

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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Child Of The Lowly

The world was silently sleeping,
And through that holy night
Ten million stars were keeping
Their vigil in God's sight.

The angel hosts were singing
Hosannas on that morn
When heavenly bells were ringing
Because a child was born.

O child forever holy,
Thy word shall be our guide;
With thee, child of the lowly,
Our faith and hope abide.

Thy tidings are of gladness,
Thy spirit brings relief
To souls o'erwhelmed with sadness
And hearts bowed down in grief.

There is no love transcending
That love which came to earth
When God with grace unending
Decreed our Saviour's birth.

That love shall never perish,
'Twill live on undefiled
For all time men will cherish
The virtues of that child.

—E. W. Sanders

Ichabod Churches

"And she named the child Ichabod, saying, The GLORY is departed from Israel ..." 1 Sam. 4:21. The margin also defines Ichabod as: "Where is the glory?" or, "There is no glory."

The GLORY was something real to the Israelites. They had seen it shining in the midst of the camp in the wilderness every night. They had seen it when the Egyptians were about to recapture them at the Red Sea. They had seen it on Mt. Sinai. They saw it reflected in the face of Moses when he came down from the mount with the skin of his face shining so they wanted him to veil it in their presence. They had seen it when Moses set up the tabernacle in the wilderness. They had seen it when Solomon dedicat-

ed the temple at Jerusalem. The Jews, in the time of Christ called this visible presence of the Lord, Shekinah, or Shekinah. Peloubet's Bible Dictionary thus speaks of it: "Shekinah (she-KI-nah) —that which dwells." The idea which the different accounts in Scripture conveys is that of a most brilliant and glorious light, enveloped in a cloud, and usually concealed by the cloud, so that the cloud itself was for the most part alone visible; but on particular occasions the glory appeared.

Let us quote some scriptures concerning this GLORY: "And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people." Exodus 13:21, 22.

Exod. 16:7, 10, reads, "And in the morning, then ye shall see the GLORY of the Lord; ... they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud." In Exod. 24:15-18, "And Moses went up into the mount, and a cloud covered the mount. And the GLORY of the Lord abode upon mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days: and the seventh day called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud. And the sight of the GLORY of the Lord was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel. And Moses went into the midst of the cloud."

Moses was with God forty days there on Sinai. When he came down, all the people saw that the skin of his face shone. He was reflecting some of the glory he had seen there on the mount. We read about this in Exod. 34:29-35, parts of which we quote, "And it came to pass, ... when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him. And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone ... And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone." It is the same today. We see the saints of God, those living near Him, with shining faces. Some of the glory will just have to appear. God put Moses in a cleft of the rock up there on Sinai and his glory appear before Moses. God held his breath over the cleft in the rock until He got by and.

let Moses see His back. When we get close to God, we too, will partake of the glory.

When Moses had completed the tabernacle which was to be God's home among the Israelites, and set it up, "Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, BECAUSE THE CLOUD ABODE THEREON and the GLORY OF THE LORD FILLED THE TABERNACLE . . . For the cloud of the Lord was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel." Ex. 40:34-38.

The same GLORY filled the house of God that Solomon builded for God at Jerusalem. When they had completed the temple, placed the ark in the MOST HOLY PLACE and come out, "And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place; (for all the priests that were present were SANCTIFIED, and did not then wait by course; Also the Levites which were the singers, . . . being arrayed in WHITE LINEN, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets;) It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers WERE AS ONE, to make ONE SOUND to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the Lord; So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the GLORY OF THE LORD had filled THE HOUSE OF GOD." 2 Chron. 5:11-14.

God was with His people under the Mosaic law. He wanted to be in them but could not because of the sinful condition of their hearts. That is why Christ came to this world—to abolish sin in the heart and fit it for the indwelling of God. Jesus, in telling the disciples of the Comforter, the Spirit, said in John 14:17, "for he dwelleth with you, and SHALL BE IN YOU." It is far more glorious to have God IN US than merely WITH US. We read about God's coming into HIS LAST TEMPLE, (the hearts of men) on the day of Pentecost: "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were ALL WITH ONE ACCORD in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues, like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:1-4. The first tabernacle and the temples were pictures, or blue prints of the last, or real temple. The different articles of the tabernacle, the arrangements of the buildings, etc., all have spiritual counterparts in the real temple. God's GLORY however, was outwardly manifested in the old as well as the new. The picture parts are done away and we possess the real thing—no longer needing the white linen of the

singers since we possess the real white linen, the righteousness of the saints. No longer are we sanctified by outward washings, purifications, etc., but we possess the real cleansing of the heart. As the worshipped God outwardly on INSTRUMENTS OF MUSIC, we worship Him out of the heart. As the singers and players on instruments of music played and sang with such unity that the sound was as one man, we possess the real unity, the unity with one another and God. The ONENESS of the temple brought the GLORY down, and the ONENESS of the day of Pentecost brought in the GLORY again. That GLORY was in the early church, as we read about Stephen seeing into heaven when being stoned to death. Then the GLORY (a bright light, brighter than that of the sun) struck down Saul on the way to Damascus. That GLORY later operated with Paul and Silas, in prison, with their feet fast in the stocks, PRAYED and SANG it down. God worked and the prison was shaken by an earthquake and the bonds were all broken. Yes, and that GLORY is and must be in the church today. A group calling themselves the church, or a part of the church, without the GLORY is nothing more than an ICHABOD CHURCH. The world is filled with ICHABOD organizations. Groups who once had power with God have let down the standard and now THE GLORY IS GONE! GONE! GONE! As the different members of Babylon fell, the GLORY went. Babylon could bring down fire from heaven at one time, but now it is fallen—no longer a part of temple; just a man-made ICHABOD church.

Reformation after reformation have lost their power with God because they were wrecked on the rocks of worldly conformity, worldliness, or man-rule. These seem to be the points with which the devil blunts the keenness of spiritual perception. As we cannot be friendly to the world and still God's friend, it is an established fact that, as we give over to the world, we will seek for something to take the place of the spiritual life we are losing. So, the devil offers social life for spiritual life. A spirit of extreme friendliness and glad-handing takes the place of spiritual love and fellowship. A program of building fine churches and seeking worldly honor appears. We MUST shun the allurements of the world. Also, as the Spirit withdraws because of friendship to the world, man-rule must, necessarily take the place of Holy Spirit leadership. And so we soon have the image to the beast (man-rule), set up, and the followers bowing down to committees, boards, creeds, disciplines, year-books and all the other devices with which Babylon is afflicted.

Let us, as saints of the Most High God, realize that we, too, can fail God, and that if we do, we too will become an Ichabod group. Movements have fallen from the time of the early church, and groups will continue to lose out. Our responsibility is individual and as we keep close to God as individuals so will the group. We want to be the KABOD (GLORY filled) church, not an IYKABOWD (GLOVE GONE) organization or social club. —C. C. Carver

Do You Know Yourself?

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalms 139: 23, 24. The cry of the Psalmist's heart was "Lord, help me to know my self, help me to know my ways, and turn my feet into thy testimonies." Everyone desires success but not everyone succeeds. In every line there are certain things on which success depends. Success can be built only on a properly and carefully laid foundation. Those who desire to be Christians, desire to be successful in the Christian life. Those who are called to work for God, desire to be successful workers. One thing is needful: Know your own self.

The one who does not know himself, who does not stop to consider and analyze, feels an unrest, a yearning, a hungering in his soul. Knowing not why nor what it is, he tries worldly pleasures, but they only partly satisfy and at last render the case more serious than before, because he has taken the wrong step to satisfy that hungering of the soul. It is only when he knows that the cause of his unrest is soul hunger for God and the bread of life, that he begins to try to satisfy his soul properly.

