine or are you feeding the hungry souls and so extending Christ's kingdom? Do you extend the invitation that is good news to all, "Come ye, buy and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." "I was thirsty and ye gave me no drink." "When saw we thee athirst?" How many thirsty souls do we contact every day? Do we tell these parched souls where to find a well of pure water springing up into everlasting life? Do we tell them, "Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely? Does the real moving compassion of Christ move in our breast and say, "Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." There is meat and drink for poor hungry, thirsty, starving, perishing souls today.

"For my flesh is meat indeed and my blood is drink indeed." John 6:55 "He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood dwelleth in me and I in him." Matt. 11:28.

"When saw we thee an hungred or athirst?" May the dear Lord help us all to have the faith that worketh by love, for faith without works is dead.

"I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?" Matt. 25:43, 44. We often meet souls sick with sin, bound in prison houses by Satan who know not that they are miserable, and wretched and poor and blind and naked, yea and hungry and thirsty too. May God help us as his people to feel our responsibility that we may yield our members as instruments of righteousness unto God. May our hearts, our hands, our voice, our feet, our time, and our money all be used to bless the hungry, thirsty, lonely, blind, naked, sick, and imprisoned souls. Not

all of God's people are called to preach, but we are all called to love and compassion. How then can we withhold a word in due season that might carry hope of eternal life to someone? If our hearts are filled with that great moving compassion of Christ's, we cannot but minister in love to those in need. Immediately after sending forth the seventy into the field of labor, Jesus pleaded for prayers for more workers.

Romans 10:13, 14, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

Let us work to hear our master say, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matt. 25:40. "Come ye blessed of my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matt. 25:34.

—Virginia Wittenborn

God's Word Concerning Marriage

1 Cor. 7:32-34, "But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord: But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife. There is a difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world how she may please her husband."

2 Tim. 2:4, "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." 1 Cor. 7:20, "Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called."

1 Cor. 7:27, "But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh; but I spare you." God's word does not forbid marriage but we are encouraged to mind the things of the Lord and seek to gratify His desires, rather than to fulfill the desires of earth. Paul says, "I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. But if they cannot contain, let them marry for it is better to marry than to burn."

God has designed that if His children marry they must marry in divine order. 1 Cor. 7:39, "The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; ONLY IN THE LORD." Throughout the old testament dispensation (which is a figure, shadow, or type of the New) when a man married, he was commanded to take one of his own household—his kindred in the flesh. Under the New Testament dispensation, we are to take a companion of our own household—the household of God—our kindred in the Spirit.

1 Cor. 6:15-20, "Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them the members of

an harlot? God forbid. What! know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he, that is joined unto the Lord is one Spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What! know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." Do not join the temple of God (your body) to an unbeliever.

Col. 3:2, "Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth." 2 Cor. 6:14, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" 1 Cor. 2:14, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned."

May I exhort, young people, that you be very careful in the choice of a companion? Be doubly sure you have the mind of the Lord. If God shows you something is not for you, be content with his choice. If you take your choice anyway it will only prove a pitfall and a snare to your soul. Psal. 84:11, "For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: NO GOOD THING WILL HE WITHHOLD FROM THEM THAT WALK UPRIGHTLY." God will never require you to give up anything that is good for you. His leadings are true. He will never lead you contrary to His word. The word and Spirit agree. Abide in His wisdom. Gertrude Bunting

Victory Through Praise

I am praising God today for victory through the name of Jesus. Yes, there is victory through praise. In the days of King Jehoshaphat, the children of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir banded themselves together against the Lord's people. Jehoshaphat prayed and received an answer. He was led to appoint singers unto the Lord to sound forth His praises and when they began to sing and to praise the Lord, he set ambush against Judah and they were smitten. 2 Chron. 20:22. By means of praise the enemy was conquered.

You may think this is ancient history but the same thing can be repeated today. Why? Because God is the same and because praise is a mighty weapon and because we have a similar enemy arrayed against us. The apostle warns us of the principalities and the powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, the spiritual wickedness in high places. But the praise ascending to God will bring victory over these armies of the enemy.

