

FAITH AND VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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The Christ Is Born

All hail the dawning of the morning light,
In the East the Super Star has shone.
The face of sages once taut and trite
Has been relieved since the Christ is born.

The shepherds watching o'er their feeding flocks
On Judean hills near Bethlehem
Received the message on that star-lit night
That in a manger the Christ was born.

Hastening to Bethlehem, they found the babe
In a manger, as the angel said.
With joy of heart they spread abroad the news,
In Bethlehem Juda, Christ is born.

Wise men directed by the eastern star
To Jerusalem came, the child to find,
But farther still they were told to go
To Bethlehem, there the Christ is born.

Righteousness and peace have kissed each other,
Mercy and Truth have joined hand and hand.
Bear the message each one to his brother
Of good will and peace throughout the land.

For every one who has searched and found him,
This wonderful Christ of Bethlehem,
Has found the peace that passeth understanding,
For in their heart the Christ is born.

—Ulysses Phillips.

—oOo—

We Are Saved By His Life

In Ephesians 2:8 it is written: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."

In this verse three essential truths are set forth. First, that man is saved by grace, or the unmerited favor of God. Second, it is not any of man's own good works that saves him. Third, that it is wholly the gift of God. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever be-

lieveth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. Man's part is to confess his sins, forsake them, and believe in the gift of His dear Son. To believe in his Son means more than head and tongue belief.

Let us read Proverbs 28:13, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy"; and Romans 10:9: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in *thine* heart that God has raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

The above Scriptures plainly teach us how to get saved. The seventh chapter of Second Corinthians tells us what to do in order to keep salvation and retain the Gift in our souls; for in Hebrews 2:3 we read, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" Many neglect to get salvation, and many more neglect salvation after receiving it, by allowing unbelief to enter in.

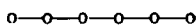
Let us read Ezekiel 36:26, "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh and I will give you an heart of flesh [a tender heart]. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them." Thus spoke the prophet Ezekiel of the Lord who was to come and deliver man from his sins.

In the first chapter of 2nd Peter are some good instructions on how to retain the life of Christ in the soul and thus keep saved: "And besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." The last part of the tenth verse reads: "For if ye do these things ye shall never fall." If we continue to believe in the Lord, all these good things will be manifested in our lives; not that we are saved by works, but the Spirit of Christ in us will bring about good works as we continually yield ourselves into his hands. In Philippians 2:13 we read:

"For it is God that worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

In the tenth chapter of 1 Cor. we read where Paul is warning and exhorting the brethren to be diligent in yielding to the Lord and humbly bearing the reproach of the cross. He tells them how our forefathers were under the cloud and all passed through the sea and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They ate the same spiritual meat, drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. He said that God was not well pleased with many of them, and overthrew them in the wilderness. He says these are examples for us that we should not lust after evil things as they did. We are neither to be idolaters nor commit fornication. He warns us that three and twenty thousand of them fell in one day. We are not to tempt Christ or murmur and be destroyed as they were. "All these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."

Many today are depending upon their good works or what they have done in the past or how God has worked with them and at the present time are neglecting salvation. The Spirit of God will lead you to do many things which pleases him, but at the same time it does not mean that you are saved by them; but in doing them you retain the life of Christ in the soul. It is His life in your soul that saves you and preserves you. You might be baptized with water as the Word commands, yet that would not be anything great, for a sinner could do that. You might partake of the bread and communion cup, but you could not use that as proof that you are saved, for a sinner could do that. You might dress just like a saint ought to dress, but that would not prove that you are saved, for sinners could do that. We could mention many other things that you should do to please God, but you dare not make any of them a test that you are saved, for sinners can do the same things. The only sure way is to keep so yielded to God that His Spirit will continue to live in you and witness to your spirit that you are a child of God. Romans 8:16, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." In Romans 5:10, we read, "For if when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life." Brethren and sisters, we are saved by retaining his life in the soul. "Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall." 1 Cor. 10:12. Paul, speaking of the Israelites, said they were broken off because of unbelief. He said that we stand by faith and for us not to be high minded, but to fear. "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God; on them which fell severity; but toward thee goodness, if thou continue in his goodness; otherwise thou shalt be cut off." —Fred Pruitt.



"Put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes. . ."

Jesus of Nazareth Passeth By

"And they told him that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by." Luke 18:37. To the writer, this passage of Scripture is truly a subject of weighty consideration. Jesus of Nazareth passeth by!! Dear reader, pause and give it more than a passing thought. Does it appeal to you with weight? That was a great event.

The wonderful Son of God, the Saviour of the world was passing by a place where a blind man sat begging. The blind man didn't know it for a little time but when he learned about it, he lost no time in calling for Jesus—and he did this against considerable opposition. People rebuked him and told him to hold his peace, but he cried all the more and got help from Jesus.

This was truly a good example, to call on Jesus while he was passing by. This should be a weighty and solemn exhortation to all the world today (Isa. 55:6). This same Jesus is passing by today, and millions are fast asleep and paying no attention to it whatever. They are perfectly satisfied in their carnal security, not wanting (Jer. 6:16, last part) anything better than their sinful pleasures. This is a sad, sad thought. He is just as truly passing by today as he was then, and He will be out of hearing distance of many (Matt. 25:12) if they do not cry after him now as the blind man did.

The hinderances which came up against the blind he cast out of his way, ignored them, and continued to cry after Jesus and was soon rewarded. There are many hinderances (Luke 12:33, 34) to keep blinded souls from crying for Jesus as he passes by—many more than there were in the blind man's day, and they are increasing every day. It was *people* who opposed the blind man's coming to Jesus; today it is *people* and a *multitude of inventions men have sought out* (Ecc'l. 7:29) that come between Jesus and people blinded in sin.

We all know it is sin that keeps people from calling for Jesus, but we feel like it is not enough that we speak of it abstractly. We propose to point out a number of ways or sins that keep people from calling on Him. Following is a catalog of idols which have become false gods among the people, that keep them from calling for "Jesus of Nazareth as he passeth by." I would like to constantly hold that idea before the mind of the reader, that Jesus is NOW passing by him, and try to encourage him to call upon Him before He is out of hearing.

One god (Ex. 20:3; Deut. 5:7; 6:14) that many are preferring to Jesus is "Too Busy." Multitudes of people are too busy to give Jesus, as he passes by, any consideration at all. They do not stop to think that if He were to forget them one five minutes in a life time they would die; and they don't consider farther, that they would be cast out into outer darkness.

Another very prominent idol is, "Love of the world." We read in 1 John 2:15, "Love not the

world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." It is distressing to a real child of God to see how faithfully this idol is served that is keeping millions from Jesus to their eternal loss.

Another monster idol is "pride." In Prov. 8:13 it is written, "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate." Also, 16:18 says, "Pride goeth before destruction." Some people have mirrors that reach to the floor. With such one can see the whole length of the body when dressing. If a proud person will honestly stand before this mirror and let it take a thorough inventory of him, and at the same time let God talk to him, it will surely humble him and show him how vain he is before God! Bless such a glorious God! It will surely make him feel like wilting down and calling for Jesus of Nazareth as he passes by.

Many people make "fashion" their god, thus turning Jesus aside and get no more out of it than Joash got out of his sickening, false god, Baal, when his son Gideon, a prominent Judge in Israel (B. C. 1240, See Judges chapter 6) tore down his idol and cut down the grove around it (verse 31).

"Money" is another colossal god. 1 Tim. 6:10 says it is the root of all evil. We are not to understand that every evil that is done, is done for money—as some lusts of the flesh, etc.—but that the love for money *does* prompt people to all *kinds* of evil. How sad to think of the multitudes who turn down Jesus as he passes by for their money god! The lives and souls that have been lost on account of this money god is appalling to think about. When we view it in the light of eternity, it is horrible—the theft, the robbery, the murder, the embezzlement, the oppression! (Amos 8:5-8).