Women, and many of them, profess to be saints and try to satisfy this by the pride of life and conforming to the world by pursuing the follies of life. As food is the only thing which properly satisfies the hunger of the physical body, so the living God alone is able to satisfy the hunger of the soul. When men and women come to know that this longing is for God, they begin to search for Him. The trouble is that people look at Christianity as something apart from themselves, when it is a vital part of every spiritually normal man and woman. The true, "Know thyself," wisdom comes only by first understanding ourselves. One of the things that must constantly be preached to the Sisters is proper modesty and plainness in apparel. How oft do we meet with those who now dress almost as the world, with short skirts, low necks, short sleeves and mothers dressing their little children in the fashions of the world! Why is it that these things are put on? Because there is a longing in the heart. They don't know themselves—what this longing really is, nor what will satisfy it. No, Sister, when these things are put on, they don't satisfy. You may think it is, you may think so only because you can not rightly understand your soul-cry. Your soul is crying for more of God. Give your soul a chance to get what it is hungering for, and you will be surprised to find out that you did not really want these things after all. If you find in you a desire for anything not in accord with spiritual prosperity, your soul is hungry. Go to your closet, get on your knees, and get a good feast on the bread from heaven and water of life and feed your soul; let God talk to you. Now see if there is any hunger. There is not a bit, is there? See, you were mistaken. Your soul wanted more of God and you did not know yourself. After we have a good meal on heavenly manna,

any sort of worldliness will be nauseating to us.

Some want to have their own way, do they not? Your judgment is so good that all the brethren must accept and act upon it or all the sweetness in your soul is turned to vinegar right away. Go and eat some of the honey out of the Rock. Don't stop 'til you get enough. When you get filled up you will say, "Not my will, but thine be done." God is what you want. Everything else is husk. You can eat husk all you please and not get satisfied. You may get a bad case of spiritual disease or die altogether. The voice of inspiration says, "Draw nigh unto God." Listen but a moment to the whispering of your soul and you will hear it say, "Draw me, Savior, and I will run after thee." Christianity is real, a distinct and separate life. It neither mingles nor mixes with any other life. Rivers may empty their waters into each other and both be lost in one. Christianity is a life that never mixes nor intermingles with any other life. It is the Christ life and its nature is holy. God is holy. The life of Christ is perfect and absolutely holy. Get acquainted with yourself, enough to know that all the real desires of your heart are for godliness and that all earthly things will disappear at once when the soul is filled with the bread of life.

May the Lord bless us is my earnest prayer.

—Artie Bowers

What Am I?

Sometimes I'm praised by fellowmen

And boosted oh, so high;

As if they thought my name should be
Carved somewhere in the sky.

And then I lift my prayer to God;

"Oh Lord, help me to be

Just what thou in thy word demands,
And keep my eyes on Thee."

Sometimes, it seems I've been forgot;

I'm neither high nor low.

Then I pray, "Just help me, Lord
Thy holy will to know."

Sometimes they think of me again;

But oh what change is wrought.

They say, "There's nothing much to him."
And hurl my name to naught.

Well, what am I? I stop and think,

And what have I been at?

That I should be praised oh, so high
And then run down like that?

The Lord then whispers through His word,

"Fear not, thou feeble worm,

I will not leave thee; look to me,
I'll shield thee from the storm."

And then I lift my eyes to Him

From whence my help doth come;

And pray, "Lord, guide me with thine eye
Till life on earth is done."

—Ulysses Phillips

"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

New Caretakers on Campground

Bro. and Sister James E. Morris, the new caretakers for the Monark Springs, Mo., campgrounds, moved onto the grounds the latter part of October. They are satisfied and feel they have done the Lord's will in making the move from their small farm in eastern Missouri, and are now busy getting situated and doing some work on the cabins and grounds. Remember them in prayer, and let the saints remember their agreement with them for the small allowance each month.

—L. D. Pruitt, Sec.-Treas.

Editorials

The printing work at the "Lord's Print Shop" is moving along according to heaven's planning and all of us here in the shop are happy and contented in the Lord. There is nothing that makes one more satisfied and joyful than to know that all is clear between him and the Lord and that his steps are ordered by Him.

The Lord, through His consecrated children, has supplied enough means to pay for the Intertype machine that the Lord directed us to purchase and also some on the other machinery which is needed in His print shop.

A self-feeder and a larger variable speed motor has been ordered for the 12 x 18 job press and a 10 x 12 job press has been ordered from a Cleveland, Ohio company. We are expecting these machines to be shipped to the shop and installed and ready for use by the early part of the new year and some of them even before that time.

About two weeks ago I was out on the north side of the "Lord's Print Shop" and was considering the need of building some more on the shop to have room for all the operating machinery. As I was in meditation about the matter and was thinking that I must do that next summer if conditions got so I could get the material, the Lord spoke to my soul and said, "Why not build it now?" I did not question the Lord but went at once to see about getting material and found that I could get it. So at this present writing we have the concrete foundation put in and are now ready to begin laying the concrete blocks for the walls. A man has promised to be here this week to begin on the building. We are adding 22 ft. more to the building. This will make sufficient room to house the machinery and relieve the present crowded conditions in the room that we now have. We truly thank the Lord for leading on and we can see plainly now that the Lord is getting things ready for a much larger increase of the work and the sending forth of the gospel by the printed page on a larger scale than ever before, just as soon as the war is over and things are normal again so we can get all the paper we need for the printing work.

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On Friday, November 10, Sister Catherine Simpson and Sister Ruth Murphey of Louisiana began a meeting here in the chapel. The Lord has greatly blessed in this meeting. The attendance and interest has been unusually good, and seekers have been at the altar for prayer at nearly every service. Some have been saved and some sanctified and a number of bodies have been healed by power divine. The saints have been greatly blessed and built up in God, and the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace has been precious. The preaching has been in the power and demonstration of the Spirit.

Brother Darius Gibson and Brother Egbert Allen have been on an evangelistic trip in Missouri and Tennessee. They report good meetings in which souls have cleared up for God.

Brother and Sister Key of Hammond, Louisiana have been doing evangelistic work in Kalamazoo, Michigan, also at Bangor, Michigan, and Elkhart, Indiana. The Lord has been blessing their labors and much good has been done. A congregation of saints have cleared up for God in Kalamazoo. The call is sounding down through the ages and now is coming plain and distinct to all lovers of the truth to "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Rev. 18: 4. In the second verse of this chapter it says of the angel: "And He cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird."

All of these bodies of peoples that cater to the world and its ways are of the world and belong to Babylon, no matter if they do claim the name, Church of God. They are fulfilling the prophesy found in the 4th chp. of Isaiah, for they eat their own bread and wear their own apparel but they cling to the name Church of God to take away their reproach, if possible. By this they think to fool people and make them believe that they are legitimate children; when the fact is, they are born of another spirit, and they belong to the world religions. The God of heaven is now calling all heavenly-born children out of those places, that they may be separated from the world and abide as members in the Body of Christ which is now functioning in the world but is not of the world.

The saints here at Guthrie are looking forward to an Assembly meeting that will be greatly blessed of God. The congregation here is in oneness and unity and will stand solidly with God against any spirit that may come in to disturb the peaceful working of God's power in the meeting. Therefore we are looking for a meeting that will far surpass the previous meetings even though they were good. The saints will do their best to care for those who come to attend the meeting and they welcome you every one.

Obituaries

Mrs. Florence Josephine Sheppard, wife of Jas. W. Sheppard, was born October 10, 1869, at Lafayette, Indiana, and departed this life September 15, 1944, at 4:40 p.m. at the age of 74 years, 11 months, and 5 days. She was the daughter of Peter and Martha (Harding) Householder.

While living at Monticello, Illinois, she and her husband heard the truth preached and accepted Christ some fifty years ago. During her last illness she prayed for God to take her home if He did not heal her. Her pastor was faithful to visit and pray for her. She is missed by her loved ones.

Funeral services were conducted in the N. Rose St. Church of God at 2:00 p.m., September 19, 1944 by Geo. Edes and John Batdorf.

Susian Elizabeth Bryant was born on June 30, 1850, and passed from this life November 1, 1944, at the age of 94 years and 4 months.

She is the mother of nine children, six of which preceded her in death. Those living are: Ellen Rupe, Klamath Falls, Oregon; Dan Scott, Guthrie, Oklahoma;

James Canfield, Tulsa, Oklahoma; also she leaves 26 grandchildren and a large number of great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends to mourn her passing.