The conditions are the same today as of old and the remedy is the same. We read in Psal. 2:2, 3, "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against his anointed saying, Let us break their bands asunder and cast away their cords from us." In the time of Jehoshaphat three nations banded themselves against

him and his people. Now we have the trinity of hell so fully described in the 13th chapter of Rev. united against the Son of God. You say that is a prophecy of the future, but John warns us even now are there many anti-Christ. 1 John 2:18. They are primarily against the Son of God and then against His people. What must we do now? We must have united praise and the same results will follow. The conditions were not harder in those days than today. We have the same God that ancient Israel had and that the one hundred twenty had and the same weapon exactly that Jehoshaphat and Peter had and the same enemy.

"Fear not little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:32. On the day of Pentecost there were many brought out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son. Many that were afar were brought nigh through the mighty conviction of the Spirit. Today the kingdom of Christ can be augmented by many who are opposing. As you pray and praise, expect many recruits from the kingdom of darkness to be translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son. Amen.

Consider this seriously. You have the same conditions as in ancient times. Let us use our weapons as they did.

—James A. Dyer

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CORRESPONDENCE

Benson, La.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the saints of God everywhere,—Greetings in the name of Jesus. I am glad I can say this morning that I am saved and sanctified through the blood of Jesus Christ. Thank God. I have been getting along fine ever since I sent in my request for prayer until July 24. I had a severe attack. It seemed that I was going. My wife prayed for me almost all night. The Lord answered prayer and I was able to walk around some the next day and the day after that I was able to work some. Praise the Lord.

I am sending in another request for prayer. Pray that the Lord will completely heal me if it is His will. I am truly trusting Him in all of my sickness. I know He can heal. He has helped me so many, many times I know He is the same God yesterday, today, and forever. Praise His dear name. Yours in Christ, —Nick Brown

Hurt, Va.—Dear Bro Pruitt,—I read your book on the church and it explains so many things that I had longed to know. It certainly is a wonderful book and I wish everyone could read it. I am sending for six more. I want to give them to some people I think would be interested in learning Jesus' way of salvation.

Your sister in Christ, —Mrs. O. L. Chisholm

Bogalusa, La.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt and all the co-workers at the Lord's print shop,—Greetings in the love and name of Jesus. Today finds me sweetly saved and enjoying living for the Lord. Even though I am isolated from the saints I am still encouraged in the Lord. He still takes care of me in every way. He permits afflictions to come my way but I ask Him to help me get the lesson He has for me and He never fails me. I wait patiently then for the healing touch. Soon I'm healed and have the lesson and am more encouraged than before. Praise His dear name. God has all power in heaven and earth; nothing is impossible for him to do. We need to keep humble at His feet, be watchful and prayerful, feast upon the word of God.

I can not praise God enough for the "Faith and Victory" paper and tracts that He makes possible for His humble servants and co-workers to put out each month. I thank God for His print shop and the faithful workers there. You have my earnest prayers. May God keep you all encouraged, bless and keep you in every needed way. I enjoy the wonderful testimonies and articles printed each month. I can hardly wait for my paper.

I desire an interest in your prayers that the Lord will see fit to make it possible for the planting of the truth here. This is a town of much evil. Pray for me to keep humble and that I may be able to know the Lord's will and do it. I want to give more of my time to the Lord. Pray for me that I'll spend this time to His glory.

I also ask you all to please remember my only boy who is in service in the English channel. I could not hear from him since the invasion. I prayed very earnestly that God would work it out for me to hear from him in some other way if he could not write. In a few days there was a write-up in the "Bogalusa News" about him. He needs your prayers. I was greatly encouraged by the message the Lord made possible for me to get through his captain and the navy department.

My girls are not well. My married daughter has been in bad health a long time. Please pray for her healing and that the Lord will talk to her heart and give her a desire to get back to Him. I am also requesting prayer for my people who have their name on a Baptist church book and are very worldly. I go and pray and read with my sister who is ill but she doesn't seem interested in the truth. Agree with me for her salvation.

Your sister in Christ,

—Mrs. Geo. W. Cutrer

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Elizabethtown, N. Y.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt,—Greetings to you all in the name of Him who died for us that we might have eternal life. I arrived here last Saturday and will stay till the last of August. I'm thanking God for this lovely place to rest in where I have much time to read, write, and pray.