Then there is the "business" idol. Many like to be called business men, and are so devoted to their business that they will dream about it and talk about it in their sleep. They would never neglect their business a little while to call on Jesus of Nazareth, the king of heaven, as he passes by. With very few exceptions they are seeking to pile away money to be consumed upon their lusts, only to come up, to face Jas. 5:1-5: "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped together treasure for the last days. Behold, the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter."

Then there is the "car" idol. Truly it is a god much loved and worshipped by thousands who would not give their car for a dozen Christs. Jesus of Nazareth

has already passed by thousands of such and is out of hearing forever. O souls, I pray you take warning! The number of souls going into eternity annually unprepared to meet God is terrible indeed.

"Education" is another monster god, and because of seeking after it many have lost practically all respect for godly principles. It is gliding along with the mustering forces of Armageddon (Rev. 16:16). The righteous principles of the meek and lowly Nazareth that's passing by, longing to put godly substance in her, has little or no bearing on her any more; but money and head training is her intended goal.

"Worldly honor" is another huge slaughter-mill, running at her capacity, stand between Jesus of Nazareth and a multitude of souls. We read in Psa. 49:20, "Man that is in honor, and understandeth not is like the beasts that perish." How pitifully true this is. And this applies to "Reverends" and "D. D's" who receive honor from men. This is robbery of title and honor that belong only to God. Gal. 6:3 says, "For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself." Jesus said (John 5:44) "How can ye believe which receive honor one of another, and seek not the honor that cometh from God only?"

We mention one more soul and body destroying monster that is standing braced between Jesus of Nazareth and an astonishing number of the human family—"liquor." Shame on any civilized nation whose government will sell a right to make it and then punish people for getting drunk on it. Sell a right to make something that will make a man temporarily insane and cause him to abuse, starve, and freeze his wife and children. But we are living in the days when 2 Tim. 3:13 is being fulfilled and it will continue to be thus fulfilled to the end, which is *very near*.

Unless this lost world speedily comes to its knees—of which there is no sign—the Lord is very soon going to finish his promise—which is already in process of fulfillment—that says: "For a short work will the Lord make upon the earth, he will cut it short in righteousness." This "short work" is going rapidly on. The astonishing discoveries and accomplishments of the world; the marvelous inventions; the delving into mysteries for the ages past locked in secrecy; the wonderful things accomplished in surface, aquatic and aerial modes of travel; the immense network of thoroughfare and multitudes of other things unmentionable here, declare plainly that the Lord is fast making this "short work." Dear reader, if you have not yet stopped Jesus of Nazareth as he is now getting well nigh a-past, I pray you will lose no time in following the example of blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:16); and if the foregoing, or any other hindrances are working your eternal loss, call for Jesus of Nazareth to stop with you before he is past and gone! Please take warning, dear reader, the time is very short; the end is right at our door. "For as a snare shall it come on *all* them that dwell on the face of the whole earth" (Lk. 21:35). —J. H. Pierson

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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.

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.

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920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma

The chapel where the church of God meets in Guthrie, Okla. is located on the corner of 6th St. and W. Warner Ave. Regular Sunday services are: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; preaching services, 11 a.m.; young people's meeting, 6 p.m.; and general services, 7:30 p.m. Mid-week service prayer meeting Wednesday, 7:30 p. m. All are welcome.

CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY MEETING NOTICE

The annual assembly meeting of the church of God will be held at the chapel on the corner of Walnut and Naomi Sts., Los Angeles, Calif. beginning Dec. 20 and lasting ten days. All lovers of the truth are invited.

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

Editorials

Since the minister's meeting we are much built up in soul, for we surely sat in a heavenly place in Christ Jesus and gathered in wholesome truth which fed the inner man and brought strength and brighter hopes for the ingathering and forward moving of God's children who are not of the world as He is not of the world. When we noted this lively body of ministers and saw their earnestness and sincerity and fear of God predominating and discerned their tender consciences toward the Lord and the truths of his Word, it caused us to know and deepened our convictions that God is separating his people from all sect divisions and drawing them to himself in such a way as to truly make them a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people: that they should show forth the praise of Him who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9).

The enemy certainly hates to see God's people settled and compacted together in one solid body against the harlot daughters of Babylon and all of her confused and world conforming ways. In his attacks against this body of holy people he will have ministers to teach that the church is mixed up in all this mess of sect confusion, and they often say that the church includes all saved people in all these places. They seem to be blind enough to fail to see the church separate from these worldly religions that have blinded and decoyed some of the sheep into a portion of Babylon's confusion. Those who are in and under the power and influence of "Mystery Babylon the Great" and her harlot daughters are not the church, but just stray sheep that God is calling out and bringing back to the fold, the true church which is separate from worldly religions and damnable heresies. Paul compares the church to the human body. A member separated from the human body could not be termed the body, but would become a dead member and not the body at all. Neither are those who are mixed up in the confusing creeds of men the body of Christ, but are only kept by the mercies of God until they can get light and understanding and come out of her and settle in the body of Christ which is separate from all these isms and scisms, and is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth, which is functioning by the Spirit of God, separate from all creeds of men and his organizations together with cliques, clans, and groups. Paul looked on this glorious family of God and said, "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing: but that it should be holy and without blemish." Eph. 5:27. Innocent people in the sects and creeds could not in a sense be termed the body of Christ, as they are functioning in other bodies of earthly origin and in ignorance of the true body, are working against Christ and his body, the church. They are as sheep out of the true fold.

"Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters, that send forth thither the feet of the ox and the ass." Isa. 32:20.

In the first verse of the 12th chapter of Romans we hear Paul saying, "I beseech you therefore, brethren [justified souls], by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service."

You will note in this scripture that our bodies are to be living sacrifices. In other words, we are to give up our selfish, earthly life and let the life of God have control and govern us in such a way that all we do or say will be done to the glory of God, no matter how much reproach is heaped upon us, just so our Lord is glorified and honored. We are to be dead and our life hid with Christ in God that when he appears, we may appear with him in glory. (Col. 3:1-3).

In the gospels Jesus tells us, "If any man come to me and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:26.

In this we see plainly that he means that selfish, evil, sinful life in us or our near kinsmen. If we hate that life, we certainly will not fellowship it in ourselves or others; but will be so given up to the will of God that we shall allow the Spirit of Christ to reprove or rebuke this wrong life in us or others even at the sacrifice of our natural desires and the humiliation of the flesh. In Matt. 10:46 we read that "A man's foes shall be they of his own household." In Matt. 10:39, we read, "He that findeth his life shall lose it [lose eternal life], and he that loseth his life for my name's sake shall find it." (Eternal life.) Read also Mark 8:35; Luke 9:24; 17:33; John 12:25.

The Lord gave me a vision or revelation one night of the death of our life in a sanctified state. It seemed that I was in meeting and was teaching the justified and sanctified life. I was giving the people a simple illustration on this subject. In my hand was a plate in which was four boiled potatoes. In the other hand was a fork with which I broke each potato into four pieces. They were in chunks and could be seen as broken chunks of potatoes. They still had their identity, more or less. This represented the justified life, broken but not entirely destroyed. I then took the fork and mashed all the chunks and ground them into one heap. They were no more separate, but one lump—one bread and one body, as Paul says of the church in 1 Cor. 10:17. This represented the sanctified state. Jesus, in teaching sanctification to his disciples, said, "That ye 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." John 17:21.

In the 21st chapter of Matthew, beginning with verse 42, Jesus said unto the Priests and Pharisees, "Did ye never read in the Scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: [Eph. 2:20] this is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes?" These Pharisees and chief priests were so filled with self and their own life and were building (like many are today) in their own self way, that Jesus said, the "kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation

[people] bringing forth the fruits thereof."—the fruits of a God life and not their lives.

In the 44th verse, he also said, "And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken [One's life is broken in a justified state] but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder." When the Holy Spirit falls on us and destroys the "Old Man," puts to death our life, then we lose our identity, and we become one bread, or one with all other truly sanctified folks. As Jesus says, "Ye are all brethren and one is your master" (or governor). There are no more big "I's" and little "you's." They all work with one object in view, and that is to lift up Christ and glorify God.