She made her peace with God many years ago and was affiliated with the Church of God. When she had strength and health she was zealous for the cause of God and did what she could to interest others in the things pertaining to the kingdom. She will be greatly missed among her many relatives and friends.

The funeral service was conducted on November 4th, in the Smith Funeral Home at Guthrie, Oklahoma, by Fred Pruitt. Text scripture was 1 Peter 3:12. Interment was made in the cemetery north of Guthrie.

John Earnes Kurtz, formerly the caretaker of the national campgrounds at Monark Springs, Missouri, passed on to his eternal reward on Thursday, October 19, 1944, at Valley Station, Kentucky, in his seventy-third year.

Brother Kurtz had been saved and known the truth for years, and was much interested in the work of God. Because of failing health, he had to leave the campgrounds last spring, and return to Kentucky where he was cared for in the home of his daughter.

He is survived by one brother, Will Kurtz, of Chicago, a daughter, Mrs. Anna M. McAdams, of Louisville, Kentucky, and two grandsons.

Interment was in the Hillcrest Cemetery near Louisville, Kentucky.

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Assembly Meeting Notice

The Los Angeles annual Church of God Assembly Meeting is reported to begin Friday before Christmas, December 22, to continue over two Sundays. The meeting will be held in the chapel on the corner of Walnut and Naomi Streets.

Everyone who loves the truth is cordially and warmly invited. Rooms will be found for all who wish them.

The ministry in California is in perfect harmony and they work together in spite of reports to the contrary. The saints are expecting the meeting to be exceptionally good with a great outpouring of God's Holy Spirit.

To all those who can't come, pray for the meeting that God will richly anoint and souls will be saved.

For further information write to E. E. Forbes, 4250 Perlita Ave., Los Angeles, California.

The State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held at Guthrie, Oklahoma, in the saint's chapel on the corner of West Warner and 6th Streets, beginning December 22nd, and will continue ten days. This is a state meeting, and since there are no funds in the state treasury to finance the meeting, God will be moving on souls to send in money and eatables for it. Each congregation and all individuals who can, should look to the Lord and obey His voice in giving for the financing of this meeting that there be no undue or unnecessary burden upon a few. Send all provisions and money to Faith Publishing House, Guthrie, Oklahoma. The saints at Guthrie extend a hearty welcome to all to come and be with us in this meeting. It will be run on the freewill offering plan and will share what the Lord provides.

Those ministers who are out of harmony with God and His Body, the Church, and also those few ministers who are holding on with S. T. Walker's division will not be allowed by the Lord and the state ministers to have any public privileges. God's Church is a clean institution and those ministers who sow discord among the saints are condemned by God's sacred word.

All the saints at Guthrie are in unity and oneness and God is greatly blessing in the meetings. We are expecting an unusually good assembly meeting. The saints here will do all they can to care for those who attend the meeting. You should bring quilts and pillows with you, if possible, because bedding will be scarce.

Ministers from over the state and from other states will be here to preach all the sacred truths of the Bible: such as, forgiveness of sins, sanctification, divine healing, and the one true Church which is the body of Christ, functioning in the world but not of the world, and the coming of the Lord and the Judgment Day when all will be judged according to the deeds done in the body.

The unsaved, the sick and afflicted, and those who are needy in any way should attend this meeting. Jesus is the same compassionate Christ and will deliver you out of and will help you to be cleared from all difficulties.

Come, one and all, and enjoy the good things from Father's House.



Beautiful 1945 Scripture Text Calendars can now be obtained for 30 cents each, 4 for one dollar, or 9 for two dollars, postpaid. By ordering early, we were able to obtain a good supply. We have them ready to wrap and send to you the day your order arrives. Order early, so you will be sure to get your calendars.

Bed-time Prayer Reminder, cross that glows in the dark. 15 cents each.

Scripture Text, beautifully colored post cards for Christmas, sympathy, encouragement, and others. 20c per doz. Postpaid.

Father's Evening Stories for Children. This book has been enlarged to 64 pages and has more pictures in it to enlighten the children. Beautiful paper cover. Price 15 cents each.

Reference Testament for Ministers. Price \$1.25.

Large Print Bible for old folks. Price \$3.00.

Large Print Testament with Psalms for old folks. Price \$1.50.

Reference Bible, cloth bound. Price \$2.00.

Small paper bound New Testament. Price 15 cents each.

Making A Good Run

Paul tells us that preparation must be made and all weights that would hinder one from running freely must be laid aside in order to win a literal race. Many enter races but do not win.

Likewise, in running life's race, we must prepare. Every day the race must continue. There are new duties, new tasks, more problems to face; but we can be able to meet any of them filled with the grace of God and His Holy Spirit burning in our souls. There is no greater equipment to be found for life's race. Many and varied may be our experiences, but these will always work.

Many today are compelled to fight with carnal weapons, and my heart longs to be of some help to them spiritually. When quite young, a dear father who served in the war between the North and South, told me many severe experiences and they left a lasting impression upon my mind and soul. I wish to relate one of them with the desire to help others:

This father was an orphan boy whose father and mother died when he was very small. He had to be thrown with the rough and tough. When the war was declared, he enlisted at the age of eighteen.

In one of the severe battles his company had fallen back to the trench or a place of retreat. He was standing behind a tree reloading his musket. He looked up and saw he was alone, just a few yards from the enemy. His own company had retreated. He saw he must think, and think quickly. So run he must, and run he did. The enemy saw him and he heard their shouts and shots. Bullets were whizzing about his head. He said some folks say that a sinner cannot pray, but he did. He said, "Lord, help me." He ran zigzag to dodge the bullets. He reached the embankment where his company were and leaped over to them. He heard shouts from both sides, "Now was not that a good run!" We all know it was.

Then in after years—many, many years had passed—he moved to a new southwestern country. One day he met a man who had been in the same battles, but fought on the opposite side. This man began to relate this very incident and said that he often wondered if that boy made it through the war. My father said, "Man, here that boy stands before you." They embraced each other and wept. They were both Christians and all the "war prejudice" was gone, and these two were friends as long as they lived.

Dear ones, God help us all to make a good run—to win the race. There are rewards for the faithful and true, those who will place their trust in Him. Many need our prayers, our efforts. Our lives should be such as will inspire them to live heavenly.

Mothers and fathers who have boys in the armed forces, if you are not serving the Lord as you should, may you awaken to the need of being 100 per cent Christians—the praying, trusting, living kind. Our loved ones are looking this way from those fields of battles. Those planes, those ships are filled with human cargo. They are hoping Mom and Dad (as they call them) are really thinking of them in a way

that they need now. Every boy who has a praying mother and father has something to thank God for. There are no riches of silver and gold that can take their place.

Dear soldier or sailor boy, be encouraged to look to God. He is our refuge. Do not let anyone influence you to doubt Him. Life's race can never be run successfully without our God. There is a reward for all who diligently seek Him and place their trust in Him.

The father whom I told you about had never had any religious teachings, but he heard D. L. Moody at the army camps before he was in the war, and some man gave him a Testament. He had never had a chance to go to school so could not read. Boys in the army, who could read, taught him to read, so the Testament was his school book. They also taught him to read from letters which they would receive. So we can always do good, no matter where we are.

Not a sparrow falls to the ground that the heavenly Father does not see, so He watches over us and is ready to help us. We can win the race, make a good run, and receive a reward from our heavenly Father.

When God spares our lives and brings our boys home, then let us never fail to serve Him and ever keep in the good race to the end. We can see the end of a victorious race. Praise His name forever!

—Jessie Holloman

Deliverance

While Moses was taking care of his father-in-law's sheep, he was near Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. Suddenly, he saw a bush burning and drew nigh to see why it was not consumed by the flame. (Ex. 3:1-3.) When the Lord saw that Moses turned aside to see, He called to him and said, "Moses, Moses... Draw not hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." Verses 4, 5.

Moses was right in the presence of God and God wanted his attention. God had work for Moses to do. God needed Moses to do exploits for His people that were in distress and slavery in the land of Egypt. God said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; and I am come to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey;" Ex. 3:7, 8.