It has been a long time since I've written or heard from you folks. I hope you are well and happy in Jesus. I have gone through many hard things since you were here but have always found Jesus the one who sticketh closer than a brother. What a comfort to hear Him say, "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord. . . The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace." Exod. 14:13, 14. That's enough for me. Peace, peace, wonderful peace, coming down from the Father above. I thank God today for all these wonderful blessings He is ever ready to give to those who put their trust in Him.

Sister Badal and I went to Milwaukee to visit Sister Cora Dravis who is a pitiful sight to see. Please pray for her and ask any saint you know who can pray the prayer of faith to pray for her. She is very sick and discouraged. She is not bad off in body but is sick mentally. Bro. Bowen is well but tired and getting old, however he is very faithful. The rest are well but need prayer.

May God richly bless you all there in the work and encourage your hearts to go on. There is so much need for the real truth to go forth.

Christian love to all,

—Sister Melican.

o-o-o-o-o-o

Marshall, Mich.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt and all the saints scattered abroad,—Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus. I trust my little testimony will be for the glory of God and a help to all who read it.

I am praising God for His wonderful salvation and

for what he does for me each day. He gives me strength as my day, praise His holy name. I am pressing on with that real faith in God that He will care for me and mine. Sometimes if I dare to look to one side or look back it brings a dread in my being I can't express. Many precious souls who once knew God have gone back in sin. Many professors are going after the world, dressing ungodly and using paint and many other things that belong to the devil. We hear language from professors that is disgraceful—while multitudes attend shows—such is altogether dishonoring to God. Many get divorces and remarry. If we speak of God's will in such matters, they say we are too narrow. Dear saints of God, stay by the Word. Cry aloud, don't let down on the good old way as many are doing.

I truly praise God for the narrow way. Please pray for me as I am surrounded by sin on every hand. If any of the dear saints come this way, please stop and see us. We are asking God to send some Holy Ghost minister to our little town as there is much need of one here.

Our journey is short here on earth, we are not so strong in body any more. I have a great desire to see Jesus come and I don't think it will be long. Pray for my companion and me. May God bless you and all the dear saints of God is my daily prayer.

—Wm. L. Vanzandt

o-o-o-o-o-o

St. James, Mo.—Dear Saints,—Greetings in Jesus' precious name. I trust my testimony will encourage some dear saint of God. I thank God that he has saved my soul from hell and placed my feet on the solid rock which is Christ Jesus and put a determination in my soul to go all the way with him. I want to win that crown at the end of the race.

I love to read the good testimonies. They are food to my soul. I enjoy all the "Faith and Victory" paper. God bless all the gospel workers there is my prayer.

I thank God for all His good promises. He says he will never leave us nor forsake us but stick closer than a brother. When we are tested and tried, let us look to him in faith believing. He is a present help in time of need. We need him all the time. The devil will do all he can to discourage souls but God is so much more powerful than the devil. My desire is to live close to my blessed Savior so my life will shine in this wicked world. I know God's grace is sufficient if we will watch and pray. He has told us to watch and pray that we enter not into temptation. God knows all about us. I am so glad that I am serving a merciful God who knows the way I take. I desire to be true and faithful so when he calls me I can hear his words of "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joys of the Lord."

Your sister in Christ,

—Mrs. Roy Pruett

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Dekalb, Miss.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—I feel led to send my testimony. I've just been reading the "Faith and Victory" paper. Through the testimonies and truths that are printed in the paper I have been greatly blessed and drawn closer to God. Thank God that the love of Jesus is in my heart. I feel like I want to put my arms around all the saints and help them bear up in their trials and burdens.

Truly I have a strong desire to spread the gospel and I pray that I may be used in spreading the Bible truth to lost souls. My desire is so deep that, I cannot express it, but I know it is like a great overflowing

well. My cup is overflowing with love and thankfulness.

Pray that I may be in the Lord's service and that the "words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord."

Yours in Christ, Hildra Grady.



Lake Charles, La.—To the dear saints abroad,—I wrote a request for prayer some time ago for the healing of a sore on my leg and I do thank the Lord for His healing touch. He helps us in every time of need. Sister Ruth Murphy become burdened for me as she was in our home. I thank the Lord for her prayers. The sore healed a short time after she left.

