

FAITH AND VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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FINDING JESUS

When I was lost in darkness
Knowing not the Christ of light,
Surely I had no idea
That His way could be so bright.

I had looked at lives of Christians,
Saw that they were set apart,
Planned some day that way to travel—
In the future I would start.

True I wanted to gain heaven
When my life on earth was done,
But if Christ's way I would follow,
Looked to me it ended fun.

But the Father in his kindness
By his Spirit me did call,
And my love for sin did dwindle,
Earthly pleasures seemed to fall.

In my heart I felt so guilty,
Helpless, wretched, really lost,
And I knew I must find Jesus
Now, no matter what the cost.

So with burdens very heavy
On my knees, contrite I fell,
Pouring out my heart to Jesus,
Asking Him to hear me tell.

Words cannot explain my gladness
When He washed my sins away,
And with joy I knew His presence,
My salvation came that day.

Peace so sweet, by far surpassing
Anything I'd ever known;
Rest that comes when Jesus enters,
Sets himself upon the throne.

In my heart this blessed Saviour
Reigns and lives in me today,
And I ask His blessed guidance
All along life's Pilgrim Way.

—Mrs. Harvey A. Sorensen

Is Jesus With You?

As we endeavor, by the help of the Holy Spirit, to bring a message from God's Word that He has laid upon our heart, will you pray as you read that some sin sick soul will be brought to our blessed Savior, and that those who know Him may draw closer to His precious, wounded side, Amen!

In Luke 2:41-47 is an account of Jesus as a lad going down to Jerusalem to the feast of the passover with Joseph and his mother.

On their return trip home, we are told that "they were a day's journey" from Jerusalem when they discovered that Jesus was not with them. They had supposed Him to be in the company of people making the journey, perhaps with relatives or friends.

When they could not find him among the group of people, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him, and after a three days' search they found him in the temple.

These few verses, telling of the losing and finding of Jesus in a literal manner, has a great lesson for us spiritually that I believe was intended for us by the writer.

This going down to Jerusalem to observe the passover was a custom and obligation performed each year, and with some, perhaps, became a habit, we might say, and the real meaning of the ceremonies may have been forgotten to a certain extent.

Just so with some church members (so called) today. Through the busy cares of the world, attending church services may become just a custom, or perhaps they may go just for popularity with the rest of the social group, and do not have their minds on serving God or receiving His blessing into their hearts, for "where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Luke 12:34).

Such people might be called "Sunday" or "fair weather" Christians. Everything must be favorable for their attendance at services.

But, praise God, He still has a few good saints yet in this old world who are faithful in His services regardless of weather or other trivial hinderances. They also have a burden for lost souls, and travail

in tears and prayers for their unsaved loved ones, friends, and neighbors. "As soon as Zion [church of God] travailed, she brought forth her children" Isa. 66:8b.

Oh! that we might have more such godly people today who are in this spiritual warfare in earnest. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Eph. 6:12.

Let us say here that the "spiritual wickedness in high places" refers to the false doctrines and false teaching being proclaimed from the pulpits of sect Babylon, of which the true children of God must beware, for they would deceive the very elect of God if possible. (Matt. 24:24). "Beware of false prophets which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravaging wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits" (Matt. 7:15, 16). The Holy Spirit will soon reveal the counterfeit or false religions to any of God's children who are of a willing mind to know the truth. "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." St. John 8:32. Amen!

We now find that Joseph and Jesus' mother were a day's journey from Jerusalem before they realized that Jesus was not with them. In other words, they had lost him.

So it is with many precious souls now who have once experienced the joy of Christ in their hearts through the new birth ("Ye must be born again" John 3:7). Some have entered the company of others who were more interested in material things of the world and have become like them; then with their minds and time occupied with cares of everyday life and of the world they may have come a considerable distance of the journey of life before learning they have lost Jesus. Some do not seek God nor ask His guidance until some emergency, trouble, or grief is upon them, then only to find they are not in harmony with His will, and do not receive the consoling help they so much need. We must keep the wheels of our spiritual life—so to speak—well oiled by prayer and the reading of God's Word regularly, so we may obtain help and comfort from our heavenly Father when we so much need it.

Dear reader, let us especially notice that they had only lost Jesus for ONE day, yet they had to search THREE days before finding him. This teaches us how much harder it is to regain or find Him again after once having him with us and losing him or straying away out into the world with its temptations and sin.

Where did they find the lad, Jesus? In the temple, which is typical of the church of God today. We are made to wonder why they waited three days before looking in the temple where they had left him.

At present many people are trying to find Jesus in the easiest place, in so-called churches where sin is not condemned and a bloodless religion is preached, where signing a card or shaking the preacher's hand or some other man-made creed is complied with, where they can mingle with the world and indulge in

its sinful pleasures, where a Millennium (a thousand years reign of Christ on earth) is preached, at which time they will be given a second chance to get right with God when there will be no sin or temptations to overcome. But, brethren, "Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Gal. 6:7. "There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

"Without shedding of blood, is no remission" (of sin). Heb. 9:22.

"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." 1 John 2:15

"Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Luke 16:13.

"Therefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord almighty." 2 Cor. 6:17, 18.

When we lose our experience with Christ, we must go back where we lost it and again renew our covenant with Him and receive Him again into our hearts, then He will clean up our lives. We will make wrongs right, forgive and ask forgiveness of any one whom we may have wronged in any way.

There will be no Millennium, and there will be no second chance after death; for, "In the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be." Eccl. 11:3. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." 2 Cor. 5:10. We shall appear in the judgment in the same spiritual condition in which we left this world, either saved through Jesus' blood shed on Calvary's cross, to be with Him for eternity; or forever lost and damned, separated from God, cast into hell, prepared for the devil and his angels.

Dear ones, let us look at our spiritual condition seriously, and ask ourselves: Were we called from this world today, through accident or sudden death, or if Jesus should come for His bride (the church of God); could we face Almighty God, knowing we would hear him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of thy Lord" (Matt. 25:21). Or, would we hear the awful sentence, "Depart from me, ye cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." (Matt. 25:41)?

Let me quote here a statement made some time ago by a very dear brother. Quote: "A man is not ready to live until he is ready to die." This is very true. So many are living a dwarfed, blighted, handicapped life, under the curse of sin, diseased and ill in body, because of disobeying God. Oh, that people could see their lost and undone condition before it is too late, and realize the blessings they are missing in this world, as well as losing the bliss and joy in eternity with Christ and the redeemed—all lost by not being led by their heavenly Father, whom they rebelled against and followed their own self-willed way.

As is the case with the individual soul, so it is true with a congregation collectively. Many groups that were once on fire for God and have had great revivals and have seen many souls born into the kingdom of God (the church of God) now have grown cold and formal, have lost their zeal for spiritual things, and have lost Christ out of their midst without realizing it. This has mainly come about by compromising with the world and conforming to its styles and customs, letting human knowledge and man rule enter in and crowd out God and Holy Spirit rule, then bringing worldly entertainments and social affairs into the church.

The world has influenced the activities of the nominal church to such an extent, that the church no more has any influence over the world. Many professed Christians are patronizing the movies, dance halls, night clubs, etc., joining lodges and secret orders, having bridge clubs to occupy the time that should be used in soul winning for Christ. Such churches (so-called) do not take God's way of financing their expenses (1 Cor. 16:2); but instead, suppers, bazaars, bingo parties, etc. are used to obtain money to operate the church. With such things, God is not well pleased (Mark 11:17).

As Jesus was found literally in the temple after a diligent search, so must he be found spiritually today in the church of God, for which he gave his life—"The church of God which he hath purchased with his own blood." Acts 20:28.

One more fact which we wish to mention, is that Jesus at this time was only twelve years old, yet he was in the temple caring for the Father's business, asking and answering questions pertaining to the kingdom of God. May God help us as Christian parents, Sunday School teachers, preachers, etc., to have more zeal for the welfare of the boys and girls around about us as for those of our own family, that by our example and persuasion we may lead them to "the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world," and teach them to "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth," while their hearts are still tender, and their souls and bodies not yet stained by the awful curse of sin.

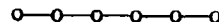
We sincerely pray that the year ahead of us (if Jesus delays his coming) may see God's children purged of worldliness and drawn closer to him with a greater burden to tell the lost and backslidden souls of the saving and keeping power of our blessed Savior, that we may never lose Him out of our lives. Amen.