"Come now, therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." Verse 10. Moses was faithful and obedient to the high calling of God.

We that have partaken of the SPIRITUAL BREAD and WINE have entered through the DOOR, JESUS CHRIST, into a NEW WORLD, the state of being redeemed. We have truly entered into the HOLY place and have been enlightened by the LIGHT of the world; and in giving ourselves unto God as a

living sacrifice, we stand before God at the Mercy seat in the Holy of Holies. We now are on just as holy ground or place as Moses was when God commanded him to "Put thy shoes from off thy feet." Moses was faithful as a servant in God's house; but the Son of God, Jesus Christ, has more honor than Moses for He is the Son and Heir in the house of God. He is MASTER; He is LORD; He is the PRINCE of PEACE; He is our KING and rules over the righteous.

When we become filled with Christ, we, too, have a great mission from our Lord; we, too, have something to do in God's plan of SALVATION.

God wants everyone that He has SANCTIFIED to stand at attention and get the words of life from His mouth before the Mercy SEAT. God wants to free all people oppressed by the enemy of their souls. He also wants His people to be fat and flourishing. All must be filled with His Holy Spirit that they may be useful in His hand and a blessing in His KINGDOM. God has work for His sanctified people to do. Sinners need to hear the TRUTH, the GOSPEL TRUTH, that they might come to God repenting of their sins and lay their offering on the brazen altar, that they might enter the Door, Jesus Christ. The forgiven need to move right on through the Holy Place into the Holy of Holies where they will become filled with God's blessed HOLY SPIRIT, which is called SANCTIFICATION, with their lamps trimmed and burning, a light in this sin-benighted world. Saints, let's move up and be diligent in the work of the Lord—doing exploits for Him. He dwells in our hearts and He does the work through us just as truly as He did through the faithfulness of faithful Moses, when the people were delivered out of Egyptian bondage.

Jesus has given His saints the true "REST"—the rest of the soul. We have the substance; we have the true RICHES; we have the PEARL of great PRICE; we have the Lord of glory abiding in our hearts. The Israelites looked forward to entering into the promised land of Canaan; but we have the promise of entering into God's everlasting heaven. Yes, Jesus is Lord over His House, and we, His saints make up this HOUSE. Let's keep ourselves in the love of God and get the word from His mouth at the MERCY SEAT.

I. E. Kriebel

CORRESPONDENCE

Glendale, California—Dear saints everywhere in this wide world,—We greet you in Jesus' name. We are still in the service of the dear Lord. In our last report through the Faith and Victory, we were in a meeting in Fresno, California. One was saved and two sanctified in the meeting. Brother C. J. Trotter is pastor there.

From Fresno, we went to Bakersfield and held meeting one week. Brother and Sister Williams from Hennessey, Oklahoma, Bro. Chandler, and Brother and Sister Francisco, who live in Bakersfield were with us in the meeting. Brother Chandler is the pastor there. In this meeting, eight souls were saved and one more was at the

altar. I will say that the Bakersfield congregation is an example. We all enjoyed this meeting so much. God blessed in preaching His word. The saints were much encouraged and lifted up.

We then came back to Glendale and were with the dear saints over Sunday. Brother Eugene Harmon is pastor here. Other ministers are Brother and Sister O. B. Wilson Jr., and Sister Laverne Manuel.

We then went to Pomona. We had a one week meeting. No one was saved but the saints were much encouraged. Ministers there were Brother Youngblood, Brother Stonecypher, and Brother Stover. All live there. We visited Brother and Sister Gus Polous at their home near Hyland. They have meeting in their home one Sunday each month. The dear Lord gave us a good meeting there Sunday.

We have met many good saints in Calif. We surely would feel bad if we had taken a stand as some did, against the ministers of California. If we had taken a stand against the ministers, I feel we would be against ALL of the saints in California, because all of the ministers and saints seem to be ONE here. We mean to be true to our God and true to all people.

In 1 John 4:1, he warned them not to believe every spirit for many false prophets are in the world. There are many kindred spirits. It seems to make little difference how far any one gets from the truth, there are others who will follow them. I will say there is but ONE way—the Bible way. If we will let God lead us, I am sure He will lead us the right way. As Paul said in Romans 8, "Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Brethren, stand firm and true.

If we want to get to heaven, we must keep fighting the fight. Just don't give back one bit. Keep your head up and ponder the path of your feet. Make every step sure.

I sure praise God for giving me a good wife. She is a wonderful partner in the Gospel. She is a great help and encouragement to me. Remember us in prayer.

May God bless every one. Do be true.

We are your brother and sister in the Lord,

Brother and Sister John Wilson

o—o—o—o—o—o

Minneapolis, Minn.—Dear saints, Here is a testimony from old Bro. Stephenson with some good things from the precious old Book! I take pleasure in sending you greetings in the name of our loving Lord and Savior who said, "I counsel thee to buy of me, gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich." We have this treasure in earthen vessels. Oh, I am so glad I am rich. All of God's true believing children are rich. Our blessed loving Lord is the richest treasure any one can have. I would rather have Jesus than to have all the world with Him left out. When I am happy, hear me sing. Give me Jesus. You may have all this world, but give me Jesus. "Fade, each earthly joy; Jesus is mine. Break every tender tie; Jesus is mine. Dark is the wilderness. Earth has no resting place. Jesus alone can bless. Jesus is mine. Tempt not my soul away. Jesus is mine. Here would I ever stay. Jesus is mine. Perishing things of clay, born for but one brief day, pass from my heart away. Jesus is mine." Yes, Jesus is my priceless treasure. I care little for all else. Jesus is the bread of life; He is the light of the world; He is the way, and He is the bright and morning Star. He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul. He's my Savior and my Sanctifier; He is my great Physician; He is my constant Com-

panion; and He is my very best friend. "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, sweetest name I know." Jesus was rich, but He became poor that we through His poverty might be rich. Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out. "Oh, the unsearchable riches of Christ. Who can their glory declare? Riches exhaustless of mercy and grace, pearls that the poorest may wear." Oh, what a miraculous change takes place when Christ comes into the poor sinner's heart. The precious old Book says he is a new creature.

"And unto the Church in Smyrna write: These things saith the first and the last, which was dead and is alive: I know thy works and tribulation and poverty, BUT THOU ART RICH." Glory to God! Oh, I am so glad that I am one of God's little rich ones. "A mansion is waiting in glory; my Savior has gone to prepare. The ransomed who shine in its beauty will dwell in that city so fair. Oh home above, I'm going to dwell in that home. Oh, home of love. Get ready poor sinner and come."

This is Wednesday morning the 8th and I am so glad that I am ready to move upstairs any time the good Master opens the door. Yes, I am waiting; I am watching and I am praying—earnestly praying for all of God's precious little flocks in their different geographical locations. They are all ONE. There is no division in the Church. When we pray for all the saints, that includes all these little flocks and all the isolated saints. I am so glad that I love all my good brothers and sisters in the Lord with a pure heart—fervently. I know I have passed from death unto life, because I love all the dear saints. All of them are precious to me. When I think of all these wonderful blessings I am enjoying, I sing with a glad heart. "Jesus paid it all. All to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain; He washed it white as snow." All I am or ever expect to be I owe to Jesus who loved me and washed me from my sins in His own precious blood. We have the best of it from every standpoint.

We know that all things work together for good to them that love God; to them who are the called according to His purpose. Praise God! We are following our Captain who never lost a battle. We are marching on to certain victory. Amen!

The Lord is pouring out His blessings on His precious little flock here in Minneapolis. They have been faithful and God is rewarding them for their faithfulness.

I will bring my testimony to a close now by wishing every one of you the very best that God has for you. God bless every one of you.

Your blood-washed brother in the one body—who is set for the defence of the Gospel.

George W. Stephenson

o—o—o—o—o—o

Merrill, Michigan—My dear Brother in Christ,—Greetings. I am glad to report victory through the blood of the Lamb. That is the only way we can have victory. Praise God. I am glad to be born again; purified, made white by Jesus' blood. We are knit together in love; no stitches are dropped to cause it to ravel out. We mean to go through on the Bible line, by the power of God.