I want to live a life that will please the Lord. I was advised by my teachers in school to use medicine on my sore. I told them that my trust was in the Lord. People remark about the big scar as the sore was almost two years old but I am thankful that there is no more than a scar. I also thank the Lord for healing me before the close of school so that the teachers know that Jesus does heal.

What a wonderful Savior we have. Praise the Lord. He knows all our needs from day to day. I pray that the saints may never have a desire to turn back to this dark and sinful world. If we don't live for the Lord, there will be a time when we will wish we had. Pray for me that I ever live close to the Lord.

Your sister in Christ, —Aquila Green



Yuba City, Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—I have been enjoying your paper very much as a paper like this one is needed. I appreciate those who have an interest in a good clean paper like this one. While I may not be acquainted with you dear ones, I do know that I am in the family of God. Praise the Lord. We are living in a day when God needs ministers who are not afraid of their bread and butter and will declare the truth as it is taught in God's Word if they have to stand alone. We have the greatest message in the world and the greatest truth, that of one family, the Church of the living God. But what are we doing with this blessed truth? Oh, that the fire of God would send us out into a world of sin and sickness to tell them of this blessed truth.

I came out of sectism and took my stand for the Church of God's truth. I have never been so free in all my ministry as I am now and how I thank God for this wonderful light. Besides being saved and sanctified wholly I believe it is the greatest freedom I have ever enjoyed. I used to be bound down with district elders and such like and would wonder where they would send us the coming year and all that goes with that. Yes, many times we have had to suffer because we were in the wrong place. But thank God, I am free at last. This is Bible freedom, yes, God's freedom.

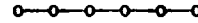
This is my second year here in California and the Lord has been so good and precious to us. I am glad He can tell us where to go and how long to stay. Praise His blessed name. I went to the campmeeting of the Church of God last year without a fear of being moved by some man-made committee. Oh brother, how happy I was when I felt the Holy Spirit of God directing us back to our place of labor. Since we came back in July we have had a radio program every Sunday morning over station K. M. Y. C., Marysville and God has never failed me to supply that need. I was in the Free Methodist Church for seven years and was an ordained elder but have never had such freedom and blessing in all my life as I now experience.

Brethren, Christ is the head of the Church. He impresses and moulds its character. He prescribes and enforces its laws. He governs and controls its destinies. He is the center of its unity. As in earthly families, there are diversities of character, tastes, gifts, tendencies, and manifestations, but all are members of the heavenly household and are bound together by the one common bond of love and fellowship to God and each other. The Holy Spirit is the active administrative agent of the glorified Son.

The Church is the body of Christ in so far as it carries on His work here on earth. When the body ministers to the sick, praying the prayer of faith, helping the poor and needy, by seeking the lost, in that sense the church is the body of Christ. Glorious truth! May God help us to do something about this truth.

Yours for lost souls,

C. T. Diggins



Reform, Ala.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt,—Greetings in Jesus' name. I am glad to be able to write you again in this life. I wrote to you for prayer, and an anointed handkerchief and the Lord did a wonderful work for me. I am able to do my washing and house work. I truly thank the Lord and you for your prayers. May God bless you at all times is my prayer.

Your sister in Christ,

—Lillie Hood.

Roll of 5 "Faith and Victory" papers, one year.....	\$ 1.00
12 papers each month, one year	2.00
25 papers each month, one year	4.00
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BIBLE STUDY

Order Sunday School supplies about two weeks before beginning of new quarter. The price of the Primary Picture Roll is \$1.15, and the Lesson Cards are 4 cents per set. Each set contains cards for one pupil for each Sunday in the quarter. These sets cannot be broken. Send order to Dorothy Wilson, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie.

SAUL REJECTED

Sunday, September 3, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations
August 28 to Sept. 2.

- M. The king's folly 1 Sam. 13:8-14.
- T. God's command to the king 1 Sam. 15:1-9.
- W. The king's disobedience 1 Sam. 15:10-16.
- T. The king's rejection foretold 1 Sam. 15:24-31.
- F. The death of the king 1 Sam. 31:1-6.
- S. The danger of disobedience Heb. 6:1-8.