When a soul sees his sinful condition and becomes filled with godly sorrow for the same, he comes to God and falls on the Lord for mercy, asking God to have mercy and forgive him of his many transgressions. God does have mercy and forgives him, and peace is in his soul. He begins to realize that his life is broken by the power of God. He can no longer pursue his selfish, ungodly life. When he comes to God to be baptized with the Holy Ghost, he sets himself apart as a living sacrifice and calls upon God to fall upon him, or send the Comforter into his heart. As he gives way to the Holy Spirit, his life will be ground to powder and then he can truly testify as Paul did: "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ liveth in me: and the life that I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Gal. 2:20.

The great trouble with the religious people of today is that they do not hold that crucified state, but let up and become crusty and rusty, and cause trouble by denying the Holy Spirit and leaning to their own human intellect or understanding. In that way they reason themselves and others astray by putting private interpretations on the sacred Word of God. The trend is toward the world, always; and that is the reason so many are walking in slippery places today.

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With this issue of *Faith and Victory* a large number of subscriptions which are now on our list will expire. We are inserting a subscription blank for your renewal. If you will send your name and address with 25 cents, your subscription will be renewed and you will not miss a copy. Unless we hear from you in time you will miss the January, 1947 issue. Please renew so the paper will continue to come to you.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Dear Bro. Pruitt,—I am glad to be one of the Lord's servants. I promised the Lord I would tell how He healed my son and daughter. They both had been sick for over three days from some food poison. We called Sister Jones to pray for them and we, the few saints here, prayed; and, praise His name, they are well.

Please pray for us all and my unsaved husband.

I like the "Faith and Victory" very much. It encourages me to hold on to the true way.

Your Sister in Christ,

Sister Masslock.



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Ministers' Meeting Report

The national ministers' meeting is now a thing of the past, and will be recorded in the minds of those who attended as one of the forward moves in the church of the living God, and sweet memories will linger in our hearts and minds of this time when more than sixty ministers met in heavenly counsel with God and one another.

The ministers began to arrive several days before the date set for the meeting (November 3rd) and from the beginning the chapel was well filled with holy men and women of God. Ministers came from many different states: California, Michigan, Louisiana, Missouri, Kansas, Oregon, Indiana, and other states, with Oklahoma furnishing a good supply.

Many different subjects were discussed and counselled upon before God and his holy Word as Scriptures in the Bible were used as a settlement of questions involved, and "Thus saith the Lord" was law and gospel to all. Where the gospel was not clear and definite, the conviction of the ministers was accepted as a basis of teaching, leaving the Holy Spirit free to work in all cases. All understood that light and knowledge rates responsibility, and that love, bearing, and forbearing fills an important place in the congregations of the saints in order to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace and harmony.

Some of the subjects brought before the ministers were: "The Qualifications of a Minister," "A Pastor's Duty in a Congregation," "The Duty of a Congregation Toward a Pastor," "Where there is a number of ministers in a Congregation, Should All be Pastors or One Be Recognized as a Pastor with Authority and Responsibility?" "The Need of Congregations being Set in Order with Deacons and Deaconesses, also their Duties and Qualifications," "Marriage and Divorce," "How Saints and Their Children Should Dress," "Child Training," and many different other subjects of minor importance.

While discussing these subjects we noticed that some had very lenient views that would soon drift into compromise and others had legalistic views that would soon hobble the Holy Spirit and cause deadness in members, but the ministers as a body were so directed by the Spirit with firmness backed up by the Scriptures that most of the questions which were brought up were brought to a satisfactory agreement and left in such a way that almost all could understand what the Bible teaches as sound doctrine in each particular subject.

The discussions of the ministers were, in general, heavenly and in a Christ like spirit and manner. The few manifestations of carnality were of short duration, and the meeting progressed in a heavenly way.

A number of saints who had become at variance with one another cleared up and got together in the unity of the Spirit which caused rejoicing among the saints and in heaven.

In the following issues of the "Faith and Victory" we expect to print some of the conclusions of the ministers on different subjects, as space and wisdom permit.

COUNSEL CONCLUSIONS IN MINISTERS' MEETING

In Regard To Participation in War

We, as Christians, do not believe in war because of a principle based on the love of God. Therefore we cannot go to war; neither can we aid in the destruction of men's lives.

This "conclusion" is not based on any attitude of antagonism to our government, but is entirely a result of the principles that we understand to be set forth in the Bible and a conscience toward God and man in the light of these Bible teachings.

As Christians, we will support the government of the United States and will be subject to its authority and laws so long as those laws do not require us to violate our consciences in the light of God's Word as given us in the Bible, and will teach men to do so as taught in Rom. 13:1-6; 1 Pet. 2:13-16.

The act of registering does not bind us to accept any service which is contrary to the principles of Christianity, and does not take away our privilege of choosing to walk in light of the Lord, therefore we deem it advisable to register in compliance with the laws of the land.

We do not feel that a person who has not received light on these principles would necessarily violate his conscience or bring the condemnation of God upon him by engaging in some phases of a war effort.

We do feel that those having light and understanding on these lines need to have much charity for the unenlightened, helping them to reach the plane of Christian living, and endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit while they come to a knowledge of the truth.

Therefore we shall discourage "participation in" warfare in all phases of destruction of human lives as God gives us light and power.

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NOTICE TO SAINTS

The problem which in recent years has confronted the saints at Guthrie of providing rooms and beds for out-of-town saints and friends who attend the camp meetings and assembly meetings here is now partly solved since part of the floor has been put in the new dining hall, upstairs. The brethren who attend the ministers' meeting used it for their sleeping quarters. But we are still handicapped to some extent because of lack of bedding. Saints from different congregations have expressed the belief that isolated saints and other congregations would help us if they knew of the need. Sheets, pillows, comforts, blankets, etc. are needed. Dish towels are also needed for the kitchen.

Send bedding, etc. to Faith Pub. House, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla.

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The saints at Midway, La. have been privileged to have two good campmeetings, in which the Lord has abundantly blessed, and last year they succeeded in getting a pavilion built. Now the next greatest need is a dining hall before another campmeeting.

If any one has any of the Lord's money which they feel He wants them to give to this effort, send your offering to Ruth Murphey, R. 1, Box 39, Trout, La.

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A WORD OF CORRECTION

Calif.—I wish to write a few words by way of explanation regarding my testimony which appeared in the September issue of "Faith and Victory." I mentioned the seriousness of my wife's affliction, and said, "Had it not been for His great healing power being poured out upon her body, she could not have survived her affliction."

I wish to say that in answer to the many prayers of the saints that knew of the case that the tumors, which were very large, broke their hold and dropped down in her body the very night the saints were assembled in one place praying for her. And their dropping down

from their hold caused almost imbearable pain and misery. She of her own will decided and went to the hospital and had them removed.

As I have been questioned by some about the wording of the article, I will say that I am very sorry that it appeared as it did and heartily ask forgiveness of all. I had no intention or desire to mislead any one. It is my highest aim in life to live and walk so as to enjoy the sweet fellowship and confidence of the saints, and trust these few words will clear the minds of those who were grieved thereby. Yet we are very sure that if it had not been for the goodness of God toward her at that time in answer to prayer, she could not have lived through it.

T. T. Holden.

Assembly Meeting Notices

The Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will convene at Guthrie, Oklahoma in the saints' chapel located on Sixth and W. Warner Sts., on Friday, December 20th and will last ten days, ending December 29th.

This is the annual assembly of the church and all should feel their responsibility in aiding in the meeting to make it a success in every way possible. Ministers will be present from all parts of the country to preach the Bible doctrine that, if believed, will bring salvation and power to live a holy life before God and men.

The saints at Guthrie welcome all to the meeting, and will do all in their power to make you comfortable in supplying food for the body and beds. It is often quite cold at Assembly meeting time, so all who can should bring blankets sufficient to keep yourself warm.

If the Lord wants you to send some means or provisions for the meeting, you may send it to Faith Pub. House, 920 W. Mansur Ave., or bring it when you come. Pray much for the meeting. Those needing salvation or healing are especially entreated to come. All comfort and satisfaction is in Christ.