God has a way which means a straight walk before everyone. "And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed." Heb. 12:13. May God bless you all. We would be glad to hear more from the saints as we are deprived of meetings.

Your brother, W. T. S. Maurer

Young People's Section

For Christmas Day

Hark! how all the welkin rings
'Glory to the King of kings!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
Universal nature say,
'Christ the Lord is born to-day!'

Christ, by highest Heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb!

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail, th' incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to appear,
Jesus, our Immanuel here!

Hail! the heavenly Prince of Peace!
Hail! the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

Come, Desire of Nations, come,
Fix in us Thy humble home!
Rise, the Woman's conquering Seed,
Bruise in us the Serpent's head!

Now display Thy saving power,
Ruined nature now restore,
Now in mystic union join
Thine to ours, and ours to Thine!

Adam's likeness, Lord, efface;
Stamp Thy image in its place;
Second Adam from above,
Reinstate us in Thy love!

Let us Thee, though lost, regain,
Thee, the Life, the Inner Man:
O! to all Thyself impart,
Formed in each believing heart!

—Charles Wesley

Editorials

Time rolls on, and again we approach the anniversary of Christ's birth—an event that was promised at the time God drove Adam and Eve from the gar-

den of Eden. God said that the seed of the woman (Christ) would bruise the serpent's (devil) head. The prophets through divine inspiration foretold that Christ should be born as a Savior, King, and Governor of his people. The angel told Joseph, "Thou shalt call his name Jesus [Saviour]: for he shall save his people from their sins." The first Adam through his transgression of God's law, plunged mankind into sin, but thank God, the second Adam, which is Christ, lifts man out of sin and again makes him a partaker of His divine nature.

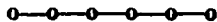
Christ was born in Bethlehem, the city of David, according to the prophecies. The angel said to Mary of Jesus, "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." This promise has been and is being completely fulfilled. Christ is now reigning on David's throne, as King of kings and Lord of lords. The fact that it is an everlasting kingdom precludes any possibility of it being an earthly kingdom, but rather indicates positively that it is a divine, spiritual kingdom brought into existence through the new birth and Christ's blood atonement for sin. We are all the children of Abraham and subjects in the kingdom of David by faith in Christ, "for he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly, but he is a Jew, which is one inwardly, and circumcision is that of the heart." Rom. 2:28, 29.

Zacharias prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, and hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; as he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: that we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; to perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; the oath which he sware to our father Abraham, that he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life." This was the exact purpose of Christ's coming. Has his purpose been fulfilled in your life? "Look unto me [Christ] and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth." Isa. 45:22.

Christ came in such a lowly, humble way that there was no room for Him, either in the inn or in the hearts of the people in general. The cultured, the educated, the rulers, the priests and scribes did not recognize Him as the promised Messiah. It was left to the lowly shepherds on the Judean hills to receive the first heavenly announcement, and they responded and rejoiced at his birth. This came true as Mary said, "He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away." Luke 1:53.

Thank the Lord, the star of Bethlehem still shines in a world dark with skepticism and unbelief, to guide hungry hearts to the fount of cleansing for sin. The angelic song still rings out, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men," even though the world does not now know the realities of peace. God's people have peace within and without. They are peacemakers—not war-makers.

The Prince of Peace still lives, though perhaps an utter stranger to the troubled world today. No permanent, lasting peace of any description can be attained without the Prince of Peace reigning in the hearts of men. Do you have room for Him?



Bro. Hyrum Ray, formerly of the C. P. S. camp at Denison, Iowa, was at home at Guthrie on a furlough prior to his transfer to the C. P. S. camp at Colorado Springs, Colorado. He is scheduled to report to this camp on November 19.

Bro. Noel Anderson of the army medical corps spent a few days here at home before reporting back to Camp Barkley, Texas for further training. This was his first furlough home since his induction last spring.

Bro. Paul Wyatt of the army medical corps has been for many months in the Southwest Pacific, and is still there working in the hospitals, and also doing some work for the Lord among the patients.

—L. D. Pruitt

Be Thou Faithful

"Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life." "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." Matt. 24:13.

In order to become a new creature in Christ, one must repent of his sins and forsake them. To forsake doesn't mean to look back with a wistful eye, but it means to leave behind as something not wanted. It is no longer of any value and the owner has cast it away.

A good way to make a gulf between you and God is to look back. "No man, having put his hand to the plow and looking back is fit for the Kingdom of God." Luke 7:62. "But if any man draw back my soul will have no pleasure in him." Heb. 10:38.

Today much of this is taking place. Many are saying, "This is a hard saying; who can hear it?" Will you also go away? God help us to be faithful; to prove ourselves vessels meet for the Master's use. Only the faithful and true will hear those sweet words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

In the 66th chapter of Isa., we hear the prophet saying after seeing the vision of God on His Throne, "Woe is me! for I am undone because I am a man of unclean lips." But after receiving the coal to his lips he says, "Here am I, send me."

Are you with all iniquity taken away and your sin purged, crying from a pure heart, "Here am I, send me"? Some one says, "There's not much I can do." Ah, have you asked to be sent? Surely if there

is a pure heart and a willing mind, God will give you something to do. Be faithful over the smaller things which are committed into your trust, then comes the larger.

God's Spirit is made to rejoice when he can point out a man and say, "That's my faithful servant." With ease he could ask Satan, "Hast thou considered my servant Job?" He knew Job's heart; knew it was perfect and upright, knew He could trust him to the utmost. And after undergoing all the severe trials, Job said of the Lord, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in Him." Can anyone be more faithful? For Job there was no turning point.

Dear soul, if you are to succeed, if you are to fight the good fight of faith and win the goal, neither is there a turning point for you. Onward and upward is the saints' cry which leaves no room for those who look back. The coward is not found there. May God help us.

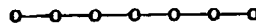
—Myrtle Grice

CORRESPONDENCE

Manifest, La.—Dear Brother and Sister Pruitt and all the saints scattered abroad,—Greetings in Jesus' name. I am still praising the Lord that one time I told Him I would follow Him. He said the birds of the air have nests and the foxes have holes, but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head. I said that I could bear all this if I could only know and serve the dear Lord. This morning I am saved, sanctified, and satisfied and the joys of salvation are bubbling up in my soul. I do thank the Lord for our meetings every Wednesday and Saturday nights. Even though there be just a few, we are not in discord. The Word tells in Nehemiah 4:6, "So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work." But there was plenty of opposition. There is always opposition. There is always opposition when we start to build the wall of Zion and restore the old paths and bring back the old landmarks and dig out the old rubbish. We will always find those around who resist on every hand. Thank God, there is something about the true children of God that causes them to triumph over all obstacles. We find in James 1:22, "But be ye doers of the word and not hearers only."

We hear some complaining about persecutions. If I didn't have persecutions I would go back to the altar, for I wouldn't think I was living the life that Jesus would have me to. They did everything they could to our Lord, even nailed Him to the cross and then buried Him. But thank the Lord, they couldn't keep Him buried. I want to live in this life so when I am through this life and my troubles are all over, I can enter the gates of heaven. I desire the prayers of all the saints that I may live true and humble at Jesus' feet.

A sister in Christ, Mrs. A. A. Wyles



St. James, Mo.—Dear Readers,—Here are a few reasons why I belong to the Church of God: Because it has a sure foundation; it is the body of Christ; He is the head; He is the door; Christ sets the members in the body as it pleases Him; salvation is the mode of membership; the records are kept in heaven; there are no sinners in God's Church; it takes the name of the Father; it is a blood-washed Church; it is the only true Church.

—Mrs. Roy Pruett

Neelyville, Mo.—Dear Brother and Sister Pruitt,—Greetings to you all in the name of the Lord Jesus. May the Lord bless you at the print shop. We have thought of you many times since we were at the campmeeting at Monark Springs.