Printed Portion 1 Samuel 15:10-23.

1 Sam. 15:10. Then came the word of the Lord unto Samuel, saying,

11. It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the Lord all night.

12. And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal.

13. And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the Lord: I have performed the commandment of the Lord.

14. And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

15. And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the Lord thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.

16. Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the Lord hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on.

17. And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the Lord anointed thee king over Israel?

18. And the Lord sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed.

19. Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the Lord, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the Lord?

20. And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and have gone the way which the Lord sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

21. But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the Lord thy God in Gilgal.

22. And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

23. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

Golden Text: "Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king." 1 Sam. 15:23.

Practical Truth: Full obedience to God is necessary to true success.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Last Sunday we learned that Saul was chosen to be king over God's people, and the blessings of God rested upon him, but a great change took place. We learn in God's word that He is a God that changes not. The change is always in man. God is no respecter of persons and deals with all men according to their dispositions. "With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright; with the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward." *Psa. 18:25, 26.*

At first Saul was so little in his own sight that he did not feel worthy of being king. It was then that the Lord blessed him as He does all the humble. But he permitted Satan to fill his heart with a feeling of self-importance and then God had to deal with him after the manner of the proud.

Saul's first act of disobedience was to offer a sacrifice which only Samuel should have offered. He was misusing his power. But his failure to fully obey God in the destruction of the Amalekites is what God had reference to when he said, "He is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments." Saul had partly obeyed the Lord, but total obedience conflicted with his selfish interests.

We should learn from this that when one feels it is sufficient to obey God when it is convenient for him then

to fail to obey Him in some things, he is not pleasing God at all. He has no spirit of following the Lord. If one fails only in one thing to obey the Lord, he is a transgressor. Only one disobedience caused Adam and Eve to be put out of the Garden. God requires full submission.

Samuel had much power with God, but his crying in behalf of Saul was of no avail, because God's just laws requires punishment for the disobedient. After Saul's disobedience, he became a hypocrite professing to be right with the Lord when he knew he had done wrong. When one turns from wholly following the Lord to do what he calls a "few little no-harm things," to please self, he is usually ready to justify self and make excuses. So long as one holds to one thing that is displeasing to God, that thing will testify against him as the sheep and oxen testified against Saul. Saul acted as king some time after this, but the Lord was not with him. Notice especially the reason why the Lord rejected him. It was because he had rejected the word of the Lord. What does this teach us concerning movements, organizations, and individuals who claim to be Christians, but admit that they do not feel that all the word of God is essential? Many claim that they believe all the Word, but their lack of obedience would place them in the same class with the unbelievers.

DAVID ANOINTED KING

Sunday, September 10, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations

September 4 to 9.

M. God provides a king 1 Sam. 16:1-5.

T. David anointed king 1 Sam. 16:6-13.

W. David and Jonathan 1 Sam. 20:35-42.

T. David spares Saul 1 Sam. 24:1-7.

F. David in favor with God *Psa. 89:19-28.*

S. God's covenant with David *Psa. 132:1-11.*

Printed Portion 1 Samuel 16:1-5, 11-18.

1 Sam. 16:1. And the Lord said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite; for I have provided me a king among his sons.

2. And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will kill me. And the Lord said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the Lord.

3. And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me him whom I name unto thee.

4. And Samuel did that which the Lord spake, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably?

5. And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the Lord: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

1 Sam. 16:11. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep, And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

12. And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the Lord said, Arise, anoint him; for this is he.

13. Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah,

14. But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him.

15. And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee.

16. Let our lord now command thy servants, which are before thee, to seek out a man, who is a cunning player on an harp: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well.

17. And Saul said unto his servants, Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring him to me.

18. Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the Lord is with him.

Golden Text: "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." 1 Sam. 16:7.

Practical Truth: God's knowledge and estimation of others is more searching and truer than man's can be.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Saul was to Samuel what a prized plant would be to a gardner who sets it out and cares for it. The Lord had chosen Saul and instructed Samuel to make him king. Then when the blight of sin struck Samuel's plant and the Lord ordered his removal lest the other plants become blighted too, like any true gardener who is interested in his work, Samuel was deeply hurt because of it. Notice how the dresser of the vineyard pled for the unfruitful tree in the parable recorded in Luke 13:6-9.