Please bring sugar or ration stamps.

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The winter assembly meeting of the Church of God at Jefferson, Ore. will be held this winter, the Lord willing, Jan. 17th through the 26th at the saints' chapel on Hazel St., 1½ blocks from the bus depot on Highway 99.

All lovers of truth are invited and we are looking to God to send some Holy Ghost ministers, whomsoever He can use, to help in the meeting. Please pray for us and the meeting. All come who can. Sam Wilson.

Obituaries

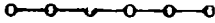
Brother William H. Knight was born in St. Matthews, S. C. March 14, 1876 and called from this life June 24, 1946. He had been living in Tulsa since 1928. In 1902 he was united in marriage to Mary E. McClellan, to which union eight children were born, seven of which are living.

Bro. Knight and family moved to Oklahoma in 1912. At that time he was preaching and living to all he knew in the Methodist Church. In 1917 he saw more light and began to walk in it. He obtained true salvation in a campmeeting at Tullahassee, Okla., and endeavored to do the will of God. His walk of life was his testimony to those who were around him.

As a pioneer minister of the Church of God, he searched for fields in which to work, near and far, and caused a number of people to hear and accept the Word of God.

Bereaved are: his wife, Mary E. Knight, four daughters; three sons; seven grandchildren; two brothers; one

sister; and many other relatives and friends.—Sister Mary E. Knight, 2305 N. Peoria Ave., Tulsa., Okla.

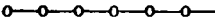


Sister Luellar (Louie) Carter was born in Cameron, Texas Oct. 5, 1887 and departed this life Oct. 11, 1946 at the age of 59 years and five days. In 1906 she was married to Henry Carter, to which union eleven children were born, six boys and five girls.

Sister Carter heard the truth, and accepted it in 1926. She was known and loved because of her life of faith and charity. She was always ready to help the sick and needy. She was talented of the Lord to train children and young people, and this talent was not neglected, as she reared seven children besides her own. She was faithful unto death.

The bereaved are: Henry Carter, her husband, of Boley, Okla.; six sons, Gideon, and Ellis of Bakersfield, Calif., Moses of Los Angeles, Joe of Okla. City, Willie and Leo of Boley, Okla.; five daughters, Darkis Allen of Okla. City, Velma Smith of Akron, Ohio, Ethel Lounds of Okla. City, Cora Andrews of Bakersfield, Calif., and Johnnye Lee Carter of the home; seven foster children; a great number of nephews and nieces; many other relatives, friends, and saints.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Manley Spears. Text: Heb. 2:14, 15.



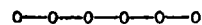
Margaret (Neal) Blanton, daughter of Joe and Hannah Neal, was born about the year 1885 in Woods Co., Texas, and was taken to Rust County, Texas at an early age where she was reared. She moved to Oklahoma in 1900, where she remained until death.

She was married to Birl Blanton, to which union eight daughters and nine sons were born, of which ten children are living.

She professed a hope in Christ at an early age and lived a consistent Christian life. After the passing of her husband, who preceded her in death, she moved to Okmulgee and lived in the church of God to a creditable old age, and was loved by all the saints. A few days before the final hour she told her daughter that she only had a few more hours to stay, and good-by. From this on she was in a deep slumber.

She departed this life Oct. 17, 1946, age 91 years.

Bereaved: five sons, five daughters, one brother, a number of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and a host of friends. Funeral services conducted by Sam Barton of Tulsa, Okla.



Luella Murdock, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Murdock was born May 20, 1898 in Columbus, Miss. She was brought to Oklahoma by her parents at an early age.

She became the wife of Leslie Holmes in 1938. The couple made their home in the Watson community where they proved to be loyal citizens.

She professed a hope in Christ at an early age, but later strayed from the fold. She often said to her friends, "I must return to my early teaching," which she finally did. She trusted her soul and body to God for his care and keeping and remained in His keeping until death claimed her Sunday, April 28, 1946.

Bereaved are: her husband, a mother, four sons, two daughters, three sisters, one brother, a number of nieces and nephews, and other relatives and friends.

She said in action:

"Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me,
And may there be no mourning at the bar
When I put out to sea."

The Faith

This two word phrase, "The Faith," has become a hobby among the religious world. I have heard this phrase, "The Faith," used time and again, insomuch it has attracted my attention as to what motive and meaning was put behind it.

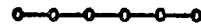
We notice Bro. Jude had a pure motive when he gave diligence to write unto the brethren to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints. With all due respect to those concerned, I readily perceive and discern the misinterpretation of the phrase, "The Faith." It seems to me as I have heard it quoted as follows: "They have left the faith," or "He has left the faith," or "Don't leave the faith," that the emphasis put behind it, and meaning, was actually interpreting "The Faith" as being some group or place or personalities. If that be true, to-day many are walking in their sleep.

Just what does, "The Faith" mean? In this case it is used as a noun; or in other words, it is the subject matter. We might give another brief explanation. and say: belief. Now in order that the reader be not confused over this explanation, we might add. to have faith for something or believe that God will do this or that. The Scripture explains this faith, saying. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for. the evidence of things not seen."

Then if we were to express what Bro. Jude expressed (using the brief explanation). we would say, Earnestly contend for the belief (or faith) that was once delivered to the saints. And we know the *faith* contains all of God's laws and rudiments for man to go by and live. To leave the faith means to leave the divine law and doctrine; not group, nor persons, nor place. nor human ecclesiastes.

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils." And to do that is to leave the divine teachings and oppose the doctrine of the divine plan, denying the power of God.

Lord. help us to know what "the faith" is, and earnestly contend for "the faith" that was once delivered to the saints. Bro. Myrle E. Eddens



Calif.—Dear saints of God.—I am glad to know that there are some people true to God as the Word teaches us. This world lieth in wickedness, and how much danger there is of getting on the broad way that leads to destruction. I was young one time, but now I am nearing the seventy mark. I remember how God knocked at my heart's door after I had neglected many opportunities. How sad! But when God forgives us we are instructed to forget those things that are behind. We are often far too busy with the cares of life to meditate upon His goodness. By His help and grace I want to live the life pleasing to God.

This is the second time I have written my testimony for the "Faith and Victory" paper. I would not want to be without it. Through it we hear from saints, and that encourages us to serve God. Dear saints. I need your prayers that I may walk closer with God and be a light to the world. C. J. Unruh.

CORRESPONDENCE

California—Dear Saints,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I can say tonight that I am still saved and more determined than ever before to press the battle on. The devil has tried me many ways, trying to discourage me and do his best to make me give the battle up. But, thank the Lord, he has helped me to overcome every trial and temptation. I can say as Peter said, "To whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life." Thank the Lord for that. If we did give up, we would have no place to go for comfort. When we would go to bed at night we would be thinking, "If the Saviour should come tonight, I would be lost forever." That would be a miserable state. I can thank my Lord tonight when I pillow my head that I can say, "I am ready to go. I won't have to fix anything up with my brother or any one if my Saviour would come tonight."

There is so much foolishness going on in the world, my prayer from day to day is, Lord, help me to be more sober and more like you. I want to live the kind of a life that the young people as well as the old people can look upon as an example. Most young people now are not very sober in their words and actions; but by God's grace and help I want to be one of the few who are sober. Some might say, "You act as an old person." But what is that to us? It will take some grace to stand it, but thanks be to God, He has all the grace we need. The Bible says in Titus 2:6, "Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded." Sober means to think soberly; not to think foolish things. They might just be telling it to see if you will laugh or not. If you can not keep from laughing, walk away. It is best not to be around people who tell jokes and things that ought not to be said, any more than is necessary. When you hear some one tell some joke or something else, give them a look of reproof. They shall soon see what kind of a person you are, and if they are telling a joke when you walk up, they will respect you. Yes, it will take some prayers to God to be able to stand it; but, oh, such a blessing you get after you have stood it all. You can thank God for taking you through. You can even praise God in the very midst of a trial, praise Him that you are counted worthy enough to stand it.