The Lord has blessed us wonderfully since we were out there. We had about nine hundred bales of hay cut. One morning when we woke up it was thundering heavily and looked as though it were going to rain. I asked the Lord to send the cloud around to someone else who needed it. He did! Our hay didn't get wet but as soon as we got it in the barn, a big rain came. We have promised the Lord one-tenth of the money out of the hay we sell. I think we shall have about two hundred bales to sell. We also promised the Lord one-tenth of what we made picking cotton. We went down south and stayed three weeks. The Lord blessed us with good weather and good health and we made four hundred dollars. We had ten dollars we had saved out of our timber we had sold so that made us fifty dollars we had saved for the Lord. We asked the Lord to show us where to use the money and when we got back home and received our "Faith and Victory" paper we found that the Lord's print shop needed some money.

May the Lord bless you all. Remember us in your prayers.

Yours in Christ, Edward and Stella Atnip

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

Alameda, California—Dear Saints everywhere,—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. He is a present help in time of need.

Time and again the Lord has healed me and I have never gone out of my way to tell anyone. My baby took what is known as infantigo, which is festered, angry sores all over the body. I asked for healing with faith several times and could not see any improvement. Soon I realized that I was hardly being fair, so I promised the Great Physician if He would and could see fit to heal my baby, I would tell all I could. He has healed him completely even though he still has three little scales on him. The poison is gone forever, because I know the Lord doesn't do things half-way.

Our baby had the whooping cough when he was only five months old and my brother threatened me with the police. I took my baby to the doctor but told my brother I would never give him medicine if the police did take him away from me. The doctor said it was too late to start doctoring for whooping cough and the baby would be all right. The Lord took control.

Saints, hold true to God no matter how bitter the trials because we are perfectly helpless without Him. Pray earnestly for my unsaved husband.

Your sister in Christ, Goldie Whitley

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

Dear Brother and Sister Pruitt and Co-workers,—Greetings in the name of our dear Lord. We, the saints at Newport News, Virginia, enjoy reading and giving out the "Faith and Victory" paper, tracts, and booklets so much that we can't be without them. We are few in number but God blesses and we have a good time in the service of God! We are free from all organization of any kind. Heaven is our headquarters. We love the words of "The Church Jubilee" because they tell us so beautifully what we stand for.

The light of even-tide now shines the darkness to dispel, The glories of fair Zion state ten thousand voices tell; or out of Babel God doth call His scattered saints in one, Together all one Church compose, the body of His Son.

The Bible is our rule of faith and Christ alone is Lord, For we are equal in His sight when we obey His word; No earthly master do we know, to man rule will not bow, But to each other and to God eternal truthness vow. The day of sects and creeds for us forevermore is past, Our brotherhood are the saints in all the world so vast: We reach our hand in fellowship to every blood-washed one,

While love entwines about each heart in which God's will is done.

Oh, blessed truth that broke our bands! In it we now rejoice,

While in the holy Church of God we hear our Savior's voice;

And gladly to His blessed will submissive we shall be.

And from the yokes of Babel's torments from henceforth we are free."

Praise God. We are led by the Spirit of God and it witnesses to us that the Lord's print shop is also being operated as God's Spirit leads His dear saints there. We desire to help in a small way.

Up to March, 1944, we held services in a store building located at 1153-27th Street, Newport News, Virginia. At that time the building was purchased by an organization operated under the name of Church of God. Due to scarcity of available property to rent and not able to buy, we decided to accept Brother Harry M. Covert's (our pastor) offer to use a garage located on the property he rents at 535-33rd. Street. He covered the walls with plaster board, wired, and floored it, and we have enjoyed service in it ever since. Because of our location our many friends have lost contact with us. We would so much enjoy having them with us again. Our address is "Reformation-Church of God" 535-33rd. Street, Newport News, Virginia. Dial 2-2737 or 2-4940 for any information. We will appreciate it so much. Our pastor is a dear consecrated saint. He works every day and gives time and services free of charge and will not accept free-will offering only as can be used to God's glory. He prefers to use God's free-will offerings for the Church needs and literature to distribute and to save to buy a humble place to worship in, located where we can accomplish the most good for the upbuilding of God's kingdom.

Pray for us.

Your humble sister, Gladys Weiss

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

Oklmulgee, Oklahoma—Dear Saints,—My wife and I send greetings to you. We are praising God because He keeps us saved and encouraged to live for Him. He takes very good care of us, too.

I had a stroke in 1940, and a nervous breakdown and high blood pressure in 1942. My blood pressure has been so high, it caused me to be helpless, speechless, blind, and unconscious. I had been unconscious for a month; nevertheless God has raised me up. We have not taken a dose of medicine since the year 1930.

I now see, walk, and praise our God "from whom all blessings flow." Titus 2:11, 14. 1 ph. 3:20, 21.

Yours pressing forward till He comes,

Brother and Sister L. L. Jackson

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

Orland, California—Dear Brother and Sister Pruitt and all the saints of God,—I feel like the Lord wants me to tell how wonderful He has been to me. If it were not for Him, I just don't know what I would do. I want to tell how the dear Lord took care of my boy. He was on one of those boats that take the marines and soldiers to the beaches. He was in the big battle at Saipan and came out without

getting hurt. Then we got a letter one day and the next day we got a telegram saying that he was in California. He came home and stayed two weeks. Oh, I know God is the only one to thank and the dear ones of God who were praying. He is going in dangerous places now to land the soldiers and will be gone across in a short time. Please keep on praying for him that God will take care of him and bring him back. We almost know my brother's son is in the Philippine battles. My husband's sister's boy has been in prison in Japan for a long time. Pray for their safety.

Oh, if people would only trust the Lord and pray for their dear boys. I fully believe my boy is coming back. I have all my faith in God, not in man.

The Lord has been such help to me in my breathing. He touched my body in campmeeting and I give Him all the praise. You keep right on in the good work and I know God will reward you. It means so much to know you all are right with God. Pray for me and my family. We still need some one to preach for us. Pray that God will do what He sees best for us.

Your sister, Mrs. Ada Leach

OO—OO—OO—OO—OO

Poplar Bluff, Mo.—Dear Ones at the office,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I thank you for your kindness. I like the "Faith and Victory" paper and I especially like to read the good testimonies. Please pray for me that I may be faithful to God and be the means of poor, lost souls turning to the Lord. I have a husband and children who are unsaved. One son is in service. Pray that the dear Lord will save them all before it is too late.

May God bless His people and save all who desire to come.

Yours in Jesus, Minnie L. Atnip

O—O—O—O—O—O

Sulphur Springs, Texas—Dear saints and all the helpers in God's work,—May God bless you in sending forth the Word. It is wonderful and much needed in this sinful world today. So many souls need the Word and won't take time to read the Bible. It may help some by having it printed for them. Thank the Lord, it helped me to read the literature. I will do all I can to spread His blessed Word to others. Praise His name. I want to go all the way with Him. At one time, I did not know the Lord. I am sorry I waited so long to serve Him. I was professing to be saved and just going along in sin. I am eighty-five years old. It was so good of the Lord to let me live till I knew Him. I thank Him for it.

Yours in Christ, Alice Jones

O—O—O—O—O—O

Whittier, California—To all the dear Saints and readers of "Faith and Victory",—My wife and I are saved and rejoicing in the Lord for all He does for us. He has surely been a present help to us in every time of need.

We feel it would be to the glory of God to leave our testimony with you.

We have a granddaughter about two months old who was born with a large soft lump on the side of her head. It covered almost half of the top of the baby's head and was raised about an inch high. The doctor said it was caused from the bone not growing over that part of her head and that the brain was just under the skin. He said the bone would grow over that place and the lump would leave but it would take a long time. My wife and I got under the burden for it, and we fasted and prayed one day and the burden left us. We had the witness that the Lord had answered prayer. My wife called the mother of the baby the next morning and inquired about the baby. She

said the lump was entirely gone; it had left over night. We went out to see them the next morning. The baby's head was round and perfect, not a symptom of the lump left.

We certainly give God all the praise and thank Him from the depth of our hearts. God has done much wonderful healing in our home since we have put all our trust in Him.

In St. John 15:7, He said—"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." Dear ones, it pays us to have faith in God and commit every thing to Him and take our burdens to Him in prayer.