God was not pleased with Samuel's continued grief. There is danger in mourning over the past. It keeps one from submitting to the will of God, blinds one to the need of present work for God, and does not give hope its proper place. God had rejected Saul so he wanted Samuel to become reconciled to it, and to "fill thine horn and go."

Many times ministers and other influential children of God have let down the standard of God to win the praise of men and have been rejected of God. Then others have become so discouraged about it that they gave up instead of looking to God for help. God is not dependent upon any one human or any group of them. If some fail, He does not become discouraged for He can find others who will be true and hold up the standard. When you see one go down just "fill your horn" (get a fresh supply of the oil of the Holy Spirit) and go, for God's work must go on.

The topic of our lesson is "Measuring up to God's standards." It isn't so hard to measure to man's standards. One can have a good outward appearance and remain from some of the grosser sins and most men will think he is all right. One may be able to go through life with a covered sin, but it is not hid from God.

Saul had measured to man's standard that he might be popular with man; but David, who had scarcely been noticed by man had measured up to God's standard. Of aovid it was said, "The Lord is with him," but Saul with all his riches and honor had a troubled spirit.

If you have prayed for something and felt that the Lord has promised it to you, you should not become discouraged if you have to wait. David was king in God's sight when he was anointed, but it was a long time before he was seated upon the throne. Think of all he had to experience before he became the acting king. It looked like a dark picture to him many times when it seemed that his enemies would kill him. His experiences should encourage us to trust in God, knowing that in His own

time He will remove all obstacles and fulfil His promises on our behalf in spite of all the opposing powers of the devil.

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THE KINGDOM STRONGLY ESTABLISHED

Sunday, September 17, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations

September 11 to 16.

- M. David king over Judah 2 Sam. 2:1-7.
- T. David king over Israel and Judah 2 Sam. 5:1-5.
- W. The kingdom established 2 Sam. 5:6-12.
- T. Jehovah's promises to David 1 Chron. 17:7-15.
- F. David's faith 1 Chron. 17:16-27.
- S. Jehovah enthroned among the nations Jer. 3:11-18.

Printed Portion2 Samuel 2:4-7; 5:1-10.

2 Sam. 2:4. And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. And they told David, saying That the men of Jabeshgilead were they that buried Saul.

5. And David sent messengers unto the men of Jabeshgilead, and said unto them, Blessed be ye of the Lord, that ye have shewed this kindness unto your lord even unto Saul, and have buried him.

6. And now the Lord shew kindness and truth unto you; and I also will requite you this kindness, because ye have done this thing.

7. Therefore now let your hands be strengthened, and be ye valiant; for your master Saul is dead, and also the house of Judah have anointed me king over them.

2 Sam. 5:1. Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh.

2. Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the Lord said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be captain over Israel.

3. So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the Lord: and they anointed David king over Israel.

4. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.

5. In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah.

6. And the king and his men went to Jerusalem unto the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land: which spake unto David, saying, Except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither: thinking, David cannot come in hither.

7. Nevertheless David took the strong hold of Zion: the same is the city of David.

8. And David said on that day, Whosoever getteth up to the gutter, and smiteth the Jebusites, and the lame and the blind, that are hated of David's soul, he shall be chief and captain. Wherefore they said, The blind and the lame shall not come into the house.

9. So David dwelt in the fort, and called it the city of David. And David built round about from Millo and inward.

10. And David went on, and grew great, and the Lord God of hosts was with him.

Golden Text: "They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth forever." Psalm 125:1.

Practical Truth: Wise leaders and godliness on the part of the people help to make a nation strong.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In our lesson we see Saul buried and that is the last we hear of him. He had failed God and was rejected from being king. But God in His infinite wisdom had found another man which was a man after His own heart. The Lord was not looking on outward appearances as men do but he saw in David's heart His own likeness. This child-like spirit was manifested many times toward Saul, for David had refused to do Saul harm, even though he had had many opportunities, and even though Saul had sought to kill him. But God avenged David, and in His own time and way set him up as king in Saul's stead. And today if we will wait upon the Lord and live in the Spirit, God will defend us, fight our battles for us and bring good out of the things which were intended for our destruction.