Just before school started this fall I took very sick with a high fever, aching, and seemed I was taking a severe cold. This lasted a few days, and one morning I tried to raise my feet and could not stand. Mother looked and found my limbs dwindling away and it seemed as if they were drawing up. We had special prayer and called some of the saints to pray with us. Different ones told us they were sure I had poliomyelitis or infantile paralysis; but the Lord healed me. Within four or five days I was well enough to go to school. I am completely healed. I truly praise the Lord.

This is a song the Lord gave me:

I'm going to a place they call heaven,
'Tis a place where we'll never more part,
'Tis a place where the Lord and his angels
Are waiting for all of us there.

We'll sing and we'll shout forever,
'Tis a place where we'll never get tired,
'Tis a place where our worries are over
And He'll wipe all tears from our eyes.

Pray for me. Your brother in Christ, Gus Poulos, jr.

Miss.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt,—I am happy in the Lord and my heart is full of thanksgiving to our God who healeth all of our diseases (Psa. 3:3). I praise Him for restoring the hearing in my left ear, and am holding on for complete healing as was prayed for at Hammond at the campmeeting. I am happy that I was permitted to go there, and I promised the Lord I would testify to the glory of God through the "Faith and Victory" paper when the work was done. I am also feeling better in other ways. I give God all the glory and praise His worthy name. I love Him.

Sister John Strickler

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Minn.—Dear saints,—Just recently I sent a request to the Faith Publishing House saints for prayer for the healing of my body, and I want to tell you how much it meant to me to be able to have some to whom I could turn when afflicted. I was suffering with an inflamed shoulder, the result of the way I did my work. I had to report to a local doctor, who in turn sent me to the local hospital where they recommended rest and a change of diet with some medicine. I did not feel like this was in accord with the Bible, so I told the Lord I would tell how He had helped me and taken away the swelling if the doctor would tell me I could go home when he came back (after a week's vacation), which he did.

While there at the hospital, I thought if I could just get some one to anoint and pray for me I would be healed, but I was a stranger to the anointing ones here; but praise God, brothers and sisters in Christ are not strangers wherever they are. God has been blessing me and helping and strengthening my arm. Unto Him I give all the praise. Jesus grows sweeter every day.

Dear sinner friend, Jesus never fails. Sometimes it may be for our own good that we do not get an answer to our requests: but some day we'll understand. If our healing touch does not come, just remember that God takes no pleasure in our suffering and longs to restore if we will just press through and touch Him. Mark 5: 25-29 is a concrete example of the individual's faith that wrought healing from God.

Truly, the Lord has healed me so many times I can not praise Him enough. Let me recommend Him to anyone who, with simple, child-like faith, will trust Him for everything. Sincerely in Christ, Doris King,

God is just, and we truly must
Be old enough to know;
But we have to admit, we're below the fool,
If we do not reap what we sow.

Mo.—Dear friends in Christ,—Greetings in the name of Jesus. He is still near and dear to me, and I am sure He is the same to you. I fully realize there is no other friend like Him. If it had not been for my dear Savior, I don't think I could have stood giving up my husband. But now I fully realize he is much better off than I am, for his trials are over, and he is at rest. With the help of the Lord I intend to meet him some day. Nearing his last words were: "We won't let this mess separate us, will we?"

I surely hope you had a large harvest at the revival. I know the harvest is ripe and the laborers are few. I surely wish I could be with you there. I would like very much for my children and me to attend services, but there are none around here to attend, so we study the Word of God at home. I am doing my best to teach them as the Lord would have me to. So pray for me that I may succeed in teaching them correctly.

I do wish the Lord would send some of His people into our community for a meeting. There is a wonderful harvest ready, but no reapers. Mrs. Ovie Campbell

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Mo.—Dear Sister Pruitt,—It has been several years since I sent a testimony to be printed. I am still on the way to glory. By His grace I am saved from sin, and I thank God for the peace in my heart while troubles outward rage. I thank God that in spite of the many beliefs in the world, the saints of God can join together in unity and whole-hearted prayer for those who request prayer and God does hear and answer.

James 1:14, "But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed." Often the desire for wealth and riches of this world crowds out all the desire for God and his love, and love for fellow-men. That is why many are short of victory in their souls. I praise God for Jesus and the way of the cross. Some may shout while before men in church services, yet live unholy lives at home and think they are fooling God. But, nay, they are only fooling themselves. "By their fruits ye shall know them." Lawsuits are censured in God's Word (1 Cor. 6:7, 8). May God be our guide and help us to overcome by the blood of Jesus Christ our Lord, for He is our lawyer and will defend His own. God's will be done, is our prayer.

As for me and my house we will serve the Lord in spite of persecutions. I chose Jesus to be my friend about 44 years ago and I know what I need he will send.

A true sister in Jesus, Mrs. Silas Jones.

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Kansas—Dear Bro. Pruitt, Greetings in the name of Jesus:—I am still encouraged to press the battle on for Him. Praise the good Lord! I sent you a card requesting prayer for eczema on my hand a few days ago. The Lord heard and answered prayer. The eczema has dried up and is almost gone.

We enjoyed some good meetings this past week with Sister Ruth Murphey. It encouraged our hearts so much, as we do not hear the Word preached very often.

We enjoy the little paper so much, and especially the good testimonies. We need your prayers that we will ever keep true.

In Christian love, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Goldsberry

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Calif.—Dear saints,—I enjoy the testimonies of God's children in Faith and Victory. And my heart is made glad to hear of God's wonderful healings. It is wonderful to be a child of God and know all is clear between us and God. I have trusted him for soul and body for years. A few times in those years I haven't been as close to God as I should have been and made some sad mistakes, but God has forgiven me, and I feel I am where I can have his smile on me. I want to live close to him and work to win souls to him, for time is short and soon night will be here. The many souls who are in darkness need help. I want to live close to God so I may win some for him. The dear Lord has surely been with us and helped in a very severe trial my daughter went through. I told her that I don't believe any one was ever prayed for more earnestly than she was. The children of God are precious and close to one another. Surely, when one suffers they all suffer with that one. I love God and his people and mean by God's grace to live close to him while I stay here. For as death finds us, so will the judgment.

Remember me in prayer that I may do the Lord's bidding at all times.

Yours in Jesus' love, Mrs. Sadie Evans

Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt, Greetings in Jesus' dear name:—I wrote to you last spring and requested prayer for my healing and the Lord has wonderfully healed me. I thank Him for it. I desire to do more for the Lord than ever before.

I have been reading the "Faith and Victory" paper for about two years and it surely has been food for my soul. I live out in the country where most of the people are Baptists. I have a hard time because they do not believe in the church of God. Remember me in prayer.

May the Lord bless all of you in the Lord's work.

Your sister in Christ, Mrs. Ollie Royce.

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Fla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints,—To you greetings in the name of our risen Lord and Saviour. I am still praising the Lord for full salvation, and for the love he gives me for the saints. I know assuredly that I am His child, for "we know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren."

I want to thank the saints in California for their kindness to us during the Pasadena Camp Meeting, and to let you know how very much we enjoyed ourselves in the meetings. I do thank God for every one of his precious people, and would like you to know that as we return to the Cayman Islands to take up the Lord's work, that we are taking some precious memories of you, and can assure you our prayers will ascend in your behalf. We ask an interest in your prayers always.

Thanks again for everything, and God bless you.

Yours in His service, Gloria Arch, B. W. I.

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Calif.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt and all the saints everywhere,—I am led to write my testimony this morning to tell how wonderful the good Lord has been to me. One thing, He took care of my boy who was in the navy thirty months and brought him home the 10th of last April sound and well. Oh, I do thank my Lord for it all. My little boy has had two spells of asthma, and the Lord brought him out of them. He has sinking spells at times and now he is sick with something like scarlet fever. Yesterday he would nearly choke, but Mother and I prayed earnestly for him and God touched his little body. I truly do thank Him. He is still in bed and his throat is sore, so please continue to pray for him. A while back my little grandson had scarlet fever and was near death's door. Sister Mead and Sister Alpha Daniels came and prayed and the Lord healed him and saved my daughter. I said if the Lord would keep any of us from having it, I would tell about it, and not one of us caught it. I do not think the little boy caught it from him. I know our God can heal and do all things for us. I am saved and intend to go all the way. I want to see inside of heaven and we must do our best, there is no half way about it; we must live by all the Word of God. There are only a few of us here at Orland. We would like to have any of the saints come in. We need all your prayers. I am writing this to the glory of God, for he has done it all. Do remember me in your prayers. I would like to hear from any of the saints. Your sister, Ada Leach, Route 2, Box 230A.

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Neb.—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I am looking to and trusting in Jesus who knoweth all things and doeth all things perfectly. I am determined to hold to God's Word and way until the final call is made.

When I called and requested prayer for my poison ivy poison, I was suffering and it was spreading quite fast. But after the request was made it began to dry up. I had never experienced poison before and it seemed my

faith was not taking hold. There is not a trace of it now. I give Jesus all the praise. I trusted Him to heal it and told others that he would, and he did.

Then a few weeks ago I took a very severe pain in the small of my back. It was like my spine was in a vice. I couldn't raise my arms, and cried trying to dress. My daughter called my husband and other daughter. They wanted me to get a doctor and let him see what was wrong and help me. Then and there I made my decision and told them that my Physician was right there, that He always sees me through every thing and He knows what is wrong and I am not afraid to trust him. They said no more. I got up to dress about ten o'clock and the pain was so severe that I would nearly cry out with pain when I raised my arms. I sat up awhile and decided to send to you and Sister Huskey for prayer. I began to amend. The next day my daughter saw me canning tomatoes and was much surprised. She made the remark that she did not expect to see me like this. A sharp pain went through my back the following day. I asked Jesus to rebuke it and the enemy who would impose it on me. He did, and I have not felt any such pain since. I love the Lord and his Word and am trusting in Him that He may fully have His way with me.

Your unworthy sister, Jesse Sultzbaugh.

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Modesty

There has been much said about dress, but it seems there has not been enough said, or judgment has not been laid down. This is a subject many ministers shun to some extent. When God gives us a calling, He wants us to preach all the gospel, not just part of it, or just what is pleasing to the people. Some ask where the line is to be drawn. It must be drawn where God wants it, and that is on decency and order. Some say that time and style changes and that is modest now was not modest a few years ago. We cannot change because style and fashion change. They are of the world and we cannot follow the world. What was modest a few years ago is still modest. No one can condemn it just because it is out of style if it covers the nakedness of the wearer and is not so thin that it exposes the body to the eyes of the opposite sex.

Very few people lust after their own sex. What causes lust? It is the passion of the opposite sex being aroused by looking with the eyes at exposed parts of the body. I have been on the street with men and heard their vulgar remarks about the exposed legs, breast and other parts of the body, of women that passed by. It was not always the baser type of men. The baser sort will go out of their way to locate something to lust after; but I speak of the nicer type of men who are enticed because of the exposed bodies which they cannot help seeing. They say things to your back that they would not say to your face. I don't hear such remarks about women who are modestly dressed. Often they are ridiculed, but they don't see anything to cause them to commit adultery with them.

Men are not the only ones with lustful eyes, but they can get away with it easier than women.

One girl said, "If we could get away with what you men can, this world would be a great place to live in." Oh, how sad to think if it! Thank God, there is still something to hold them back a little; but at the present let down in morals and dress, we shall soon have no modesty or morals. There is not much said about the dress of men. Their clothes do not change styles to extremes as do women's. But men need to be careful. Some things have been pointed out to me that excites the passion of some women. It is just as wrong for a man to wear anklets or his socks down without garters exposing his legs, as it is for a lady to do the same. It is immodest for a man to expose the upper part of his body as so many do by wearing only trousers and undershirt, and some only trousers. God does not have two sets of standards, one for the men and another for women. He expects all to be decent and modest. If we are not, we shall never see inside of heaven. No doubt, there are more ways that men are immodest if women would cry out against it.

The devil has such a hold on some people. That is why there is so much free love spirit shown today. Why do we want to follow as closely to the world as possible? Why not shun it as much as we can?

Do you say we have no Bible for wanting you to dress modest as becometh saints? 1 Pet. 3:3-5, "Whose adorning, let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair and of wearing of gold or of putting on of apparel, but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also who trusted in God adorned themselves, being in subjection to their own husbands." Also in 1 Tim. 2:9, 10, "In like manner also that women adorn themselves in modest apparel with shame facedness and sobriety, not with broidered hair or gold or pearls or costly array, but which becometh women professing godliness with good works." Here we see Paul and Peter both teach the same thing. So let it not be the outward adorning or fixing the hair up in style, permanents, finger waves, marcel, or any such thing. If God wants us to have curly hair, He will give it to us. What is more beautiful than to see Christ shining through a face with the hair combed back neat and plain? When you comb your hair down over one eye and wave it around, you just hide Christ's countenance in your own face (if it is there). God teaches us to be plain and neat and to give up the things of this world. He doesn't want us to wear gold or dresses or anything for worldly adornment; but in modest apparel with bashfulness and soberness. Shamefacedness means bashfulness. How many women of today show any bashfulness? They go out and expose their bodies and limbs in such a brazen way that they cannot be distinguished from the harlots. How is Jesus going to tell them apart when He comes? It is true that man looks on the outward appearance and God looks on the heart, but don't forget that the outward appearance shows what is

in the heart. The Lord tells us to abstain from all appearance of evil. He will have a few people who dress plain and godly to meet him in the air in that great day. Read Isa. 3:16-23 several times slowly and prayerfully. In this Scripture He is warning against pride. You may say that you are not proud; but be careful not to lie to God or man, for if you were not proud and were willing to suffer the reproach for Christ, you would not even want to dress to expose yourself and cause men to lust after you. Neither would you care how plain and humble you appear to the world.

Matt. 5:27, 28, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." This scripture was quoted to a young man in sin. He said, "Then there is no one saved, because a man cannot keep from committing adultery with women in his mind the way they dress now." But I thank God a man who is saved can obtain enough grace from God to overcome all evil. This young man was right in regard to those who are still in their sins, but in God it is possible to live above such lust. But still our so-called saints go out tempting men to lust after them by dressing worldly. Who has the greater sin, the man who lusts after the woman, or the woman who openly puts temptation before him? I say, the woman, because the man would not lust after her if she were dressed as she should be. If she had on a long dress and the back and front of the neck was up to her neck the same man may make some remark about her dress, but he wouldn't be lusting after her.

You may wonder why we have so much to say on certain lines. We do it for your souls' sake. We long to see your souls go to heaven. Isa. 58:1 tells us to cry aloud and spare not, "Lift up thy voice like a trumpet and shew my people their transgressions and the house of Jacob their sins." We read in Ezek. 33:1-10 that the Lord has placed us as watchmen on the walls of Zion. If we do not warn the people against sin their blood will be required at our hands, but if we warn them and they heed not the warning, then their souls will be lost but we will be clear of their blood. So that is why we are warning you.

Not only is it necessary to keep your body covered, but you should see that your children are dressed modestly. We cannot expect them to dress as becometh saints when they grow up, if they are not trained right. I know mothers who refuse to put dresses on their little girls long enough to hide their nakedness. The little girls cry for longer dresses, but the mothers will not dress them decently because they do not want the world to talk about them. The little girls do not care what people would say about long dresses, they do not want the little boys saying, "I see your underclothes." Shame on such mothers. Children five or six years old realize the shameful-ness of it but mothers do not. It is high time you were awakening to the fact that you are putting those poor little innocent things to an open shame.

Mothers, where is your modesty? No wonder your girls go wrong. They are taught to go out before the world only half dressed and become so hardened that God's voice cannot reach them when they are older. It is your duty to teach them shame for their legs and bodies. The same goes for boys. I have seen boys dressed in short pants on the floor with their knees elevated exposing their nakedness, and they were playing with little neighbor girls.

Some women who profess to be saints wear their dresses so short that when they stoop over their legs above their knees can be seen—and some of them Sunday School teachers!! Woe unto you Sunday School Superintendents to permit such a thing in your Sunday School! You will have to answer for it before God if you permit such an example before little ones. It is rank poison to the little ones. If that teacher would offer your little ones a drink of whiskey or a chew of tobacco you would not permit her to teach; neither would you let her teach if she used it. Why do you permit her to teach them when she is so immodestly dressed? They will think if it is all right for her it is all right for them. It is as hard for one to quit the habit of dressing immodestly as it is to get them to quit tobacco or whiskey. We shall meet God before long. Shall we meet Him standing true, or compromising with the world?

Some ministers do not cry out against this evil because they are guilty of permitting it in their own homes. They offer excuses and censure those who stand for the right. Fathers are responsible for their children as well as mothers. If you cannot care for your own house how can you care for the church of God?

I sat in a meeting up in the front row from the side of the pulpit and a so-called saint sat on the other side from the pulpit. I had to turn sideways in my seat so that when my eyes dropped from the preacher I would not see the ungodly sight before me. It was not just once either. I changed my seat. Instead of being a temptation, it was disgusting to me. I did not want to see such, even if she did not care if men could see her legs half way above her knees. Women say they don't want to wear dresses long because they do not want to look conspicuous to the world, but they do not care how conspicuous they look to the saints. They would rather offend the saints who abhor such things than to bear the reproach of the cross for Christ, or are afraid of offending the world. If you prefer to listen to the world rather than Christ, you may as well quit professing for you have no salvation anyway and you are only holding some one back from living for God. Some preachers claim that they are winning many souls for Christ and if it was wrong to dress that way God would quit working with them. The Lord has already quit working with them. All they are doing is deceiving souls into the same deception they are in themselves. They are only winning them for the devil and a hell of torment. The Lord doesn't work with the devil's tools. He has all He needs, which is the Word of God and a few ministers who will live and preach it. He tells us there is no other way

under heaven whereby men may be saved. God's ministers do not have to compromise to win souls to God, but must stand firmly on the truth. Some will compromise and lose their souls to make it easy on themselves or their wives and children who do not come under their rule. If the wife and children are ruling the home, the husband is not qualified to preach the Word of God. Read 1 Tim. 3:4, 5. The minister is not disqualified just because the children are not saved, but they must obey the rules of the home. The husband is as guilty as the wife or daughter if he permits them to wear indecent clothes.

The demons of the street watch little girls half dressed and get their passion aroused, then go off and attack some girl or woman to satisfy their lust. Some of these sex fiends even murder the little girls and cut them up and throw their little bodies away. You parents who dress your children indecently are parties to such crimes, for you are encouraging baseful, wicked passion.

The following was printed in one of our daily news papers: The prosecuting attorney had presented his case against a man who was on trial for raping a 14-year old girl. Several witnesses testified. The mother and several neighbors testified. It looked like an iron clad case sure of conviction. The last witness called was the poor little girl herself. She took the stand. The prosecutor began to ask her questions when the judge intervened and asked her this question: "How were you dressed when he attacked you?" She said, "Just as I am right now." The judge said, "Case dismissed," to the horror and astonishment of the girl, mother, and friends. But that judge realized the crime against the human race more than most parents and daughters do today. Even if you do not love God enough to obey His word or you don't have any shame or respect for yourself or children, you should dress them decently for safety's sake.

Some mothers unthoughtedly bare their breasts before a whole congregation of men and boys to let the baby nurse. A woman should not let her breast be seen by any man other than her own husband. Yes, babies have to nurse, but it is not needful to expose the breast and thus tempt men to sin away their chance of heaven. I saw a mother with a small baby put a cloth over the baby's face and her breast while it nursed. Oh, how God must have respected that young mother of three.

If you are guilty of thoughtless or wilful immodesty ask God to forgive you and live a pure, holy, and righteous life. I pray God to help you to see the sin of these things before too late. I only write this in love and mercy for your souls.

—Clyde Stroud.

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La.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt,—I am writing to tell you that my granddaughter is doing fine. I do not think she will have to have an operation. Thank you for your prayers. With love and best wishes for the good work you are doing. Pray for us. Your sister in Christ.

Annie Tooley

BIBLE STUDY

Beginning with the first Quarter of the new year the Primary Lesson Cards will be 5c per set. Please keep this in mind when ordering your next Sunday School literature. The Primary Picture Roll price is still \$1.15. Order at least two weeks before beginning of new Quarter. The cards are sold in sets which contain one card for each Sunday in the Quarter, at 5 cents per set. Sets cannot be broken. Order from Faith Publishing House, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla.

A LETTER ON CHRISTIAN LIVING

Sunday, December 1, 1946

Printed Portion Acts 19:23-30; Ephesians 6:13-18.

Acts 19:23. And the same time there arose no small stir about that way.

24. For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen;

25. Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth.

26. Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:

27. So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth.

28. And when they heard these saying, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

29. And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre.

30. And when Paul would have entered in unto the people, the disciples suffered him not.

Ephesians 6:13. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15. And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16. Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Golden Text: Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Eph. 6:10.

Practical Truth: God has provided means whereby we may wage the Christian warfare successfully.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Paul's ministry at Ephesus was especially blessed of the Lord insomuch that believers received the Holy Ghost, sick were healed, devils were cast out, and "mighty grew the Word of God and prevailed." Living faith was manifested by the great bonfire of costly books of magic. But Satan, who had long enjoyed complete rule in the ecclesiastical heavens in the form of paganism, was not

to be dethroned without a battle. Though Demetrius may not have been an ardent lover of any of the pagan gods, and probably cared little about defending Diana's honor, yet the enemy of all righteousness, knowing his covetous heart, seized the opportunity to enlist him in defense of paganism. It is said, "The most sensitive part of civilized man is his pocket." Have you noticed in these days the most ardent defenders of sectarianism are those whose livelihood depends upon its existence? Men frequently oppose the pure, unadulterated gospel because it goes against their trade or method of earning a living, and many make professions because it favors their financial prosperity.

Paul wrote the epistle to the Ephesian brethren when he was a prisoner at Rome, where he was constantly guarded by a soldier, so he had a good opportunity to observe his armor and its use. A Christian truly has the victory over the enemy when he can observe that which hinders his freedom in this earth, and learn spiritual lessons from it as Paul did the soldier. He had had many battles with the enemy and knew the nature of the armor which God furnished to enable him to overcome. Verses 11 and 12 describe the nature and power of the spiritual enemy.

The soldier's girdle braced him and kept every part of his armor in place. So the Christian must be strengthened and sustained with the girdle of truth. If we are honest with ourselves and with God, the Holy Spirit will guide us "into the ways of all truth." If we unwaveringly walk in the way of all truth, it will keep us from being "tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine."

The military breastplate protected the vital organs of the body. Even so, the life of God in the soul, which is a Christian's only righteousness, defends all on which spiritual existence and triumph of a Christian depend.

A soldier's foot-guard prevented his feet from being wounded by stones or thorns and gave him a firmer and stronger foothold. So the gospel of peace gives the Christian a firm footing and enables him to move forward and "tread on scorpions and serpents."

The shield which the warrior held in front of him stopped the fire-tipped darts used in battle. The enemy of righteousness is an expert at throwing fiery darts, but they cannot pierce the shield of faith.

A helmet is for the protection of the head. The knowledge of salvation keeps one from being confused by Satan in his subtle attacks on the divinity and verity of God's Word.

Swords were weapons of offense. The Word of God slays spiritual enemies when accompanied by the Spirit, so with it the Christian can advance and conquer territory formerly claimed by the enemy.

PAUL ADMONISHES THE CHURCHES (Temperance Lesson)

Sunday, December 8, 1946

Printed Portion 1 Cor. 11:20-27; Rom. 13:13, 14; Eph. 5:18-21.

1 Cor. 11:20. When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper.

21. For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken.

22. What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.

23. For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

24. And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

25. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

26. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

27. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

Rom. 13:13. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

14. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Eph. 5:18. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

19. Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

20. Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

21. Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Golden Text: Let us walk honestly as in the day. Rom. 13:13. And "Abstain from all appearance of evil."

Practical Truth: Christians are duty bound to live clean lives, and they are naturally inclined to live clean lives.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We notice that this is given as a temperance lesson, but temperance should never be associated with the evil things which God's Word positively forbids, such as liquor, tobacco, and all filthiness of the flesh. These, we as Christians, are to totally abstain from.

Here in the 11th chapter of 1 Cor. Paul is instructing the church how to observe the Lord's Supper. According to the 20th and 21st verses, they were coming together to observe this sacred ordinance in a very unworthy manner. They were bringing their regular supper to their meeting place and substituting it for the Lord's Supper. Paul showed them that this was wrong and upbraided them for it, and then told them as Jesus had told him how this sacred ordinance should be observed. He said, "For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body." That is, his sacrificial body. Paul said that each one should examine himself before partaking of this sacred ordinance which is to remind us of the sacrifice our loving Lord made when he died on the cruel cross and shed his innocent blood that we might have a covering for our sins. Luke 22:19, Jesus said, "This is my body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me." Jesus also said, "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you." And now Rom. 13:13, 14. Paul says, "Let us walk honestly as in the day." Or so we won't be ashamed to let people see how we live. Some people are very nice in the day time, but not so nice when they are surrounded by darkness. "Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ." In our everyday life, in our manner and conduct, nothing but Christ is

seen. We cannot be Christ, but we can be like him inasmuch that when people look on us something about us reminds them of Christ.

"Be not drunk with wine wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit." And one thing sure, if we are filled with the Spirit of God, there will be no room for wine or any of the bad things that constitute bad habits.

The 19th verse shows the happy state of those who abstain from all appearance of evil. The 20th verse speaks of the thankfulness of those who escape the devil's traps and snares, and then we submit ourselves one to another in the fear of God. —G. Stephenson.

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A LETTER ON CHRISTIAN BROTHERHOOD

Sunday, December 15, 1946

Printed Portion Philemon 4:20.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15. For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldst receive him forever:

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

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

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

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

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

Golden Text: Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 2 Cor. 3:17.

Practical Truth: The spiritual brotherhood of the family of God (all true Christians) is a stronger tie than the ties that exist between flesh and blood kin, even though the members of God's family are of different races and nationalities.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

After spending much time as a missionary in Macedonia, Paul returned to Jerusalem to attend the feast of Pentecost. There he was mobbed and imprisoned, sent to Caesarea, then on to Rome where he was a prisoner in his own hired house. He was guarded, but had freedom to preach the gospel to those who came and went from his house. It was there that Onesimus, Philemon's runaway slave came in contact with Paul and was converted.

Today's lesson is a brief letter from Paul to Philemon, who was a fellow laborer in the gospel and in whose house a group of saints met for worship. The purpose of the letter was to plead for his good will toward Onesimus, who had evidently stolen something from his master and had run away. When Paul spoke of him as "my son," he meant his son in the Lord. Paul desired to keep Onesimus as a helper, but he belonged to Philemon, so if he had kept him without his consent that would be forcing Philemon to furnish him a helper, but Paul desired only free-will gifts. Paul offered to pay all that Onesimus owed his master, but at the same time brought to his remembrance how that Philemon owed his life—new life and hope of heaven—to Paul's labors. If Philemon had required Paul to pay the debt, he would have been like the unjust servant in the parable recorded in Matt. 18:23-35.

It would have been hard for Paul to send Onesimus back to an unsaved master, knowing he would be cruelly treated because of his recent conduct. But he had heard of Philemon's love and faith toward the Lord and ALL saints, so he had the assurance that Onesimus (who was now a saint) would not be mistreated. When Christ rules one's heart, he will manifest peace and good-will toward all men of all races and stations of life, even though he has been greatly wronged by them. Since Philemon was a true Christian, it is likely that he often prayed for his erring slave, and God answered his prayers by bringing him into contact with Paul at Rome.

This lesson deals with some important points in Christian behavior: restitution, peace making, forgiveness, compassion for the erring, Christian brotherhood, and being easily entreated.

A MESSAGE OF LOVE

(Christmas Lesson)

Sunday, December 22, 1946

Printed Portion John 3:16; Ephesians 3:14-21.

John 3:16. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

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

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

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

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

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

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

20. Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly

abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

21. Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Golden Text: Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift. 2 Cor. 9:15.

Practical Truth: No other gift that has ever been made can compare in worth with God's gift of his Son.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

At this Christmas season we indeed have much to be thankful for. We fervently give thanks to God that the war of nations is ended. Yet we are even more thankful for the greatest gift of God to man which is Jesus the Prince of Peace. This Christmas message is a message of love. Jesus was God's gift to all the world. This is the greatest love this world has ever known. God proved His love to the world by what He did. "God so loved the world." This does not mean the clay, the rocks and oceans, it means individuals of every nation under heaven. Man was created in the image of God with God's own breath of life and is therefore the object of his love. At Christmas time there is much giving and receiving gifts, but let us not forget that the greatest gift ever given was God's own Son, and He is the gift that becomes more precious as the years come and go.

Ephesians 3:14, 15.—God looks upon the saved of every nation as one big family. He loves them as His own children. It surely does grieve His heart when they cannot get along in peace together. Christmas time has a loving atmosphere. It seems the thoughts of it has an effect upon us. We sometimes hear this called the "spirit of Christmas." We remember loved ones more, want to express our love with a gift. Love is that unifying something that makes all brothers. But remember, it takes God's love in our hearts to make us love as God loves and as He would have us love.

Then let us not forget that after we receive this gift of His Son in our hearts God continues giving gifts, spiritual and temporal. His precious Word is a wonderful and priceless gift. Where might we be, if God had not given us His Word? Then the gift of the Holy Spirit, light, knowledge of the truth are gifts of the Spirit. Then not only all these and many, many other things, but He gives us Himself. He is our Father. Praise God! —Bessie Metcalf.

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PAUL CLAIMS THE WORLD FOR CHRIST

Sunday, December 29, 1946.

Printed Portion Acts 9:15; 19:21; 23:11; 28:28-31; Romans 1:13-16; 15:22-24.

Acts 9:15. But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

Acts 19:21. After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome.

Acts 23:11. And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul; for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.

Acts 28:28. Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God, is sent unto the Gentiles and that they will hear it.

29. And when he had said these words, the Jews departed, and had great reasoning among themselves.

30. And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,

31. Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

Rom. 1:13. Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

14. I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

15. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

16. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Rom. 15:22. For which cause also I have been much hindered from coming to you.

23. But now having no more place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come unto you;

24. Whosoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you: for I trust to see you in my journey, and to be brought on my way thitherward by you, if first I be somewhat filled with your company.

Golden Text: I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. Romans 1:14.

Practical Truth: Christians are all in this world as ambassadors for Christ and must be about their Master's business of winning souls for Him.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We find in verse nineteen that Paul was a chosen vessel to bear the name of the Lord unto other lands. The apostle willingly responded to the call.

We should be very careful at this time of our discipleship to wait upon the Lord that our duty be made plain. Our success or failure in the Christian life can many times be dated from this. If our calling is not plain unto us, it would be safe to wait longer before him. Let us remember that all are not called as ministers. It is not our calling but our faithfulness that brings the reward.

To find our calling and willingly respond unto the leadings of the Lord is a secret that yields rich blessings unto the soul.

Because He understands us altogether, He places us in the Body as it pleases Him.

We see the apostle humbly accepting the divine appointment. He was a prisoner, not of the king, but of the Lord. Did he say that he couldn't do anything in prison? No, but there under guard he continued to preach the gospel. He was bound but his gospel was not. The enemies could not stone or molest him. He had desired to go to Rome so here we find him standing before the kings and rulers.

Paul said, "I am ready."

Can we say this, or are we hindered by obstacles? We are debtors to those that are away from Christ.

At the beginning of Paul's Christian life we hear the words, "I am ready to preach." And at the close of his travels on earth we hear him say, "I am now ready to be offered." May the Lord help that each of us might have testimonies as these. The mere mention of the words, Apostle Paul, puts new courage and zeal in our hearts.

—O. C. Porter