V. Earle Yantis

Looking for a Reward

When we look about and see the need of "God's Truth" being where souls need it so bad, then find the lack of "Soul Burden" by many who profess to be "Christ's followers" we wonder why and what can we do to get folk awakened. We who know God's truth, who know his plan of salvation, who know too that he requires our all when we are saved and sanctified, then sit back and are too slow to move out

and do anything—I am made to believe that some are like spoiled children who want a good pay for all they do. Now we know the gospel has suffered for the lack of money and means. Many of our dear humble servants have given their all for God's cause. They have not murmured or complained. They have often worked with their hands and have been hindered from doing more gospel work because some have failed to awaken to their duties. But were all saints that claim to be, they would be burdened more on this line and there would be no lack. We all want to "make heaven our home." These are old time words used in testimony. We want to receive that grand reward when we come to the end of life's journey, but there is a work for us all to do. Attending services is grand; it is grand to have that privilege. There are duties for us all. God requires our all. We will surrender all if we love Him. We know God's Word says it is more blessed to give than to receive. We are all glad to call for our dear saint ministers to come when we are sick or in distress, and we wonder greatly should they fail to come. God requires you and me to be ready for His call to GO, to DO, and to GIVE. He wants men and women, boys and girls to "Go ye into all the world." Let us be faithful to help those that have answered the call with our prayers, our tears, and our money. He that giveth sparingly shall reap also sparingly. Let us pray God to awaken us all and keep us awake that we may be found "working, watching, and praying" when He comes for His own. —Jessie Holloman.



AND YOU???

I planned an ultra modern home when priorities were lifted—but a Belgian woman whispered, "I have no home at all."

I dreamed of a country place for luxurious weekends—but a Jewish lad kept saying, "I have no country."

I decided on a new cupboard right now—but a child of China cried out, "I have no cup."

I started to purchase a new kind of washing machine—but a Polish woman said softly, "I have nothing to wash."

I wanted a quick freezing unit for storing quantities of food—but across the waters came the cry, "I have no food."

I ordered a new car for the pleasures of my loved ones—but the war orphan murmured, "I have no loved ones."

The above was written by a saint in Pomona, California, and copied by Jessie Holloman.

Prayer makes the darkest cloud withdraw
Prayer climbs the ladder Jacob saw,
Gives exercise to faith and love,
Brings every blessing from above,
Restraining prayer, we cease to fight,
Prayer makes the Christian's armor bright,
And Satan trembles when he sees
The weakest saint upon his knees.

"FAITH AND VICTORY"**16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY**

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

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Five copies to any address, one year	1.00
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An exclusive, full gospel paper printed and sent out in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ in the interest of all Christians, which body of believers constitute the one and only true Church of God.

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.

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

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

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE
920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma

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.; night services, 7:30 p. m.; Mid-week prayer meeting Wednesday, 7:30 p. m.; Bible Study Friday, 7:30 p. m.

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"Work on, work on, nor doubt, nor fear.
From age to age this voice shall cheer:
Whate'er may die or be forgot,
Work done for God, it dieth NOT."

Editorials

We have been quite burdened this morning concerning the printing work here at the "Lord's Print Shop" because of the shortage of paper and the need of the *Faith and Victory* paper going out twice each month in order to take care of the many good testimonies and articles that are sent here to be printed. There is not enough room in the little paper to pass the good news on to all the saints and others who are interested.

It seemed that we would have no paper to print the May *Faith and Victory* this month. We prayed and looked to God to send the needed paper so our readers would not be disappointed, and yesterday the Lord sent two cases of paper, which caused rejoicing in our souls. The Lord has done this several times before and we are encouraged about the supply. It reminds me of what I have often heard dear old Bro. G. E. Harmon say in talking about the Lord supplying his needs: "Just before we starved, we didn't starve."

There are several obstacles yet to be removed before we can publish the paper twice a month. One is the extra machinery needed to keep it going. We have ordered these machines but the factories are hindered because of strikes and shortage of material until it seems that it will be some time yet before we can get them.

The last two times that we put out the paper we had two pages of good testimonies left over because we had no room in the paper for them, also many good articles. We would love to get all this good reading matter out to the people, and we believe that God is working to bring this about. We ask the prayers of all the readers to be agreed with us in this important matter.

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The cost of paper on which to print has doubled during the war and the largest raise has come since the war is over. If strikes continue and labor continues to demand an increase in wages, it is hard to tell how much more it will increase. Very few realize how much time, labor, and means it takes to keep a printing work like this going. Besides the nearly eight thousand *Faith and Victory* papers that are printed and sent out each month, we print thousands upon thousands of tracts, booklets, and books that go out in a steady stream all the time. A large amount of our printed matter goes to the people free of charge with the postage paid by us, and much of the other printing is sent out so cheap that it barely covers the cost of printing. Our burden is to get the gospel by the printed page to souls at any cost and spend and be spent for the needy and for the furtherance of the kingdom of God among men. Brethren, pray with us and for us, and share with us the burden for lost souls.

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It will soon be campmeeting season again. In this issue are notices concerning the dates of several campmeetings. In the next issue the announcements

of all the different campmeetings should be printed, so the saints wanting to attend the meetings can make their plans according to the dates given, and those working can apply for their vacation to attend the meeting most impressed upon them by the Lord.

The State campmeeting at Guthrie will begin on the first Friday in August, which is the first day of August this year. The saints are erecting a pavilion here at Guthrie to use for the yearly campmeetings. This will be much cooler and nicer in every way than a tent, and having the new two story dining hall here, will make the grounds convenient for a campmeeting. The second story of the dining hall will be provided with beds and cots for sleeping quarters. Rooms near by can be rented by those desiring rooming quarters and privacy.

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The most crafty, sly, and cunning spirit that Satan has out in these days of lethargy and indifference is a compromising spirit that really lulls to sleep souls that are otherwise wide awake, causing them to rock along with a cold profession and mix up with dead sectism. If you trace back on these compromising preachers, you will find that they are supping of Babylon wine and have become somewhat spiritually intoxicated and occasionally commit spiritual fornication with some of the numerous harlot daughters who charmingly overcome them with their religious outward show and glittering manifestations of great things done for the Lord (???).

In considering the earthly greatness of the harlot daughters of Mystery Babylon the Great, we find them encompassing land and sea. They have a worked-up zeal in spreading themselves like a green bay tree until they would put to shame the glittering show and power of old King Nebuchadnezzar. What the world needs today is a few men like Daniel and a company of real full-blood Hebrew children that will stand before literal kings and spiritual kings and say to them in word and practice: "Let it be known unto you that our God whom we serve is able to keep us free from your influence and bribery, and by His grace we shall not bow to your earthly ways and human arrangements nor fear and worship your idols, for our God is able to preserve us free from this world that we be not of the world even as Christ and his disciples were not of the world." And after they have done all and said all that would please God, then to stand having their loins girded about with truth, holding up the shield of faith, warding off all the fiery darts of the enemy, holding on to the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, being steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that their labor is not in vain in Him; for the crown that never fades is sure to all the thorough-bred Hebrew children.

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Easter Sunday was a great day in Zion here at Guthrie. The day was clear and the sun shone brightly. It seemed that God was smiling on all nature. Buds were bursting on the trees; they seemed

to be resurrected to life again. Vegetation was bursting through the ground, and many were the manifestations of new life, which reminded us of the newness of a resurrection. Saints came from different places. The meeting house was filled with happy saints. The singing was heavenly. The Lord used Bro. Archie Souders to bring forth a message that was encouraging to the saints to press the battle on and wage war against the enemy who would hold us in ruts and cause an ease in Zion. His text was: "There is much land yet to be possessed." The Lord anointed for this message; not only for speaking, but for hearing; and the saints were refreshed from heaven's bounteous store house.

In the afternoon the Lord used Bro. Ulysses Phillips of Dover, Okla. to conduct the ordinance services. He spoke appropriately on the subjects, giving good wholesome instruction and advice. Seventy-three joy-filled saints took part in the Lord's supper and feet washing. The words of Jesus came true again found in John 13:17, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

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Bro. Hyrum Ray's grandmother, Sister Tryphena Phillips, passed on to be with Jesus April 2nd. He and his wife, Geneva, made the trip in their car to Knoxville, Tenn. to attend the funeral. His grandmother lived for the Lord for many years and was an example of godliness among her neighbors and friends. Bro. Hyrum's mother returned with them to Guthrie. She is yielding herself to the Lord and is quite at home among the redeemed. Pray much for her that she may have grace to stand steadfast for the Lord when she returns to Knoxville.