We pray God's blessings upon all the readers of "Faith and Victory."

Your brother in Christ, S. L. Fingerle

O—O—O—O—O—O

Richmond, Virginia—Dear Brother and Sister Pruitt,—In the precious name of Jesus, I will try by the help of the dear Lord to write my testimony. I praise the dear Lord for victory in my soul.

I have gone through some hard trials in the last year, but the precious Lord is faithful and kind. He keeps me above the things of this world. I'm so glad I can trust Him for everything I need. I can truly say, when I'm sad, He makes me happy and when I'm sick He makes me well. I ask all the dear saints to pray for me.

Your sister in the dear Lord, Laura Powell

O—O—O—O—O—O

San Francisco, California—Dear Saints,—Greetings to all. I am happy to say that I am rejoicing in Jesus' dear name. I am now making my home with my daughter in San Francisco. We are trying to do missionary work here in this wicked city. Our aim is for the souls of men to see the kingdom of God. If there are any saints in this city, we would love to meet with you.

Your brother in Christ, J. M. Allensworth

2046 Quesada Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

O—O—O—O—O—O

Stanley, Wisconsin—To all the saints everywhere,—I love to read the testimonies of the other saints and I would like to give my testimony for their encouragement. I have been saved for over six and a half years, but spent my time and effort in unhappy sectarian bondage. The Lord talked to me all the time and told me to get out but I stayed on because there is a sense of security in bondage. I had one nervous breakdown caused from a combination of school work, home work, and an unreasonable schedule of church work. When my health picked up, back I went and slaved for my sect idol. Within a year and a half, I was on the verge of another breakdown. With a frantic effort I made the decision to leave the sect idol in accordance with Rev. 18:4, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

The blessings have simply poured since then. Recently I made a complete consecration of my life to Him. On October 22, the anniversary of our escape from sectism, we spent a very happy day with Brother Stephen and the saints in Minneapolis.

November 6, Jesus sanctified me wholly for which give Him the praise and honor and glory.

May the Lord bless every one of you is my prayer and may we all learn more of what it means to just take God at His word.

Your sister in Christ, Esther Adams

Atwood, Kansas—Dear Saints,—Greetings to you in Jesus' name. The Lord is leading me today to write a testimony in your little paper and trust it will be for the glory of God.

I was afflicted for three years with cancer. I had had four operations when they finally told me at the hospital nothing more could be done. I had been drifting along all my life. I was unsaved and living for the pleasures of the world. When the doctors told me that at the hospital, I began seeking for help from God—and praise His holy name I did not seek in vain. He came in to my heart and I began to believe He would heal me. A few weeks later, Brother Darius Gibson and Brother Willie Murphey held meeting here and the Lord saved and sanctified me. Praise God for His wonderful saving and healing power. Later, at the Monark Springs campmeeting the ministers prayed the prayer of faith for me and I believe God has healed me for I am holding to God's unchanging hand and I am walking by faith.

A short time ago I was suffering with pains in my side and arm. I couldn't seem to get the victory over it. I sent in a request for prayer and praise our dear Lord I was soon much better. I praise the Lord again and again for the prayers of you dear saints sent to heaven in my behalf and may the Lord put His blessings on you.

I have much to thank God for. I know He will save us from our sins and heal our bodies when we are sick if we diligently seek Him. Pray for me that I will keep the victory and that I will always stay true to our blessed Lord.

Your sister in Christ, Margaret Casey

BIBLE STUDY

Order Sunday School supplies about two weeks before the 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 Genevieve Capps, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie.

WORLD-WIDE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, December 3, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations

November 27 to December 2.

- M. All one in Christ John 17:18-23.
- T. Greetings to all the saints 1 Cor. 1:1-3.
- W. One body in Christ 1 Cor. 12:4-7, 12, 13.
- T. The Messiah's mission Isa. 42:1-7.
- F. All need salvation Rom. 3:21-23, 29, 30.
- S. The new bond of fellowship Gal. 5:1-6.

Printed Portion John 17:18-23; 1 Cor. 1:1-3; 12:4-7, 12, 13.

John 17:18. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

19. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

20. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

21. That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

22. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

23. I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou

hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

1 Cor. 1:1. Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,

2. Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

3. Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

12:4. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

6. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

7. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

12. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

13. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Golden Text: "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one." John 17:20, 21.

Practical Truth: Fellowship between Christians is caused by the heavenly life which they possess in their souls, and continues as they walk in the light of the Word.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Jesus spent much time in prayer. In the sixth chapter of Matthew is an example of prayer which he gave to his disciples and told them to pray in that manner (He did not tell them to use those words.); but this prayer in the seventeenth chapter of St. John is the only prayer of any length recorded in the Bible in which He poured out the burden of his heart. Enough of it is used in today's lesson to enable us to understand the burden of His prayer.

The Father had sent Him into the world to do His will and make known the thoughts of God toward fallen humanity. For this same purpose Jesus sends his disciples into the world. Notice verses 18 and 20 when discussing this thought.

There are two Biblical meanings of the word "sanctify." It means to consecrate or set apart for sacred use; and it means to make sacred or holy, to cleanse or purify.

The Word of God tells us how a group of people was purified: "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." Acts. 15:8, 9. In this same manner all are sanctified. This was made possible for us because Jesus sanctified himself, or set himself apart to do the will of God even unto death. He went away that He might send the Comforter (Holy Ghost) who is the sanctifier. (Read John 14:15-26). The Holy Spirit binds God's people together with cords of love, and only when He dwells in hearts can there be unity for which Jesus prayed. Carnality in hearts is the cause of all division and denominationalism. The denominational world is trying to imitate this by conventions and confederations; but man's ways are not God's ways. They can form unions but unless the Holy Spirit makes them one they can never have the unity for which Jesus prayed.

When believers consecrate to the Lord to be used for His sacred use, He sends the Holy Spirit to live in their

hearts, who purifies them and bestows spiritual gifts upon them: such as, the gift of preaching, teaching, working of miracles, etc. These people, working in their God-given places as the Spirit directs, compose the body of Christ, His bride, the church of God, which is the only church God recognizes.

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CHRIST IN THE HOME

Sunday, December 10, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations

December 4 to 9.

- M. God's plan for the home Matt. 19:4-6.
- T. The home in Bethany Luke 10:38-42.
- W. The home of Timothy 2 Tim. 1:3-6.
- T. Advice about marriage 1 Cor. 7:10-16, 39.
- F. Marriage a symbol Eph. 5:22-32.
- S. Parents and children Eph. 6:1-4.

Printed PortionMatthew 19:4-6; Luke 10:38-42;
2 Timothy 1:3-6.

Matt. 19:4. And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

5. And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

6. Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Luke 10:38. Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

39. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

40. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

41. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

42. But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

2 Tim. 1:3. I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;

4. Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy;

5. When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

6. Wherefore I put thee in remembrance, that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

Golden Text: "These things I command you, that ye love one another." John 15:17.

Practical Truth: To make one's home truly Christian is an achievement worth much effort and prayer.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Marriage is an institution established by God, and it is exceedingly sinful to esteem it lightly as does the modern world. If all of God's laws concerning it were obeyed, this would be a far different world. Space will not permit a written discussion of these laws, but such a

discussion would be profitable for the class. Look at scriptures concerning it. God has given us much instruction concerning it. Also, there are many good books on the subject, written by people who know whereof they speak. The Spirit of God is the best Instructor for those who desire to marry or for those who desire a happy home after they are married. The Spirit of God will always agree with the word of God. Many blasphemers have entered into unscriptural marriages and excused themselves by saying, "The Holy Ghost married us." Some who have failed to obey God's laws after they were married, whose marriage seems to have been a failure, decide themselves that God did not join them together and this is all right for them to separate. Those who choose to enter into that relation and vow before God and each other to be true until death parts them, are joined by God, and a separation is contrary to His will.

Mary and Martha had a home where Christ was welcome. Often we see mottoes in homes, "God Bless Our Home;" but God cannot bless it because the members of the home keep Him closed out of their hearts and lives. When Martha was troubled because Mary did not help her, Jesus was the peacemaker. If you allow Jesus to be constantly in your home He will keep peace there, and sometimes when you feel like nagging your companion because you feel like he (or she) is not doing his part, Jesus may show you some of your own failings.