David reigned seven years over Judah and then all Israel accepted him as their king and he reigned in Jerusalem for thirty-three years. God blessed David with a long reign, and even though we would not call it peaceful always, it was a victorious one, for in the language of the title of our lesson the kingdom was strongly established. It was strong because the people were united in heart.

May we, the Lord's people today, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might; and above all, let us be united in heart against the modern evils and God will give us the victory, and make His kingdom strong.

—W. C. Murphey



RELIGION IN THE LIFE OF A NATION

Sunday, September 24, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations

September 18 to 23.

- M. David's noble purpose 2 Sam. 7:1-11.
- T. Jehovah's promise 2 Sam. 7:12-17.
- W. The king's thanksgiving 2 Sam. 7:18-29.
- T. Jehovah's wonderful works Psa. 105:1-8.
- F. Remembering God's goodness Deut. 8:11-20.
- S. Jehovah's righteous rule Isa. 51:4-8.

Printed Portion 2 Samuel 7:17-29.

2 Sam. 7:17. According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

18. Then went king David in, and sat before the Lord, and he said, Who am I, O Lord God? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?

19. And this was yet a small thing in thy sight, O Lord God; but thou hast spoken also of thy servant's house for a great while to come. And is this the manner of man, O Lord God?

20. And what can David say more unto thee? for thou, Lord God, knowest thy servant.

21. For thy word's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all these great things, to make thy servant know them.

22. Wherefore thou art great, O Lord God: for there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

23. And what one nation in the earth is like thy people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, from the nations and their gods?

24. For thou hast confirmed to thyself thy people Israel to be a people unto thee for ever: and thou, Lord, art become their God.

25. And now, O Lord God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant, and concerning his house, establish it forever, and do as thou hast said.

26. And let thy name be magnified for ever, saying, The Lord of hosts is the God over Israel: and let the house of thy servant David be established before thee.

27. For thou, O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, hast revealed to thy servant, saying, I will build thee an house: therefore hath thy servant found in his heart to pray this prayer unto thee.

28. And now, O Lord God, thou art that God, and thy words be true, and thou hast promised this goodness unto thy servant;

29. Therefore now let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue for ever before thee: for thou, O Lord God, hast spoken it: and with thy blessing let the house of thy servant be blessed for ever.

Golden Text: "The Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory." Isa. 60:19.

Practical Truth: National leaders would do well to give religion the place in their own lives and in the life of the nation that David did.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

David had expressed a desire to build a house for the Lord. At first Nathan the prophet to whom he expressed the desire, told him to do it; but after he left David, the Lord showed Nathan that David should not build it. It is always pleasing to God for his children to desire to honor Him, but even though He is pleased with the motive, it may not be His time to permit the desired action.

We read that the chief desire of Samuel Morris, the young African who came to America to learn more about the Lord, was to return to his native land to tell his people about the Lord. The desire was a good one and must have been pleasing to the Lord, but the Lord did not grant it. Samuel died in this country and others went to Africa to tell his people about the Lord when the Lord's time came. The Lord honored Samuel in other ways and he like an obedient child, submitted to the will of the Lord.

We learn from 1 Chron. 22:8 why God chose to wait and let David's son build the house instead of David.

Though the Lord did not permit David to build a literal house for Him, yet He promised to do a glorious thing for David. From a shepherd lad He had exalted him to be king over Israel and had from the beginning showed himself strong in David's behalf; but now in response to David's desire to build a house for the Lord, He made promises to David similar to those which He had made to faithful Abraham: that He would make David a great name, like unto the great ones of earth and would make a house for him which would be established forever. This promise was fulfilled when Christ, David's seed, came and established his spiritual kingdom. The earthly kingdom of David came to an end, but of his spiritual kingdom there shall be no end. Spiritual Israel, or the redeemed of the Lord, are now God's chosen people over whom Christ reigns as king. (If you have one of Br. Pruitt's books, "The New Testament Church and Its Symbols," read the article entitled "The House of God" which begins on page 37, in connection with this and you will understand more about the house which the Lord promised to build for David. We hope you are in that house).

Our printed portion is David's response to God's promise. He was moved to a deep feeling of gratitude and these are his words of praise.