Sister Bessie Metcalf's mother passed away April 1st. She had passed her 90th year and has been quite a burden for Sister Metcalf for quite awhile. She lacked some over a hundred dollars of having enough to care for the funeral expenses. At present Sister Metcalf is staying in the home of Bro. and Sister O. E. Wilson in Shawnee, Okla., caring for their property while they are visiting and working for the Lord in California. Her address is 728 N. Union St. Shawnee, Okla. Any one who feels led of the Lord to help this widow bear these expenses can send it directly to her at Shawnee, or to the office here and we will send it to her.

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Campmeeting Notices

The general southern campmeeting of the church of God will be held at Hammond, La. from June 27 to July 6th. Particulars will be given later. Write to Bro. Max Williamson in care of P. O. or Ray Key, Box 370, Hammond, La. for information.

The campmeeting of the church of God at Kalamazoo, Michigan will convene from July 4 to 13, 1947. Saints should bring sugar or ration stamps. Anyone who desires to donate campmeeting supplies, such as food, tents, or money, may send them to Bro. Hubert Corteway, 744 Hawley St., Kalamazoo 54, Mich.

A NEED IN A NEW FIELD

Greetings in the Lord,—The owners of our church building have given us notice to leave by April 27th or 28th, so we shall be left without a place of worship, as there are no places to rent. We started a building fund some time ago, but we are few in number and have only about \$400 dollars on hands for that purpose. If any of the saints would like to donate money or time to the cause of Christ here it would be greatly appreciated. Our lot is paid for, but lumber and building material is very high, so we need help.—Hubert Corteway, Treasurer, 744 Hawley St., Kalamazoo 54, Mich.

CARD OF THANKS

We want to thank you dear ones for the liberal giving of your means, and the prayers which you offered in our behalf for a place to live, which we have purchased and in which we now live. We are very thankful to the dear Lord. It is a house with three rooms and is home to us. When we think of how the burden of our hearts in prayer and fasting touched the heart of God and the hearts of his dear children and our burden became your burden, we cannot help but say, "Praise the Lord for His saints that have love one to another." We would be glad to receive a letter from any of the dear ones. Your brother in the one body, E. J. Trotter, 319 Atchison St., Fresno, California.

Obituaries

Brother Lev. Edward Davy, the second child of C. H. and Polly Ann Davy, was born in Pettis Co., Mo. near the city of Sedalia May 9, 1871. Then in his early teens he, with the family, moved to Clay Center, Kansas. At the age of fifteen years, upon the death of his mother, he began to make a livelihood for himself, following theatrical and business life. He left his home and returned occasionally to visit the family for a period of several years. In 1903 he was united in marriage to Anna Skaggs of Wichita, Kansas, with whom he lived happily until she departed this life.

After about thirty years spent in sin he accepted the Lord as his Saviour, but soon fell away. He was soon brought back by reading a tract written by Dwight L. Moody entitled, "Back to God," and from then on he remained steadfast and a whole-hearted worker in His Master's vineyard, conscientiously loyal and faithful unto the Lord and to the assembly of the church of God, in which the Lord had called him.

On May 19, 1919 he was again united in marriage to Mary Osborne Green. He was a kind, faithful, and devoted husband with his faith steadfast in God, and unshaken by the afflictions and trials of life as he passed through them. His greatest desire of life was to see souls born into the kingdom of God. His last revival meeting was held at Bakersfield, Calif., closing March 9th. On March 20th, while suffering in his body, he remarked that he would like to remain a little longer, feeling there was a little more for him to do in helping to save some that were heavy upon his heart. Yet he said, "If the Lord wills to take me now, the Lord's will be done." So our beloved brother and co-laborer, who was much loved by both saints and sinners in the community where he lived more than 25 years, fell asleep in Jesus March 25 at Duarte, Calif. After completing a telephone conversation with one Sister Sullivan of Pasadena, Calif. He remarked to her that he was tired and needed to rest awhile. After lying down on the bed and drawing three deep breaths, he was gone. His wife was beside him.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Mary J. Davy; one sister, Martha Crews of Seattle, Wash.; one aunt; a number of nieces, nephews, and other relatives, and many friends. The funeral was conducted by the writer and Bro. I. C. Chandler of Bakersfield at the Douglas Mortuary at Monrovia, California. Interment: Monrovia Cemetery.
T. T. Holden.

AS THE SUN GOES DOWN

By T. T. Holden

As along life's way he traveled to a land more fair than day,

He was trusting Christ his Saviour to protect him all the way.

When his journey here was ended, in His arms to be found
Going home with Him in glory when his life's sun went down.

He labored for the Master, doing what he bade him do,
For he heard His gentie pleading, calling soldiers brave and true.

Into fields where sin is raging did he fight and never frown,

Knowing the battle would soon be over as the sun of his life went down.

Ofttimes he was weary and worn of the toils he must face,
Knowing that when life was over, endless joy would these replace;

So he ever pressed onward for that robe and victor's crown

That he was to wear in heaven when his life's sun went down.

In memory of and appreciation for our departed fellow-laborer, L. E. Davy

Whereas the Great Ruler of the universe has in His infinite wisdom removed from our midst our much esteemed fellow-laborer and a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ, Brother L. E. Davy; we the ministers of the church of God feel the great loss sustained. The intimate relation and cooperation held by him with other ministers makes it fitting that we voice our appreciation of his untiring zeal and earnestness in his work whereunto he was called, which he so faithfully fulfilled. The wisdom and ability which he exercised by council and service will be held in grateful remembrance.

Just recently he sounded a word of warning of the impending danger that may be our portion to face for the cause of Christ in the not too distant future. He further said that we may be called to suffer as did the early Christians in the morning time of the gospel dispensation. He stood at his post of duty in sickness or in health, never faltering by the way. He met the difficult problems with courage and understanding, never running from the heat of the battle.

"The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come." Isaiah 57:1.

Brother Davy has laid his armour down, exchanging his cross for a crown. With sorrow in our hearts, we bow in submission to the great will of our Heavenly Father.

Humbly submitted by the ministers of the Church of God of Southern California.

By Emma Holden

Tryphena Phillips, born November 12, 1861; departed this life April 2, 1947; age 85 yrs., 4 mos., and 20 days.

In Jan., 1880 she was united in marriage to W. R. Phillips, to which union eight children were born, two of which preceded her in death. Her husband passed away in 1944.

Bereaved are: four daughters, Artie Stewart, Emma Howell, Ollie Ray, and Nelia Coombs; two sons, Clint and Boyd Phillips; 26 grandchildren; a number of great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; and other relatives and friends.

She was converted at an early age and accepted the full truth of the gospel when she heard it about thirty years ago. She lived a consistent Christian life, having the confidence of all who knew her. She trusted God fully for soul and body with unwavering faith even in times of severe trials. She was very patient in the great suffering which she endured during her last illness.

The funeral service was conducted at Vonore, Tenn. April 6th. A gospel message of comfort to the bereaved and warning and appeal to the unsaved was delivered by Bro. J. E. Parks of Knoxville, Tenn. Many appropriate Scriptures were used, including Job 5:26: "Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in his season."

Mrs. Mary Lou Glasgow departed this life at her home in Salem, Ore., March 12, 1947 at the age of 77 yrs., 1 month, and 20 days. Sister Glasgow was the wife of Robert L. Glasgow, who passed on Nov. 29, 1944.

Bro. and Sister Glasgow accepted the faith of the full gospel many years ago and labored in the Master's work until they were called to their reward. He was a minister in the church of God and labored in Okla. and elsewhere until in 1910. They moved to Salem, Ore., where they labored on till their labors of love were finished.

Sister Glasgow's funeral was conducted in Salem on March 14th by Brother Charles Carter and the writer.

—Sam Wilson

Leon Cherry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Cherry, was born at Ardmore, Okla. on Jan. 26, 1908. Later, with his parents, he moved to Guthrie, Okla. He received his education in the Guthrie public schools. He was united in marriage to Ola Underwood in the year of 1926. To this union eight children were born; three preceding him in death.

He departed this life April 15, 1947. He leaves to mourn his passing: a wife, four sons, one daughter, a mother and father, one brother, three sisters, and a host of friends.

He was a loving neighbor and a loyal friend to all who knew him. Before his death he professed a hope in Christ, which was very evident to those about him.

"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."

Funeral service was conducted by Ulysses Phillips. Text: Psalm 40:1, 2, 3. The body was laid to rest in Summit View Cemetery north of Guthrie.

William M. James, born August 7, 1870, departed this life December 21, 1946, age 76 years. The death angel called him home; there to rest with Jesus till the Judgment morning. He leaves behind his wife, Mrs. Carrie James, and ten children to mourn the loss. He was a devoted husband to his wife and a kind father to

his children. He is greatly missed by his family and friends. No one can fill the vacant place of my dear daddy. The home is sad and lonesome without him, but some sweet day I will meet my dear daddy in that home so nappy and free. —Written by his daughter, Mrs. B. R. Raynor, Louin, Miss.

Funeral services were held April 11th at Sherrod's funeral home, Bangor, Michigan for Mrs. Emma Elizabeth Brant, 68, who died at her home in Bangor April 8th.

Mrs. Brant was born April 6, 1879, in Ohio, the daughter of David and Mary Kuney. She was married to Frank Brant 38 years ago in Lacota.

She leaves the following children: LeRoy Hunt, Bangor; Edward Strickler, Berrien Springs; Mrs. Iva Kuhn, South Haven; Clarence Brant, Bangor. There are 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Surviving also are one brother and four sisters.

Sister Brant was settled in the truth and her faithfulness in trusting God for soul and body through trials and affliction gives her loved ones the assurance that she is at rest. Bro. Earl Brown of Ithica, Mich., officiated at the funeral rites. Text: Job 14:14. His three children sang, "Saved by Grace," and "Further Along."

Burial was in the Arlington Hill Cemetery.

CORRESPONDENCE

La.—Dear saints, greetings in Jesus' dear name,—I praise God for victory down in my soul. How well I remember the time that the dear Lord rolled the burden from my soul and set me free. I am still praising Him for the new birth. When Nicodemus, that proud Pharisee, came to Jesus by night—perhaps ashamed to come by day lest he be mocked (John 3:7)—Jesus said unto him, "Ye must be born again." Salvation is not obtained by merely joining a church and striving to live up to Christian principles, but living to please God, which means living without sin. 1 John 3:9 says, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin, for his seed remaineth in him and he cannot sin because he is born of God." If anyone who is not saved should read this, I would like to say, sinner friend, the world has no power over your immortal soul to save or destroy it, but the mighty God of heaven will some day summon you before the eternal throne. Rev. 3:20 says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him and he with me." Considering the uncertainty of life, surely no one can afford to miss this great salvation. If your peace is not made with God, neglect it no longer, for neglecting does not pay. Many people have for the last time turned away from Christ and his loving arms of mercy that are still outstretched. They attended their last meeting, listened to their last testimony, heard their last song sung, and then perhaps they are going to hear the voice of a conscience that has steelled itself against God crying, "If I had only taken that last opportunity, but I let it slip. I was almost persuaded to be a Christian, but lost!"

Heaven is not only a wonderful place, but it is where God is, where the angels dwell, where the redeemed of the Lord will have their home. He has given every one of us the privilege of obeying His precious Word that we might make heaven our home. Thank God for this wonderful salvation that maketh not ashamed. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to all that believeth." This

world is not my home; I'm just passing through. Dear saints, pray for me that I will ever live true and be ready when Jesus comes. May the Lord bless all the saints.

Your sister in Christ,

Mrs. A. A. Wyles

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

Calif.—Dear saints, greetings to you all in the precious name of Jesus. This morning still finds me saved and thankful to the dear Lord from the depth of my soul for the gospel truth and that I ever did find Jesus, the dear loving Saviour, and the good way he left on record, that I could by obedience to the blessed Word of God find sweet deliverance for my soul in this present sinful world among all the different and confused religious sects the devil has set to deceive and carry out his will in the name of religion. Dear precious souls, Jesus is saying, "Come to me and I will give you rest." Praise His dear name.

I received my "Faith and Victory" paper yesterday. I love to see it come. It brings sweet messages of truth that greatly encourage my heart and help me to see the strait and narrow way more clearly.

We came to California last December. We have met some very precious, true, loving saints who have been a great help to us. That good spirit of love that we have found in the hearts of God's dear children in other places, we find here to be the same.

Will the saints in other places please help the saints in southern California to earnestly pray that God's will be done in this matter? We have met several dear young good preachers since we have been here that so far as preaching the gospel is concerned they seem to be almost idle; and we know in the east the harvest is plenteous but the laborers are few. Perhaps many precious honest souls are going down with the lost each year for a lack of a real understanding of the Saviour's love for the lost. Pray that God will send some to help rescue the lost in the eastern part of the U. S.

Bro. W. D. Lemonds.

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

W. Va.—Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ and the one body, in the unity of the Spirit where we can see eye to eye and speak the same thing that people can tell there is no division in the body and no scism. Dear brothers and sisters, I feel like testifying to the goodness of God to me through his power to heal me of some kind of affliction which the doctors call shingles. I did not have a doctor, but others who had the same thing doctored. I trusted the dear Lord and he healed me. I was up and down about two weeks, and could not sleep. There were red spots all over my shoulders and around my arm. One night the devil told me that this was one time I would have to go to the hospital but I told him that I had my mind made up and I would die if the dear Lord wanted to take me. Then God began to talk to me and said He would heal me, and praise God, He did. Some laid hands on me and prayed and God took all the pain away and the spots turned black. What a mighty God we serve. I am saved and sanctified and healed by his mighty power.

I want to tell how the dear Lord showed me to quit drinking coffee. I had quit for several years, but would make it for husband and drink it when I was out of postum so got the habit again. I had been praying much and trying to draw closer to God. One night God's voice spoke and told me to drink postum. The next morning I was alone and the devil tried to confuse me and make me think it was not God's voice. I had decided it was that way and went to reach over the table to get my coffee dripolator, but the power of God grasped my

hand as an electric current. I knew then it was God talking to me and decided there would be no more coffee for me. It had been giving me indigestion, and now I don't have it any more.

Please pray for our little work here which we are trying to get started. There are about seven of us and we have no place to worship only around in our houses.

Please pray earnestly for a sister here who has just recently taken her stand with the true people of God. She has an inward goiter and it sometimes chokes her very badly. Please pray earnestly and we shall be agreed with you. She is saved and has been healed of other diseases. She is trusting the dear Lord. We believe God will heal all who trust Him until He gets ready to take them home to be with Him.

Georgiana Sayre

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

N. Y.—I am still saved and living for the dear Lord. And I am encouraged to press on until the crown is won. All signs point to the soon return of our Lord. I intend by His help and grace to be ready to go up to meet him in the clouds. Since we "know not the hour," it is imperative that we "be ready" when He comes! Pray for me that I be as the wise virgins who kept oil in their lamps and were ready to go out to meet the BRIDE-GROOM! I solicit your prayers, so ever keep me before the throne of grace. I receive much spiritual comfort from reading the "Faith and Victory." May the Lord use to His honor and glory the messages and testimonies that He will direct His servants to write in each and every month's "Faith and Victory." I earnestly pray that the readers will be brought to a saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ella Hemphill.

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

Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—I am at this time still saved and on the King's highway, going up the shining way with victory in my soul. I mean to go to the end, and don't mean to stop shorter than heaven. The world in sin is lost. The people are getting worse and worse all the time. Christ will soon be here, and we have only a few more days to suffer here. Let us see to it that we keep true to Jesus and draw nearer to him, for we do not know when he will say, "Time out, come home." There is much sickness here. Some are passing out unprepared to meet Jesus.

The Lord surely took care of my son this week. He fell off a tractor and did not receive a bruise or scratch. The tractor ran over him, and did not hurt him. The Lord cared for him. He never did stop going and in two days he went back to work with the tractor. The owner of the tractor said he didn't see how he escaped being killed. It was just the Lord and my prayers. I am giving the Lord the thanks and praise. If we will live for God He will do great things for us. This boy is 16 years of age. He got saved at campmeeting last summer and was baptized. He held on for awhile but fell by the way. He, has claimed salvation twice this year since then, but it seems he doesn't get strength to hold to the Lord. The devil just takes a tight hold on him and overcomes him. I believe he would make a wonderful young man for the Lord if he could keep saved. I want all the saints to pray for him that he will have power to live for the Lord and hold on.

Christ says that if we keep His sayings we shall never see death, and will go through the valley of the shadow of death and fear no evil for He is with us. "If any man come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who

walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit, for the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death." I am learning of the Lord all the time. Your sister, Lizzie Jordan

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

Okla.—Dear saints, greeting in Jesus' precious name.

I am glad I can say I am still saved and trusting in the Lord for everything. I have been saved one year this month, which is April, and I do not think about turning back to the world because I realize the reward is at the end. There is nothing back in the world I would ever want again. I try to get closer to the Lord every day. Let us who are Christians work and not just sit down and hold our hands and say, "I am a child of God." One must work if he gains a crown. There is plenty of work to do in this sinful world; enough to keep the Christian family busy. Let us be up and doing, saints, and try to help save souls by walking in the light and living pure clean lives, and telling what a wonderful Saviour He is. This is the first time I have written my testimony, but I have written to the Faith Pub. House for prayer and the Lord wonderfully touched my body. I thank Him, and I thank the ones that sent the message in my behalf. Pray for me that I will ever keep humble.

Your sister in Christ, Laura Alexander

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

Mo.—Dear saints, Greetings in the name of our dear Saviour, who bled and died that we might be saved, and arose again having victory over death. And praise the Lord, He still has victory and power over afflictions and tests of life.

They thought that they were getting rid of Jesus, his healing power, and the king of the Jews, when they crucified him, but, praise God, his works are still going on. He is a conquering King and on the throne to heal.

When we put in the call to Guthrie, our baby boy had a very high fever, which threw him into a spasm. Now he is getting along fine, thank the precious Lord.

We have much for which to thank the Lord. He is very good to us. Many things happen which we cannot understand, but the dear Lord knows and understands all things. I think of the song: "Does Jesus care when my heart is pained too deeply for mirth or song? . . . Does He care enough to be near? . . . Oh, yes! He cares, I know He cares," etc. Truly this poet must have known that Jesus does care. He has done so much for me that I am determined by his help and grace to be true and do his will. He had just healed me of a real bad case of flu before the baby took sick. Also, He healed our oldest girl's left ear which was afflicted with a bad rising. Her ear has been draining for over a week, but just a little now. We've been having many afflictions, but the Lord has delivered us out.

I want to tell of an accident I had near ministers' meeting time. The baby was sick and I got up in the night to plug in the floor lamp. In doing so I got a severe shock which shook my hand terribly, then ran through my body and out my big toe. In a day or two the lower joint next to the palm of my left hand (where I received the shock) came up into a hard knot. As weeks passed by, it kept getting sore until I couldn't grip anything that was hard without hurting my hand. About three weeks ago I took hold of a door knob to open the door and it was stuck; so, not thinking, gripped a little harder and pulled quickly. In so doing, my hand popped and felt a little strange. I looked to see what I had done. The knot was gone and the soreness left in a very short while. It must have been thrown out of place. I

had been looking to the Lord to help me with it, so give Him the praise for that.

I often think of the saints at Guthrie and long to be with them. It will be wonderful to make it into heaven and be with Jesus and all his dear people.

I pray heaven's blessings be upon all.

Christian love,

Mrs. Murphey Allen

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

Mo.—Dear saints, Greetings in the name of Jesus,—I want to give my testimony about how the Lord healed me about two weeks ago. I had what I thought was poisoning on my hands which I had gotten off some stove wood. In a few days I noticed a place on my face. It then spread over my face and down on my neck. My face was so swollen and feverish—only my eyes were not swollen. One morning the burning and itching was so bad I just walked the floor. I thought of writing to you for prayer, but I needed relief at once, so I prayed, telling the Lord how I was in need of help and there was no one close to pray for me. The pain and burning stopped but my face seemed to swell more even around my eyes. That was Thursday. On Saturday morning my face was very much swollen but there was no pain until about noon. My husband was going to town with a neighbor to get some needed groceries. He was preparing to go when suddenly there was a fiery burning in my face especially around my eyes and forehead. My face was feverish and burning and my eyes swollen almost shut. I felt I could not stand much more. I chilled and my hands and feet felt cold as ice. Then it seemed I heard a voice in my ear say, "You ought to call a doctor;" but I said I couldn't let people on the telephone line know I gave in to call a doctor. Then the voice said, so plainly, "Let him (John) go see a doctor while he is in town and ask him what to do." But I thought, no, if the Lord cannot heal me neither can a doctor. John did not want to leave me, but I told him to go on as we needed some things. As I heard the door close behind him that very instant all the pain and burning left. What a relief! How I praised God. I knew the Lord had healed me. Even the swelling soon left my face. I do not know whether it was poison ivy or not. Some thought it was erysipelas; but whatever it was, I know the Lord healed it, and I give Him all the praise. Jesus never fails.

"Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!

How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!

Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!

O, for grace to trust Him more!"

Please pray for me.

Mrs. John Lorenz.

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

Ore.—Dear friends,—This is the first time I ever really read the "Faith and Victory" paper. It really has been a big help to me. I know God, only I hope to go very much deeper in His precious way of life. I want to know Him more. I want to live to please Him. There is happiness only in living His way.

I am writing for prayer concerning a very big problem. That God will give me wisdom to do his will. My husband and I were separated a short time ago. We wish to be together again. I'm asking God to make a way for him to return home right, that we may raise our children together. I believe every child needs a father. God has surely blessed and kept us, but if the Lord should not see fit for my husband to return, I pray he will provide support somehow for myself and our two babies so I may not have to go out to work and leave them with someone else; and that He'll give me wisdom and guidance to rear them in His holy way, that some

day they also may know him. Please pray for us. I wish not to have to leave my children. I must unless God will somehow provide support for us. Please pray that if my husband and I are living as God wants us to He'll release him and bring him home to help me bring up our children in His ways and that we together may be wholly His. Pray that He will make His will known to us that we may have strength and understanding.

I do not wish our names to be printed. God knows.

O—O—O—O—O—O

Mich.—Two sisters met one day and were talking about what God had done for them, how he had saved them from all their sins and set them free and helped them to live a holy life, that is, a life free from all sin. That is the only life to live if we want to make heaven our home. Jesus says in his word, "Repent that your sins may be blotted out." That is what the two sisters had done. As they were talking about that, a man stepped up to them and said that nobody could live without sin in this world.

He said, "I joined a church and am a Christian too, but I sin every day." He was just a church member, that is why he could not understand the life of those two sisters. There is much difference between a church member and one that has repented before God.

The sisters told him that he must repent and then Jesus, who died for him, would blot out his sins and he too would become a new creature in Christ Jesus, then he too would say, "Thank God, my sins are gone, and I am living without sin. Thank God for his great love to me."

This is for myself, C. Brandt. I want to thank God for His great love to me, His wonderful salvation, His saving grace, and His keeping power. I am so glad that Jesus knows. He is my all and in all. I love Him so much that I said "goodbye" to this old world and all that is in it forever. I know many who say they are Christians because they joined a church, just like this man.

Cornelius Brandt.

Okl.—Dear ones in Christ, greetings in Jesus name. I have felt impressed for some time to send my testimony to the paper. I enjoy reading it and look forward to its coming. It fills my soul with joy to read the many testimonies of those who are standing out for the straight truth.

I heard and accepted the truth in Iowa in 1893, and have been standing for it ever since. We came to Okla. that same year and the Lord opened the way for us to get land seven miles north of Enid on which we built a small shanty and began to have prayer meeting in it, which resulted in a number of souls being saved.

Then the Lord wanted us to start a work in town. Saints at Oklahoma City, and Carthage, Mo. helped us with means, so my husband bought four lots in Enid and gave two to the church, and by the help of the Lord a chapel was built. The Lord has done much for us too numerous to mention in answering prayer, in healing and other things.

My first husband has been in the glory land almost eleven years. Since that time I have had two other husbands. I lived with the second one only a little over a year when he died with cancer. He was wonderfully saved before his death. He had professed religion with the Presbyterian people, but knew nothing about the church of God until we met. Also, the third husband knew nothing about the church of God until we got acquainted. Now he is real zealous for the church of God. He was a Baptist in belief, but now he feels led to work for the Lord. We have been married near seven years.

He is almost seventy years old, and I am 77. We desire to prove true and faithful until the end comes. It pays to have a decision to go all the way with Jesus.

Neither young nor old would find anything in this old world for them if they would practice reading the Word of God and obeying it. The more one reads and prays the more he will want it. It becomes a part of one. The deeper one gets in God's word the better he can live.

If I have offended any of the saints, I ask you to forgive me and pray for me that I go the rest of the way with Jesus,
Mrs. Edith Roberts

Indiana—To all the saints of God scattered abroad, greeting in the name of Jesus,—I am glad to be able to join you through the printed page of the "Faith and Victory" once more; and speak a few words of testimony for Jesus. Dear ones, we (all saved people) are His witnesses, and should witness for Him by telling what He has done and is doing for us. Yes, give Him the fruit of our lips just as the Holy Spirit leads; but be sure that our deeds will back up what we say. I am praising God for His wonderful plan of salvation, that through the blood (death) of Jesus, every sinner could be saved to the uttermost (from all sins) if they will repent and believe in Him with their whole heart and continue on in faith and obedience unto the end of this life. I praise God that I found and accepted His way of salvation about 45 years ago—the highway of holiness, so high that no unclean (sinful) thing can pass (travel) over it. Thank God, it is not our own human holiness or righteousness that saves us, but it is the love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost that prompts us to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. I am glad that I am a member of the church that Jesus built. I did not have to join it by letting some so-called preacher take me in; but entered in through the door. St. John 10:7, "Then said Jesus unto them again, verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep." Verse 9, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." Verse 16, "Jesus said, other sheep I have which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." I am glad that Jesus made the way of salvation so simple and plain that none should miss the way by trying to climb up some other way, by listening to and believing the doctrine of some false shepherds that have so-called sheep folds (churches) of their own choice of name and belief, that persuade sinners to just accept Christ, join the church and that is all that is necessary. They will encompass land and sea for proselytes, making them two-fold more the children of hell than themselves, which is very bad indeed.

Jesus said, "Come unto me, and I will give you rest." He opens, or has opened, the door of his church, and no man can shut it. He shuts the door, and no man can open it. This cuts out all the authority that sect-made preachers claim to have to make sinners members of the church. I am your brother saved, sanctified, and kept by His power.
C. S. Wyatt.

O—O—O—O—O—O

Dear child of God:—Are you shut in, and also shut out from all public worship and all active service for God and humanity? Perhaps it is because of some sickness or old age that makes it impossible for you to go among others as you used to do. Some are compelled to sit all day in a wheel chair. Some are compelled to lie in bed. The physical body is disabled but the thoughts

of the mind and the heart is just as active as in former years and you long to find some way to employ those long lonely hours in some way to be of help to someone.

I am thankful that there are many ways that those disabled soldiers of the cross can help, even more perhaps than when they were so busy doing active work.

Do you ever stop to think that there are thousands of others just like you—many perhaps worse—who are lonely, discouraged and wonder if ever a bright day will come for them? If you are able to write you can brighten a day for someone by writing a letter to them. I know of one shut-in woman whose life has been blessed many times by reading a cheerful, loving letter written to by someone who cares. Do not be tempted to think those to whom you write will not be glad to get a letter. They are just as lonely as you are and you can make a bright spot in a day for them and do it often.

The Lord is able to do and bring to pass those things that we in our human way of thinking could never conceive of. Almost everyone has loved ones who refuse to give themselves to our dear Lord. You could pray for them, and perhaps through a letter you could cause them to stop and think of their unsaved condition.

If unsaved people visit you can witness to them of God's love. Life is hard for them. Remember that most people now are wondering what is going to take place next in this terrible world of sin and sorrow. Most unsaved people are disgusted with the world as it is and with their own lives. Do not be afraid to let them know that you have found a Saviour who satisfies your heart and soul even in trying conditions. It will have an effect upon them when they realize you have a resting place they have not found. You can help them to know that there is a better way of life.

Read your Bible often and you will find great strength there. As you keep in touch with God he will reveal new truths to you. Keep them in your mind and He will make a way some time for you to use those good truths to help someone. And never forget that our dear Lord never did and never will forget a promise, said that He would never forsake us. I am sure that you can find many ways to be busy for God and humanity if you ask the Lord to give you something you can do. May God bless every one of you dear shut-ins. Eva Leagne.

o—o—o—o—o—o

Ala.—I was glad to get the tracts and will give them out to help get some souls saved. Pray for me that I may help save poor dying souls and help them to see the real church and to trust in the Lord all the way.

I hear so many so-called saints testifying that they are trusting the Lord for their healing and as soon as pain begins to run through their bodies they turn to the doctor and medicine. They forget that God is real and to please him we must be real. Without faith we cannot please Him. No liar can enter into the kingdom. I have not had a doctor for nearly thirty years and have not taken, rubbed, or smelled medicine in 12 years. I have been very sick. I had to be lifted and turned over in bed.

I was sick nigh unto death with flu or pneumonia. People around me were dying with both diseases. I was anointed and prayed for and the Lord healed me. Within an hour after I was anointed I got up and my fever was gone. My husband did not know what to think. He thought death had struck me. I told him not to be afraid for my doctor had healed me. I was very weak but in two or three days I was doing my house work, washing for my husband, four children and myself. I raise the Lord, he is all and in all to me.

One of my eyes went out suddenly over four years ago. I have not gone to a doctor to find out the cause. God knows all about the cause and I am trusting him to restore my eyesight. I am not afraid. If I should lose the other eye I will still trust my God for I know that he is real and that He will care for me. Pray much for me. I want the real saints of God to pray. He does not have saints who are not real. I want all of you to pray much for my sight, for me to keep the one eye, and if God is willing, that He will restore the other sight. The eye is not sore, but just went out without warning. I understand through that how our lives can flicker out like that. I mean to ever be ready, praise the name of the Lord.

Sister Willie L. Parker

ONE of the "ALL THINGS"

Matt. 28: 19, 20: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

This is the last commandment which Christ gave to his disciples, and it is just the same today. Heaven and earth shall pass away but Christ's words shall not pass away (Matt. 24:35). They shall judge us at the last day.

There is an evil under the sun today that is common among men (Eccl. 6:12). That is the sin of adultery. The question was asked in Christ's time by the Pharisees: "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife and marry another?" That question is often asked today. Here is the Bible answer:

Matt. 5:28, "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." (verse 31), "It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery." Mark 10:2-10. "And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him. And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you? And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away. And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. And in the house his disciples asked him again of this same matter. And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery."

Lk. 16:17, "And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail. Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery."

This is what Jesus taught. Remember the commandment given at the first of this article, "teaching them to observe ALL THINGS whatsoever I have commanded you."

1 Cor. 7:10, "And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife."

Romans 7:1, "Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? For the woman which hath a husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but and if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man."

From these Scriptures we understand that Christ and the apostles taught that divorcing and marrying another or looking upon a woman to lust after her is plain adultery. Adultery, so long as it is practiced, will bar one out of heaven (1 Cor. 6:9, 10) but it is not an unpardonable sin. Jesus said to the woman taken in adultery (John 8:1-11) "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more." Jesus did not condemn her but He did reprove her and told her to quit it for it was sin.

Adultery is a work of the flesh. Gal. 5:19, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these, Adultery, fornication," etc. (verse 21) "and such like: of the which I tell you before as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

Gal. 6:7, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Gal. 5:24, "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lust." Rom. 6:12, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body; that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof."

Jesus taught that adultery is sin (John 8:11, "Go and sin no more."). "Christ loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Eph. 5:27. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people,

zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority."

I know the devil doesn't want us to teach these things publicly. He tells God's people that it is all right for them to believe it but don't teach it; but Christ said, "teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."—Simon Post.

—oOo— The Worth of a Soul

This beautiful song comes to my mind as my heart goes out to this old dark world of sin:

"There were ninety and nine that safely lay

In the shelter of the fold,

But one was out on the hills away,

Far off from the gates of gold."

We read in Matt. 18:10-15, "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? if a man have a hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish."

"Jesus cares, yes, He cares." He left his beautiful home in glory and came down here to give His life just for that wandering lamb out on the lonely mountain all alone, cold and hungry, in darkness, lost and no hope, with no one to care.

Jesus said, "Father, I will go and give my life on the old rugged cross for that soul." As they led him away, they platted a crown of thorns, spit upon Him, and put the crown of thorns upon his head and mocked him; but he answered never a word. They led Him up that lonely hill to be crucified. All forsook him (Matt. 26: 56). But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled, "Then all the disciples forsook Him," all fled.

What will we do with Jesus? Dear ones, do you behold Him on the cross, hanging between heaven and earth for your soul and mine and for those who have once known this way but have been led by false teachers into doctrines of men and have been entrapped by wolves in sheep's clothing. How can they be led back into the fold if we sit at ease in Zion, satisfied that we are saved?

What does the Lord require of us? Let us turn to Matt. 25:1-12. These ten virgins took their lamps to meet the Bridgroom, but five were wise and five were foolish. The foolish took no oil in their lamps. They had been living a life of ease. But the wise had oil in their lamps, all trimmed and bright. Let us stop and think just now. *We truly are one of these.* Let us examine ourselves. What have we done for Jesus? Have we been sitting on the stool

of "do nothing" and permitted the oil to run dry and our lamps to go out? While the Bridegroom tarried they all slumbered and slept. At midnight they heard a cry, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh." Dear ones, that hour is coming to each one of us. Will we look up and rejoice at His coming, or will we flee and cry for the rocks and mountains to hide us from His face? They all arose. The wise rejoiced and ran to meet the Bridegroom. They were acquainted with Him. It was their precious Saviour. The foolish started, but their lamps went out—no oil and the Bridegroom had come. They ran to the wise for oil and said, "Our lamps are gone out." But the wise refused their request for oil, saying "Not so, lest there be not enough for us and you, buy for yourselves." As the foolish went to buy, the Bridegroom came, and the door was shut.

Are you going to services on Sundays, singing the beautiful songs of Zion with no oil in your lamp? Let God turn the searchlight of heaven into your heart. Jesus knows. Perhaps you have heard the song: "The Shelf Behind the Door." "Your soul is dark you surely know You have no peace with God; You daily tremble lest you feel the chastening of His rod. The blessed Holy Spirit puts this question o'er and o'er: What are you going to do with that shelf behind the door?"

As these virgins found the door was shut, they began to call, "Lord, Lord, open unto us." But He answered and said unto them, "I know you not."

Can we afford to sit at ease in Zion, fold our arms, and let this be our doom? God has no respect of persons. Let us awake and watch for we know not the hour when the Son of man cometh. Let us put on the whole armor of God, for nothing less will please our Master. We must or we cannot stand against the wiles of the devil, for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

After we have put on the whole armor of God, then Eph. 6:18 instructs us to pray always with all prayer and supplication for all saints.

Brethren, when we have done all this, have prayed through, then and then only can we feel the worth of a human soul. Then we can say as Isaiah 6:8: "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send; and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I, send me." —Alta Mead.

—oOo— The Great Creator

The great God of creation is so immense that most of us have found out very little about Him. If He had not given us the Bible to teach us how to live so we could shun hell with all its eternal torments and gain the happiness of heaven in eternity, we would not even know by what name to call God. It is impossible for us to find any place on earth where God is not present every moment. If we take a submarine and go to the depths of the great oceans we

find His creative power there manifested in the fishes and countless forms of life found there as nowhere else in the world. If we go to the highest mountains or the world He is there, and we can see His handiwork. I, the writer, have lived and worked for six weeks away up in the Rocky Mts. I have picked flowers with my right hand and at the same moment I have taken a handful of snow from a perpetual snow bank. Up there in that great altitude I found a large grasshopper two inches long and dry and green grass and snow all in a space not over three ft. in width, which all goes to show how little we have found out about God. Often we step out of our homes and look up into the sky, but how many of us ever stop to think that there is no other side or edge or limit to the sky? If Adam and Eve had had a bow strong enough to have propelled an arrow at the terrific speed of 50 miles per minute for the approximately six thousand years, that arrow would not have reached the other edge of the sky. God's handiwork fills all space. We can find no nook or corner in heaven or on earth where his creative power is not manifest.

Dear sinner friends, why linger longer in sin? Why listen to the voice of Satan, the enemy of your souls? Why not resist Satan? Then he has to flee from you. I admonish you in the name of our dear Saviour Jesus Christ, turn now and find out about this great and merciful God of creation who will pardon all your sins. If you will repent and turn from your sinful ways, you have God's precious promise. If the sinner will forsake his sinful ways and the unrighteous man his thoughts, God has promised to pardon all his sins and cleanse him from all unrighteousness. Why not turn before it is too late. In much holy love, I again admonish you. Amen.

—E. M. Wood

Prayer

If radio's slim fingers
Can pluck a melody
From night and toss it over
A continent and sea;
If the petaled white notes
Of a violin
Are blown across the mountains
Or the city's din;
If songs like crimson roses
Are culled from thin blue air,
Why should mortals wonder
If God hears prayer?—Sel.

BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll, \$1.15; Lesson Cards 5c per set.
Order from Faith Pub. House, Guthrie, Okla.

THE REVOLT OF THE NORTHERN TRIBES

Sunday, May 4, 1947

Printed Portion 1 Kings 12:1-5, 12-15, 19, 20.

- 1 Kings 12:1. And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king.
2. And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of

Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;)

3. That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying,

4. Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and this heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee.

5. And he said unto them, Depart yet for three days, then come again to me. And the people departed.

1 Kings 12:12. So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, Come to me again the third day.

13. And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him;

14. And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

15. Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people; for the cause was from the Lord, that he might perform his saying, which the Lord spoke by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

1 Kings 12:19. So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day.

20. And it came to pass, when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Israel: there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.

Golden Text: A man's pride shall bring him low; but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit. Prov. 29:23.

Practical Truth: Pride and disobedience to God have resulted in the fall of many.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The prophet Samuel had warned the Israelites that if they insisted on a king to rule over them that he would bring many heavy burdens upon them. In last Sunday's lesson we saw the fulfillment of that prophecy when Solomon to satisfy his passion for magnificence, multiplied their taxes and made the lives of many "bitter with all hard bondage." After his death his son, Rehoboam became king, and the people demanded of him a remission of the severe burdens imposed by Solomon. In our lesson we are told of the assemblage at Shechem where "all Israel" had come to make him king. "All Israel" would have remained his subjects if he had had some of the wisdom which his father had at first. But his training was not like that of his father. His mother, an Ammonite princess, was an idolatress and taught her son to worship idols instead of the living God. He had not the good example which Solomon had in David. The request of the people was reasonable enough, but the young king could not give them an answer at first. He put them off for three days to counsel the men in his court. Had he sought light from above in those three days, and prayed as once his father did, then he would not have been like a reed shaken by the wind, but his heart would have been strong for the right. There is a vast difference in being "head strong" and "strong of heart." He rejected the advice of his father's counsellors and followed that of his young courtiers and returned an insulting answer which led to an open rebellion among the tribes. He fled to Jerusalem to be king over only two tribes,

Judah and Benjamin, that remained true to him. God through a prophet warned him not to try to reconquer Israel. As we study this lesson let us keep well in mind that this division, which was indeed a tragedy, was caused by sin and a departure from the Word of God.

We should also learn that in difficult and grave matters we should treasure the advice of older ones whose many experiences have qualified them to give sound advice; and at the same time we should not fail to go to Him for counsel of whom it may be said: "He has the way of all ways, and never fails in counsel." The growing tendency in our own nation to replace all the older experienced leaders with young men who have more modern and up-to-date ideas is not good. Let us as children of God guard against such a tendency in the work of God.

Jeroboam, a leader of the Israelites, was made king of the northern tribes. God's favor was upon him, and he had the promise of a great kingdom on the condition that he would be true to God. Since he had seen failures in other rulers which he knew were caused by sin, it seems that he would have been very diligent to please the Lord in all things, but such was not the case. His lack of faith in God to preserve that which He had given him, caused him to establish a system of false religion in his country which brought the displeasure of God upon him.

Today many religious leaders have brought the displeasure of God upon their souls because they have set up false systems of religion which keep God's people separated, for fear they'll lose their support if they are allowed to be one and worship together as it is God's will for them to do.

THE STRUGGLE AGAINST BAALISM

Sunday, May 11, 1947.

Printed Portion 1 Kings 18:20, 30-39.

1 Kgs. 18:20. So Ahab sent unto the children of Israel, and gathered the people unto mount Carmel.

21. And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

1 Kings 18:30. And Elijah said unto the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down.

31. And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the Lord came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:

32. And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.

33. And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.

34. And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time.

35. And the water run round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.

36. And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God of Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these

things at thy word.

37. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

38. And the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

39. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God.

Golden Text: Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. 1 Kings 18:37.

Practical Truth: Loyalty to true religion is required of us all.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Child of God, if there have been times in your life when you felt all alone in this world, picture the following scene in your mind and take courage from it.

There on one side on Mt. Carmel gathered the king and people with the hundreds of prophets of Baal, while on the other side was the one solitary figure of the prophet of the Lord, though supported all the time by an invisible throng of heavenly beings. This was quite a contrast. But Elijah, the one lone prophet of the Lord said unto the people: "How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word." These idol worshippers must have been swaying or hopping as do birds from one bough to the other, not knowing on which to settle. They were halt; they could not walk uprightly. They dreaded Jehovah, and yet they feared the king and queen, therefore thought they must embrace the religion of the state. It seems they were not heartily engaged in either way, but were merely waiting for a favorable opportunity to make their decision. Through the abundant mercy of God such an opportunity now presented itself.

Have you seen similar conditions elsewhere? Perhaps in your own life there has been (or still is) a time when you halted between two opinions. The Spirit of the Lord convicted you that you should serve God and in times of difficulty you feared because you knew his displeasure rested upon you, yet the pull of the world and the idols of this world held you in bondage until you were scarcely able to break loose. God demands a definite decision. One must serve Him or the devil. He cannot serve two masters. Whosoever is a friend of the world is the enemy of God. "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. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

Elijah proposed a test here on Mt. Carmel in order to prove who was the true God: "The God that answereth by fire, let him be God." As Baal's prophets prepared their sacrifice and began calling upon their god to send fire to consume it, Elijah stood by watching them and mocking them, but no fire came, no answer to their prayers. Their God did not hear their cries even though they cut their bodies with knives and lancets until the blood gushed out, yet he held a deaf ear.

When Elijah's turn came he took 12 stones representing the tribes of Israel. Read in the lesson the preparation of his altar and his prayer, and the result. The people were convinced.

It takes more than idle words and fables to convince people of their need of turning to God. We must be able to get answers to our prayers. To get answers to our prayers we must have faith without wavering. We must live solely for God. If we are neither cold nor hot God will spue us out of his mouth (Rev. 3:15).

—oOo—

THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Sunday, May 18, 1947

Printed Portion Amos 5:6-15, 21-24.

Amos 5:6. Seek the Lord, and ye shall live; lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and devour it, and there be none to quench it in Bethel.

7. Ye who turn judgment to wormwood, and leave off righteousness in the earth,

8. Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night: that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth the mout upon the face of the earth: The Lord is his name.

9. That strengtheneth the spoiled against the strong, so that the spoiled shall come against the fortress.

10. They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly.

11. Forasmuch therefore as your treading is upon the poor, and ye take from him burdens of wheat: ye have built houses of hewn stone, but ye shall not dwell in them; ye have planted pleasant vineyards, but ye shall not drink wine of them.

12. For I know your manifold transgressions, and your mighty sins: they afflict the just, they take a bribe, and they turn aside the poor in the gate from their right.

13. Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time.

14. Seek good and not evil, that ye may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken.

15. Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the Lord God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.

Amos 5:21. I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies.

22. Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts.

23. Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs: for I will not hear the melody of thy viols.

24. But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.

Golden Text: Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live. Amos 5:14.

Practical Truth: People who oppress the poor displease God and store up trouble for themselves.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Departure from God is the root of all sorrow. He speaks to us as our God, ready on our return to him to deliver and bless: "Seek ye me and ye shall live." The prophet repeatedly urges the people to seek God from whom they had wandered. God must be sought after earnestly. We must realize our weakness and insignificance before him. Turning to Him must be real and not formal: "Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon the earth that I desire beside thee" (Psa. 73:25). We must seek God earnestly with an intense longing for Him. "Ye shall seek me and find me, when ye

shall search for me with all your heart" (Jer. 29:13). Man knows what he has to do and what to expect. The gain is certain if one fulfills the condition. "Ye shall live." God's gracious promises must be held before the sinner, lest in despair he goes from one sin to another. For how can one feel genuine repentance if he has no hope? God is worthy and ought to be sought and served who is not only above men and creatures on the earth, but his power is in the heavens. His turning the shadow of death into morning and making the day dark teaches that God can change or settle conditions as He pleases. If He settles none can shake, and if he shakes, none can establish.

"I know your manifold transgressions and your mighty sins." You may try to conceal them, darkness may hide them from the gaze of men, but He knows them. Nothing can be hidden from the eye of the great Judge. You should not fool yourselves that God sees not and will not punish your sins. All things shall one day be made manifest. "There is nothing covered that shall not be revealed, and nothing hid that shall not be known."

The penitent will be just to man. In words and deeds he will give to all their due. Profession without principle is an insult to God. We cannot serve God unless we are right with man.

"Put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do well." Verse 14, "Seek good, and not evil." We must learn not to envy the evil doers, but depart from their spirit and example. As Lot left Sodom without casting a look behind, so must we leave sin.



THE FALL OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM

Sunday, May 25, 1947

Printed Portion 2 Kings 17:5-12, 22, 23; Isa. 28:1-4.

2 Kings 17:5. Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years.

6. In the ninth year Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away to Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

7. For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and feared other gods.

8. And walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the Lord cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made.

9. And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the Lord their God, and they built them high places in all their cities from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.

10. And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree:

11. And there they burnt incense in all the high places, as did the heathen whom the Lord carried away before them; and wrought wicked things to provoke the Lord to anger.

12. For they served idols, whereof the Lord had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing.

2 Kings 17:22. For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them;

23. Until the Lord removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.

Isa. 28:1. Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty is a fading flower, which are on the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine!

2. Behold, the Lord hath a mighty and strong one, which as a tempest of hail and a destroying storm, as a flood of mighty waters overflowing, shall cast down to the earth with the hand.

2. The crown of pride, the drunkards of Ephraim, shall be trodden under feet:

4. And the glorious beauty, which is on the head of the fat valley, shall be a fading flower, and as the hasty fruit before the summer; which when he that looketh upon it seeth, while it is yet in his hand he ateth it up.

Golden Text: For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish. Psalm 1:6.

Practical Truth: Drunkenness has been one cause of national decline.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

There are two forms of drunkenness set forth in our study today, and both are equally destructive. Whether body or soul be intoxicated, mischief will surely come of it. They were overcome with wine. "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." (Prov. 20:1). This beautiful city of Samaria was trodden under foot because her people were deceived by wine. "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babblings? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine, they that go to seek mixed wine." (Prov. 23:29, 30). May we take warning from Solomon and "Look not upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder." Drunkenness is a curse to any people. It always has been and always will be, for the effects of alcohol upon the mind and body are the same in all ages. Not only has this people met its downfall through wine and strong drink, but many are contacting the same fate today. The first sin after the flood was drunkenness. Instead of drinking wine and bringing destruction upon our own souls as many have done in the past, and also at present, let us drink of the spiritual drink of the spiritual Rock that followed the children of Israel (Ex. 17:6).

They were intoxicated with pride also. Their country was fruitful and they delighted in it. They were not interested in the preaching of Isaiah. They thought they were wise enough because they worshiped their god in the form of the golden calves. They would not hear the message of the prophet who bade them turn from their evil ways. "When pride cometh, then cometh shame." Surely the Lord hateth a proud look. "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." (Prov. 16:18). This statement has been proven true over and over again. Of what is it that we are so proud that we cannot conceal our pride? Is it the gift which we have received of God? And for the continued possession of which we are absolutely dependent on His will? In proportion to our gifts we are stewards for God, and were intended to be channels of blessings. Great gifts, therefore, should not cause us to swell with foolish pride, but should weight us down with a solemn sense of responsibility. While haughtiness and pride may be natural in the children of this world, it is an alarming fact in the number of professed Christians.

(Comments by L. Modglin and G. Ray)