In the last part of our lesson, we learn a little of the value of a godly home, and the influence it will have upon children and grandchildren. The kind of training children receive at home and the examples set before them have great influence upon their lives. Since this is true, what can we expect of the children of the cigarette-smoking, booze-drinking, adulterous mothers and grandmothers today? It is a deplorable fact that to a great extent these unclean practices have taken the place of "unfeigned faith."

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CHRISTIAN LIVING AT ITS BEST

Sunday, December 17, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations

December 11 to 16.

- M. Christian love 1 John 4:7-11.
- T. Love made perfect 1 John 4:12-21.
- W. Putting Christ first Luke 9:57-62.
- T. The Christian's lofty calling Col. 3:1-4.
- F. Christianity a new life Col. 3:5-15.
- S. The Christian's daily walk Eph. 5:6-17.

Printed PortionGalatians 5:22-26; 6:1-

Gal. 5:22. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23. Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

24. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

25. If we live in the Spirit let us also walk in the Spirit.

26. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

6:1. Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

2. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

3. For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

4. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have his reward from the Father.

shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

5. For every man shall bear his own burden.

6. Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

7. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

8. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

9. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

10. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Golden Text: "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Gal. 5:25.

Practical Truth: The constant help of the Spirit is necessary if we are to live at our best.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

A Christian life is a Spirit-controlled life, and Christ accepts nothing but our best. Some live below their Christian privileges, it is true, but it is through ignorance; for failure to live to all the understanding we have of the will of God for us would result in sin, and the soul that sinneth shall die.

The "fruit of the Spirit" is that which the Spirit produces in a life. Under normal conditions, an apple tree which is old enough and alive will naturally bear apples. Even so, a person in whom the Spirit of God dwells, naturally bears the fruit of the Spirit. In the case of the tree, it is not the apples that need cultivation and care. The ground in which the tree lives needs cultivation and the tree needs the care. Life must be kept in the tree and it will bear fruit. We must keep our hearts cultivated and soft for the Spirit to abide and grow, and see to it that the Spirit gets plenty of care and attention, then we shall bear the fruits of the Spirit. It would be of no profit to tie apples on a dead tree or on a lemon tree. Neither is it profitable for people to try to put love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, etc. in their outward actions to deceive someone into thinking they are true Christians. God delights in one only when these fruits come from the heart.

The second part of our lesson mentions several duties of Spirit-filled Christians: They are to help bear burdens of others who seem to have more than they can bear. There are burdens in the Christian life which the Lord wants us to share only with Him, but others are of such a nature that we need the help of fellow Christians. They are to teach others things which they have learned that would benefit others in the Christian life. They are to press on to the end and never give up. And they are to do good unto all men, especially to other Christians.

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THE GROUND OF UNIVERSAL JOY

Sunday, December 24, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations

December 18 to 23.

M. The Saviour born Luke 2:8-12.

T. God revealed in Christ Heb. 1:1-4.

W. Joy in knowing Christ 1 John 1:1-4.

T. Joy in God's strength Psalms 71:17-24.

F. Joy in God's house Psalms 132:1-10.

S. The wise men rejoice Matt. 2:1-10.

Printed Portion Luke 2:8-12; Hebrews 1:1-4;
1 John 1:1-4.

Luke 2:8. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10. And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Heb. 1:1. God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2. Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3. Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.

4. Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

1 John 1:1. That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

2. (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

3. That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

4. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

Golden Text: "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people." Luke 2:10.

Practical Truth: The coming of Christ into the world is an adequate ground for universal joy.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Away back in the beginning a Saviour was promised. Many looked forward by faith for the time to come, so our lesson today tells of the birth of the holy child Jesus. The day is called "Christ-mas."

In olden times when a son was born in a royal family, bells rang and a day of rejoicing and celebration was had by all the people. Now, when Jesus, the king of the Jews, was born, his mother, Mary, had to lay him in a manger. No bells tolled, and there was no stir among the throng; but God took note and the angels sang "Peace on earth good will toward men." Now, after years and years, we can still have that song ringing in our hearts.

The wise men came with gifts. Ever since, people have been giving gifts to each other—but not many give gifts to Jesus, whose birthday we celebrate. Jesus came to help the needy and encourage the broken hearts. The Lord would get more glory if people would serve the God heaven and help those in need instead of giving gift those who do not need them—and some spend money

foolish things; some even get drunk and revel in sin, when Jesus came to seek us and save us from sin. We should look about us for someone whom we can help. The Bible says, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." We should be careful that we give our gifts as unto the Lord.

Heb. 1:1-4: In Moses' time God talked to people. In Numbers we read how God in a pillar of cloud called Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, and said, "Hear my words." He talked to many other prophets too. Today he talks to us by the Holy Spirit. We are to live where we can hear the voice of God. When Jesus was here, God the Father, said, "This is my beloved Son, hear ye him." People are so far from God not many can hear his voice. The closer we are to anyone who is talking, the easier it is to hear them. So we, as Christians, should strive to stay close where we can hear the voice of God and obey it.

1 John 1:1-4: John here told how the disciples had seen Jesus with their eyes and had handled the Word of God, bearing witness that Jesus came into the world and through Him we might have eternal life. When we accept Him, we have fellowship with Jesus and all the saints.

—Catherine Simpson

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THE BASIS OF COURAGE FOR THE FUTURE

Sunday, December 31, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations

December 25 to 30

- M. Built on the rock Matt. 16:13-20.
- T. Growing in grace 2 Peter 3:14-18.
- W. "We shall be like him." 1 John 3:1-6.
- T. Growing up in Christ Eph. 4:11-16.
- F. Changed by the Spirit 2 Cor. 3:7-9, 17, 18.
- S. Sealed unto redemption Eph. 1:3-13.

Printed PortionMatthew 16:13-20; 2 Peter 3:14-18; 1 John 3:1-3.

Matt. 16:13. When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

14. And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

15. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

16. And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

17. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon, Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

18. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

19. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

20. Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

2 Peter 3:14. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

15. And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

16. As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

17. Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

18. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

1 John 3:1. Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God; therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

3. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Golden Text: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Cor. 15:58.

Practical Truth: We may have courage for the future because of what Christ is and of the promises he has made.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Many believe that Christianity has been a failure and that Christ and his church has been defeated. Dark indeed is the future outlook for such people. God's servants who are lively stones in the church which Christ built, know assuredly that this is not true; and they have firm basis of courage for the future in spite of the rising tide of atheism, paganism, Nazism and all the other isms that are causing havoc in the religious world. It is foolish to talk about the church being in danger, for Christ said, "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Man may rage and oppose himself; but who is it that is able to fight against the God of heaven and prevail? What He has spoken shall come to pass.

Man, looking at the religious world during the dark ages or the days of the supremacy of Catholicism, would have thought the true church, which is composed of blood-washed, born-again people, was defeated; but God, who rules over all, was nourishing it in the "wilderness," and brought it out again in His own time. The fact that it was hid from the eyes of man for a season and then brought out again, only proves that "the gates of hell shall not prevail." Christ did not say that the gates of hell would not open wide to swallow it, if possible; but he did say they would not prevail.

Storms of persecution have howled, frosts of unbelief have chilled, and fogs of error have settled over the religious world; but the church is not overthrown, and a knowledge of truth necessary to salvation is still in the earth. As one poet has said:

"Truth crushed to earth shall rise again,
The eternal years of God are hers;
But error wounded writhes in pain
And dies among his worshippers."

The gospel truths are the keys to the kingdom of heaven. These were entrusted to Peter and the other apostles, and to Holy-Spirit-filled ministers since their day. Peter used the keys on the Day of Pentecost and 3,000 souls were admitted into the kingdom. The gospel binds or frees people as they accept or reject.

The knowledge that Christ has power to care for those who have become sons of God through faith in Him will soon come after them to take them to a better place should cause them to be diligent and steadfast in the faith in spite of prevalent unbelief and wickedness among others: