

# FAITH AND VICTORY

## The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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### Precious Saviour

Tune: Precious Mem'ries

Once I wandered, sad and lonely,  
Seeking rest and finding none.  
But you found me, saved and cleansed me,  
Precious Saviour, God's dear Son.

— Chorus —

Precious Saviour, be thou with me,  
Let me e'er with Thee abide;  
In the sunshine or the shadow,  
Precious Saviour, be my Guide.

Since you found me, all is gladness,  
Joy, and peace, and hope are mine;  
Hallelujah! what a treasure,  
Precious Saviour, I am thine!

Life without Thee would be cheerless,  
For nowhere is such a friend.  
I will love Thee, I will serve Thee,  
Precious Savior, to the end.

Elnora Ayers

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### Campmeetings and Ministers' Meeting

Dates for the summer of 1948.

(This is not a complete list. Others will be published later when sent in by the congregations.)

General Southern Campmeeting at Hammond, La., June 25th to July 4th.

National Ministers' Meeting at Guthrie, Okla., July 12th to 17th.

National Campmeeting at Monark Springs (Neosho), Mo. July 23rd to August 1st.

Oklahoma State Campmeeting at Guthrie, Okla., August 6th to 15th.

Kalamazoo, Michigan Campmeeting Aug. 20th to 30th.

Jumbo, West Virginia Campmeeting Aug. 27 to Sept. 5th.

### Beautiful People

In Numbers 6:25 and Psalm 67:1 are two texts that seem to be very impressive to me. In Numbers 6:25 Aaron was exhorted to encourage the children of Israel by saying, "The Lord make his face to shine upon thee." And in Psalm 67:1, David prayed, "God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us."

I believe this is a prayer that is very needful at this time for all of God's children. We hear much these days about people wanting to be pretty and attractive to others. They spend thousands of dollars and much precious time for all kinds of make-up and adornments of all sorts, paints, creams, etc. This is to beautify their faces and appearance, but all this is vanity. It only makes them look worse and older when it is removed. It seems that people forget that the Lord said He would beautify the meek with salvation in Psa. 149:4.

It just seems natural for people to want to be attractive to others and the world, and to look beautiful. This is what the Lord wants too, but most people try the wrong recipe. If you really want to be beautiful and attractive, the Lord has a process that cannot fail. There is no age limit nor respect of persons; no matter how ugly or old or young, it is for all and will not fail.

Let us start with David in Psalm 67:1. The first part of the body people start to beautify is their face. Can you think of a more beautiful face than one that the Lord's face shines on? When Moses came down off the mountain his face shone until the people could not look upon him. He was beautiful with the glory of God. In Acts 6:15 we read of another beautiful face. The people saw Bro. Stephen's face "as it had been the face of an angel." What could be more beautiful than an angel?

Now let us see the secret of this scene. Turn to Acts 7:55, 56. Here Stephen was looking into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus our Saviour. Now look closely here. Stephen was in much trouble, even being stoned to death, but he was steadfastly

looking into heaven. Had he been looking at his enemies who were stoning him, he would have lost that shine on his face. The object at which we are looking will affect our countenance. Truly so.

I once saw some pictures that had been snapped at different scenes, some at serious accidents and deaths and some at sudden frights, and some at pleasant scenes, etc., and there was a different look on the face according to what they were looking upon. When one looks out at some little children playing with all joy, he naturally has a pleasant look. But while he is looking if a car should come along and run over one of them, there will be a sudden change of expression on the face of the onlooker. That which we look at is surely going to affect our countenance.

Notice David again in Psalm 27:4: He said, "One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord." This is the secret of having his face to shine on us. That at which we are looking is sure to affect the expression on our faces. If we look at the professors (hypocrites) and the trials, or our brothers' faults, or our enemies, we shall never have His face to shine on us, nor be beautiful. Surely if Stephen could look stedfastly into heaven while they were stoning him to death, we ought to look over these little trials of today. Lord help us.

After we get this shine on our faces, there is more we must do to be beautiful. Next comes the dress and adornment. Now turn to 1 Tim. 2:9-10 and read, and 1 Peter 3:3, 4, "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." These two texts instruct us how to adorn and dress ourselves to be beautiful. Now turn to Isa. 61:10 and see more about our wardrobe. "He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels." When we follow all this rule, we are dressed down to the feet. Now turn to Isa. 52:7 and read. This brings us down from our face to our feet, and they too can be beautiful: "How beautiful . . . are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace. . . that publish salvation."

We have seen in the precious Word of God how we can be beautiful and attractive. Read Titus 2: 1-10, especially the tenth verse, "Not purloining, but showing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things." Are we as beautiful as we ought to be and making attractive the way and adorning the doctrine as we should? A child of God that has been to this beauty shop is ready to meet the bridegroom and will be beautiful. The saints are the most beautiful people on earth, praise our God forever and ever! Read Psalm 48: and Isa. 52:1. Now how is it with you? Have you been beautified by the Lord and living this way

before your neighbors and home folk? If you have, others will be wanting your recipe, and you will be making attractive the way. —Archie Souder

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## Value of Salvation

In the Word of God it is written, "The kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field." Matt. 13:44.

I count salvation as a treasure. I feel like it should not be esteemed as something worthless, but as the greatest asset that God through his Son has given unto mankind. Salvation cost me all I had. The devil's stock which I had stored in my heart all had to be emptied out and disposed of. But I am very thankful God did not leave it vacant. He has given me a treasure in my heart. We read in 2 Cor. 4:7, "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." I thank God for such a wonderful treasure. My heart is the field, salvation is the great treasure. In Matt. 13: 45, 46 it is spoken of as a Pearl of great price. In Matt. 16:26 we read of the value or profit of a man's soul being saved. What will it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul? or what would a man give in exchange for his soul? I see here a solemn question. Had you ever thought of the value of your soul and considered how much it is worth? or what heaven would mean to you in eternity?

Some people do not seem to value their soul. They trade this great salvation for the frivolous, corruptible, fleeting things of this world. My salvation cost too much for me to play around and give it up.

If I had money to buy a new car, and should find the very one I need and want, I would not think about how hard I worked to get that money, but I want the car. It suits me and I esteem it or value it as being worth every penny I have. With joy I give the man my last penny, having in mind the service it is going to render in the future. So it is in purchasing salvation. It is what we need and want, so with joy we should be willing to pay the full price—not hold back a thing—that we might obtain it, and receive full benefits from it. We cannot obtain it until we are willing to pay the full price. Salvation is the only key which will unlock heaven's door to us, and we must have the key in our possession when the Master calls for us.

Paul counted it as being very valuable (Phil. 3: 7, 9). He gave all he had that he might purchase this salvation. His testimony is (1 Cor. 6:20), we are bought with a price.

When the God of the universe looked down and saw the need of the souls of mankind—that part in which He was most interested—He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have ever lasting life. We are not redeemed with corruptible things, but by the precious blood of Jesus.

There is a present happiness in salvation. It satisfies the soul. People in these days are not satisfied. There was a time when I was not satisfied. I needed something and carried out many plans in an earthly sense to obtain satisfaction, but could find nothing that would bring lasting satisfaction; but when I sold everything and purchased this Pearl of great price I found the satisfaction for which my soul was longing. Psa. 107:9. He gave me a good conscience, void of offense to God and man and the assurance of a home in heaven, inheritance among the saints as one of the redeemed children of the Lord. He supplies all of my needs, heals my body when I am sick, feeds me when I am hungry, gives me drink when I am thirsty, and protects me from all harm and danger. He even lets his angels encamp around about me to deliver from anything that might come upon me. I cannot value salvation as high as it is! And think about the great value it will have when it goes with me through death!

Paul said, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." You may store up earthly treasures here on earth, but when you come to death where separation takes place, you must leave them. But if you get the Pearl of great price, it is not lost at death, but will be of great value to you then. Then when you come to Judgment, the great separation of all people will take place, it will be a blessed thing if you have the Pearl of great price. If you have it, the Lord will say, "Come, ye blessed of my Father."

Pray for me as I walk around in this earthly tabernacle, that I may prove how valuable salvation is, that others may desire to obtain it.

—Bro. Lewis Williams

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## Monsters of Iniquity

In the readers about seventy years ago was printed a story concerning some giants, large men four or five times larger than common sized men. The names of these giants were: "Giant Ill Temper, Giant Selfishness, and Giant Intemperance." Our lessons told us how to overcome those monsters of iniquity or evil ways, defined as great sins, and that God expected his loyal faithful servants to fight and destroy them with weapons not carnal. 2 Cor. 10:4. Every evil spirit is truly schooled by the devil to obtain great strength and powers of deception that he might bind and hold captive in the very worst kind of bondage of slavery ever known.

The longer the sinner serves the devil, his worst enemy, the harder it is to escape his clutches and be made free in Christ Jesus. Little sins, when nursed and cultivated, grow into monsters of iniquity, for whatsoever one sows and cultivates will grow. The sure growth of the love of strong drink, selfishness, hate, spite, envy, in the daily life of anyone is most

convincing to anyone of sound mind. Giant selfishness first shows up as a dominating power in the small child who wants the biggest piece of pie, cake, largest apple, etc., and its own selfish way about almost everything, or it will throw a fit. If not restrained, taught, or corrected, it will surely grow up with a disobedient, ugly, mean, sour disposition, even to hate, curse, and swear at its own loving parents. Because these things have not been rebuked and curbed in children, we have at present a world filled with people who are held captive by giants of pride, self-exaltation, boastfulness, greed, covetousness, gossip, unsound foolish talking, joking or telling filthy stories to amuse others, tale-bearing, etc.

When souls repent of committed sins and seek the Lord, He will save them from the power of these giants. Full salvation gives authority, power and strength to slay every giant that besets people; but even after one is saved there is no time to be at ease, for these giants are ever alert to grasp opportunities to recapture their victims. Saved people must fight to keep victory over them. Christians are instructed to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice (evil intentions) blasphemy (impious speech concerning God or sacred things) filthy communication out of your mouth (Col. 3:8). Many thoughts that work upon our mental powers in attempt to weaken our spiritual sensibilities, if not rebuked at once will grow into wicked ugly stubborn giants that hate righteousness. Christian's experience with giants as described in Pilgrim's Progress is most convincing proof of how powerful a monster of iniquity they can be if not overcome and destroyed by ones cooperation with the Lord, who came that he might destroy the works of Satan.

A very pestilent giant that stirs up trouble in many homes of elderly people and disturbs their peace of soul is crankyness, fault finding, and disagreeableness. It is not a tragedy to be old if one is daily ready for that heavenly home. The Lord will give grace for old people to keep victory over unpleasant, sour words, and keep them in perfect peace with a lovely sweet disposition.

About the most powerful giant to overcome is that of fleshly lust that wars against the soul. Be vigilant day and night to be ready to hurl (rebuke) a hot fiery dart at this soul-destroying giant. A very effective one is found in Col. 3:8. People who constantly love and practice these gospel truths will always be able to rebuke and make the enemy of the soul to flee. Remember that Satan's forces always know of the weakest spot to attack the servant of the Lord in attempt to break resistance, but God has promised to help his consecrated ones to be overcomers. See 1 Cor. 10:13. Pray the Lord to make you strong in your weakest spot so you can be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Eph. 6:10. Let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us. Heb. 12:1. —John H. Griffith.

Let us be like a bird, for a moment perched  
On a frail branch while he sings;  
Though he feels it bend, he continues his song;  
For he knows that he has wings.

## "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.

(Entered as second-class matter June 30, 1930 at the Post Office at Guthrie, Oklahoma, under the act of March, 3, 1879.) —SUBSCRIPTION PRICES—

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Five copies to any address, one year .....	1.00
Twelve copies to any address, one year .....	2.00

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

Phone Number 1528-J

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..

Notice:—I would like a woman or man and wife to share my home doing the house work in return for their room. Address: Claudia Sidener, 765 E. Kern St., Tulare, California. Thanks, and God bless you.

## Editorials

The office force at the "Lord's Print Shop" had cause for rejoicing just recently because of a new automatic press which the Lord has supplied for the printing of gospel tracts and booklets. This press, which is called, "The Little Giant," has been installed in the print shop and is now turning out tracts and booklets, which we call "Silent Preachers," by the thousands. It has a capacity of 2500, 3500, and 4000 sheets per hour. Being an automatic press, it feeds the paper and delivers the printed sheets in a nice even pile. This press is going to be a great blessing to the work and will make us more able to keep the many gospel tracts in stock. The calls for gospel tracts and booklets have so increased that we were unable to keep them all in stock. We have over 200 tracts with different titles that we try to keep in stock. We are truly thankful in heart to God for this new printing press.

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It is with sincere regrets that we part with another young saint, Loraine Modglin, who has faithfully labored here in the "Lord's Print Shop" for more than a year. She has carried a heavy burden because of home conditions for some time, and finally felt the Lord would have her go home to help care for the family and mother who is in very poor health. Saints, she needs our earnest prayers.

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Bro. Clyde Stroud, who has been helping us in the printing work for the last six months, feels led to get out in the ministry of the word and in personal work. He has been doing good service here in the "Lord's Print Shop," and we can hardly understand why the Lord would want him to labor in other parts of his great vineyard; but our heart always says "Amen" to His will whatever that may be. By his going it will make an extra amount of work for me in the press and composing rooms, and I shall have less time for writing and seeing after other necessary things about the print shop. We are praying that God will send some young man to take his place who is burdened to be in the Lord's work. We feel sure He has someone somewhere who is talented for this kind of work. We ask our readers everywhere to pray for us and the work here, as we have many problems to face in this "faith" work that we have to bring before the Lord continually.

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At the present time my wife is in California visiting our children. We have three children with families living in Calif. Also, she has a brother and family living there and many saints whom she desired to visit. It is rather lonesome here without her, but we are glad that she can get this needed change and rest, as she has been steady here in the work for a long time. We are praying that the Lord will make her a blessing to all with whom she comes in contact. Her absence makes more work for the girls who work here, in letter writing and cooking the meals. They have been doing fine and proving themselves equal to the occasion, and the printing work has been progressing nicely, for which we give thanks to God.

The saints at Guthrie have been greatly blessed of God recently in having Bro. Chandler of Bakersfield, Calif. here in a ten days revival meeting. His messages were full of real soul food, and it was easy to see, discern, and feel that he was getting things from God for our souls. God gave him grace to deliver them with freedom and with rich anointing from heaven, which caused much rejoicing among the saints.

Bro. Chandler is a young man with an outstanding character in the ministry of the Word, and we discern that he has the "gift of wisdom" and real discernment, which are some of the nine gifts of the Spirit recorded in the Holy Bible. With these and the gift of prophecy, issuing from a heart filled with the love of God and real concern for precious souls, he is a God-given vessel, much loved and honored by all true, and humble saints of God. It is our prayer that he will ever stay humble and obedient to the Lord. From Guthrie he went to Anthony, Kans. to have some meetings there with the saints, and will be with the saints near Okeene, Okla. some, also at Hennessey and Dover, Okla., and is expecting to be in the Boley, Okla., meeting which begins April 16th. The saints certainly do appreciate his services here at Guthrie and all are praying that God's blessings continue upon him.

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## Campmeeting Notices

The National Campmeeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, on the church camp ground at Monark Springs (Neosho), Mo. from July 23 to Aug. 1, inclusive, 1948. You are cordially invited to attend this national gathering of God's people. Particulars later.

At the campmeeting last summer during the business meeting several motions were passed to make necessary improvements on the campground and buildings—resurface the platform in tabernacle, buy or build suitable seats, build well house and install electric pump (we have the pump), put in the windows, doors, partitions, and stairway in basement of dining hall and purchase new song books. Since the close of the last campmeeting very little means have been received to make these improvements and now there is only about \$50 in the treasury. The trustees are ready to carry out these decisions for improvements as soon as the means are provided. Several hundred dollars will be required, and since this campmeeting is national in scope it should be the concern of every saint and congregation to support it and improve the grounds. Ask the Lord what He would have you to give, and send your offerings direct to the undersigned, so that these improvements can be made available for use at the coming campmeeting.

—L. D. Pruitt, Secy-treas.  
1005 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla.

The general Southern campmeeting will convene at Hammond, La. June 25th to July 4th, inclusive. For information write M. F. Williamson, c. o. P. O., or Ray Key, Box 370, Hammond, La.

The camp meeting at Kalamazoo, Mich. will convene Aug. 20-30 inc. Saints in the East should be interested in this meeting. Lodging and meals freely given as the Lord provides. Further information given later through

this paper. Inquiries addressed to Bro. Claire Blanchard 129 E. Ransom St. or to the pastor, Earl M. Brown, 3606 S. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo 56, Mich.

## TABERNACLE BUILDING NOTICE

To all the saints in the state of California, greetings.

Several have asked that we notify them when we were ready to begin the building of the tabernacle on the saints' camp ground at Los Angeles, as they wanted to send an offering for that purpose. We are taking this means to notify all the saints throughout the state that the plans have been submitted to the Building Department for a building permit and this permit should be out and work ready to begin by the 1st of May. It will then require full speed ahead if the buildings are to be ready for campmeeting this year.

In order to keep moving ahead on this project, there will need to be plenty of funds on hand at all times to buy material as it is needed and man power to use the material. Any lack of either material or man power will cause delays which will make a campmeeting on these grounds this year impossible. We cannot well afford for this to happen. This work is of interest to every saint in this state. Let us all have a mind to work and a will to give of our means to see this project carried through.

Just ask God what he would have you to give and if you should do some work. If he tells you to do something, you do that. If he tells you to do nothing we will accept that.

Signed: Campmeeting Committee

By O. B. Wilson, jr. Secy-Treas.

4254 1/2 Perlita Ave., Los Angeles 26, Calif.

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## Obituaries

Ida Becker, daughter of Jacob and Sarah Becker, was born near Halstead, Kans June 8, 1888, the youngest of a family of 19 children. Her parents and 12 brothers and sisters preceded her in death. She departed this life at the home at 1:15 p. m., April 2, 1948 at the age of 59 yrs., 9 mos., and 24 days.

She came to Oklahoma in her early years and on January 1, 1905 was united in holy matrimony to Dan A. Eck of Meno, Oklahoma. To this union 17 children were born, 6 preceded her to the great beyond.

Bereaved are: her husband; eleven children, six daughters, Mrs. Eva Penner, Fairview, Mrs. Carolina Christman, Enid, Miss Inez Eck, Tulsa, Mrs. Clara Wahl, Manchester, Mrs. Ruey Tucker, Ames, Mrs. Ella Mae Mallott, Hillsdale, 5 sons, Albert of Bartlett, Kans., Adam of Lahoma, Waldo of Meno, Edwin of Enid, and Paul of Lahoma; 29 grandchildren; three sisters, two brothers; nieces; nephews; and a host of other relatives and friends.

In her early life she heeded the Master's call and gave her heart to him and lived a very conscientious life before him. As long as she was able to go her heart was in visiting and praying with the sick. Altho she has been in failing health for 24 years and at death's door at different times, thru her faith and confidence in God she has witnessed definite healing. Her prayer and desire was for God to spare her until she had reared her children. Many times she was heard agonizing and weeping in prayer for her children that none might be lost.

About three months ago when she became seriously ill God in his tender mercy looked down upon her frail body and many times eased her suffering. She felt her work on earth was done and was longing to go to that better place that God had prepared for her. She was

forgiving and often asked for forgiveness. She is one of God's flowers he plucked for heaven. Her last words were, "I'm going home," and pointing upward she closed her eyes and went to sleep.

Written by one of the Children:

Our dear mother died as she lived. She was ever ready to confess her failures and ask for pardon, the same as she was ever ready to forgive those who transgressed against her. We are sure her Savior knew all about her struggles and most tenderly cared for her until her last battle was fought. Jesus never fails those who depend on him for aid as our dear mother did. We feel comforted with a blessed assurance that she is now at rest, free from all of earth's sorrow, its trouble, and care, where sin and grief can never more molest.

A jewel on earth, a jewel in heaven she'll brighten the kingdom around God's great throne.

Funeral service conducted by Bro. Sam Barton of Tulsa. Text: Job 14:14; St. John 11:24, 25.

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Abraham J. Heibert son of Joahnn and Mary Heibert was born July 17, 1880 in Marion County, Kansas. He departed this life March 17, 1948 at the age of 67 years and 8 months.

He was united in marriage to Suzanna Ratzlaff September 27, 1905 at Fairview, Oklahoma. To this union were born seven children, four girls and three boys. One daughter Lorena Zella preceded him in death at the age of 11 years.

The bereaved ones are his wife, Mrs. A. J. Heibert; three daughters, Mrs. Selma Williams of Winona, Mo., Mrs. Anna Severs of Neosho, Mo., and Mrs. Martha Classen of Fairview, Okla.; three sons, Ruben Abe of Arkansas City, Kans., Daniel of Rogers, Ark., and Leo J. of Bakersfield, Calif.; eleven grandchildren; two sisters and two brothers.

Bro. Heibert accepted the Lord as his Savior in early life and lived a devoted Christian life until the Lord called him home. He taught and pointed his family to the Lamb of God. During the last year of his life he prayed and wept much of the time for his lost children and relatives, as the earnest desire of his heart was that all of them might be saved so that the circle would not be broken. Our husband and father was always ready to go to the services in the Lord's house and he went and prayed much for all the sick ones in his community.

Bro. and Sister Heibert had moved recently to Tulsa, Okla. so that they might be in the church services there, and he was in Tulsa at the time of his death.

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## LOVE

Love is a fruit of the Spirit. It is the first fruit named in Gal. 5:22. No doubt the apostle named it first because it was indeed one of the first fruits we manifest after having been born of the Spirit. If this be in you and abound (Phil. 1:19) we are sure all the other fruits will follow.

When the lawyer came to Jesus, he asked him which was the greatest commandment in the law. Jesus said unto him, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

The first and greatest commandment is that we love the Lord with ALL our heart, ALL our soul, and ALL our mind. When we do this it is easy and natural for us to bear all the fruits of the Spirit. We have no heart, no soul, no mind for anything else. God comes first in everything. We seek not to please ourselves any more, but we seek His good will and pleasure.

Many are singing that good old song, "Oh, how I love Jesus." But let us stop and consider a moment. Do we love Him as much in reality as we think? In 1 John 3:18 we read, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth." Let us not just sing about it and testify that we love Him, but let us prove our love to him. Paul says (2 Cor. 5:14) "The love of Christ constraineth us." It makes us do something to prove our love. Let us see what John says in 1 John 3:22, "We perceive the love of God because he laid down his life for us." Jesus proved to us that he loved us by giving his life on the cruel cross. "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son." Then dear reader, that love in us will constrain us to do.

At Christmas time almost every one gives presents to loved ones, and usually the best gifts to the ones they love most. This would be a good time for us to prove our love to God. We can give our hearts, our lives, our all to him. We can give our means to help the cause, to publish the precious news of salvation to a lost and dying world. We can help God's children who are giving their time and talent and all to the work of the Lord. We can help the poor. Jesus says, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matt. 25: 40.

Yes, love constrains us to give and to do, not just the things we do not need, that we can't use, but it constrains us to make a sacrifice. God made a great sacrifice when he gave his only begotten Son. Jesus made a great sacrifice when he gave the last drop of his precious life's blood on the cruel cross. "Gather my saints together unto me; thou that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice." Psa. 50:5.

Some say, "I give what I can spare. I don't believe the Lord wants me to give what I need myself." Let us turn to Mark 12:41-44. "And Jesus sat over against the treasury and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury; and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain widow, and she threw in two mites which make a farthing, and he called unto him his disciples and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than all they which have cast into the treasury. For all they cast in of their abundance, but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living."

How often do we go to service wearing good clothes, having an abundance of good things to eat, often owning fine homes, a fine car perhaps, and a big bank account, and when time comes to cast our money into the Lord's treasury, we drop in a quarter or a half dollar. If it's a dollar bill we feel we have

done our part. Oh, dear saints of God, Jesus sits by the treasury today. He sees just what we cast in. He knows how much we have left. Yes, Jesus sees those \$5, \$10 and \$20 yet in our billfolds. He sees that bank account.

If Jesus had manifested his love to us as we do to him I wonder if he would have left those mansions in heaven to come here and make of himself of no reputation, being poor for our sake, having no place to lay his head, hungry, weary, footsore, persecuted, forsaken, and then give his life on the cross? The love of Christ constraineth us.

Some feel they owe it first to their children to give them all the advantages of life—good food to eat, good clothes, a good education, then a bank account to leave them when they are gone. The enemy pictures many many things for its use. The more we get the more we want, just like the rich man who said, "I'll tear down my barns and build greater." He keeps you building greater and greater. You think when you get one or two more things done then you will give God something. Jesus tells us in Matt. 10:36-38, "A man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me. He that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. He that taketh not up his cross and followeth after me is not worthy of me." Dear ones, these are serious truths, yet many who read this will do like the rich young ruler. They will turn away sorrowful because they love these things more than they love Jesus.

Peter had been fishing and had a big catch. They had no doubt feasted on those good fish when Jesus looked at Peter and said unto him, "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?" Peter answered, "Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Then again the second time he said, "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?" "Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee." "Feed my sheep." Then the third time: "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?" Peter was grieved. Oh that searching eye of the Lord was looking right down into Peter's heart and he was asking him the same thing over and over again: Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? Feed my sheep."

That eye, dear reader, right now is looking down into your heart and mine. The cause is suffering for lack of means. God's messengers often cannot go because of lack of means. Precious souls for whom Jesus gave his life are perishing, passing into eternity without God. Oh, can you hear that sweet pleading voice of Jesus asking you the question: Lovest thou me more than these? Feed my lambs. Feed my sheep.

When we need help from the Lord we love to plead his promises to us: "Lord, thou hast promised never to leave us nor to forsake us. Thou hast promised us grace to help in every time of need. Thou hast promised to heal all our diseases." And on and on we plead. But now let us remember this. Every

promise is made to us on conditions. "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him *because* we keep his commandments and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." 1 Jno. 4:22. In John 15:17 Jesus tells us plainly, "If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you." Again it is written, "But whoso hath this world's good and seeth his brother have need and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" How can we hold back our earthly possessions and have the love of God in our heart when the work is hindered because of lack of means to go forward? God's ministers cannot go because of this and souls are going to hell because they have never heard. Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me in tithes and in offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse for ye have robbed me. Bring ye ALL the tithes into the store house that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith saith the Lord of hosts if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it." But you say that was under the Law and we are not commanded to tithe now. True, but we are commanded to do more now, and we have the love of Christ now to constrain us to do; but are we doing as much as they did then? Are we robbing God today? Somebody that reads this article is going to need Him badly. They will call and call but the Lord will not answer. Your earthly possessions are coming up between you and God. He is going to speak to your heart, but you'll make excuse. Some say they would give, but do not know where to give. God will show you where and how to do it. He never tells us to do anything but He will help us to do it if we are ready and willing.

"Oh how I love Jesus, Oh how I love Jesus,  
Oh, how I love Jesus because he first loved me."

—B. E. Metcalf

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## The Prayer Meeting

The prayer meeting is a place where a number of the children of God assemble themselves together to unite their voices in prayers and supplications to the throne of grace, imploring God's mercy and favors upon those who are in need of His help, thanking Him for past and present blessings which he in his love and kindness have bestowed upon the children of men, and especially those that are being enjoyed by the faithful of the land, also asking for wisdom and spiritual strength to stand the trials and tests of life; and to be able by his grace and help to produce a life that his approval will rest upon, and that will be as a light that shines in a dark place that will cause others to see and enquire the way to the cross, and many other requests that are too numerous to mention.

Someone has said, "The prayer meeting is somewhat like a filling station on the highway of life where the soul is refreshed and refilled with divine power, enabling the traveler to journey safely onward to the land of everlasting joy."

Sometimes a poor soul that has been wandering along in sin and darkness will be touched by the divine power and humbly seek God for pardon and find grace to start running up the shining way.

In Malachi 3:16, 17 we read, "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them as a man spareth his own son that serveth him."

We also read in Heb. 10:24, 25, "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more as ye see the day approaching." May the Lord encourage our hearts, and may he bless the faithful few who are still interested in the mid-week prayer-meeting. Some are handicapped in one way or another who are not privileged to meet with the others, but they have a fervent prayer in their hearts and make it a point to pray for those who do meet, and for the meeting. Others seldom think of prayer meeting, forget when meeting night comes, and seldom offer a prayer that amounts to anything in behalf of the services. One reason why so many have stopped by the way, like a car by the roadside that has run out of gas, waiting to be pushed or towed in, is because they have been neglectful of the prayer life. They find no joy in communion with the Lord or with his people. They can not truthfully say as one of old, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go unto the house of the Lord." They can go to other places and attend to other things, but when it comes to meeting at the place where prayers and supplications are wont to be made they just have not the spirit nor the will to go; but can offer some frivolous excuse for being absent. I am sure that the Lord delights in the meeting together of his people, and their prayers are like sweet incense to him, and for the encouragement of those who are thus minded he has said, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matt. 18:20. He is not speaking here of a dead, dry, formal affair, but of where people worship in spirit and in truth. Let us go to the house of the Lord. "And many people shall go and say, Come ye and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem." Isa. 2:3. James says, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." —Ulysses Phillips

Ind.—To all the dear saints, greetings in Jesus' dear name. May you all prove true to Him who loved us so and gave His beautiful life a ransom for poor lost souls of whom I was one. Oh, when I was out on the cold dark mountain of sin, lost among the wild beasts, so full of fear I despaired of ever getting to the fold of God. That was 47 years ago, but I heard a tender loving voice calling me, "Why won't you let me lead you to safety? and I will love and care for you even down to old age." I cried, "Lord, forgive and I will be your obedient servant the rest of my life." I have kept my promise and my Lord has kept his. These are the best days of my life. I am sending a little poem. A dear old brother gave me the beautiful thought when I read my Bible God is talking to me and when I pray and praise Him I am talking to Him. The thought was so sweet, and I am expressing it in my poem for the benefit of all who read it. May you get as much out of it as I do. I am reading my precious Bible the 14th time from cover to cover and the deeper I dig in God's mine of treasures the brighter the gems I find. Oh, the joy of salvation. Let us be wide awake serving in love for the glory of God and His dear Son, our Redeemer and King. Yours in Him, now and forever. Sister Rebecca Basicker. If any one wants to write to me my address is 132 Clifford St., Anderson.

#### GOD TALKS TO ME FROM MY BIBLE

Mother Basicker, 89 years old

When I look into my Bible,  
Precious promises I see,  
It makes me glad for then I know  
God is talking there to me.

And when I kneel beside my bed  
And pray and praise and sing,  
He listens to His feeble child,  
While I talk there unto Him.

How sweet the fellowship we have  
While we talk there together;  
I would rather be with Him I love  
Than be with any other.

He tells me I'm His constant care,  
And He will not forsake;  
Down to old age He'll gently lead,  
Naught can His promise break.

Oh, sin-sick soul why tarry long?  
You know not what you miss  
Of peace and joy from Him we love,  
The world holds naught like this.

The pleasures of this world are vain,  
They do not satisfy,  
But there is one that you can trust,  
And on His Word rely.

Give me my Bible all the time  
And let God talk to me,  
And let His gentle hand lead on  
Into eternity.

And then I'll see Him face to face,  
And tell the wondrous story  
How God's true love has won my heart  
And brought me home to glory.

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

Hello Children:—

I trust that when you read what we write to you month by month that you will understand that it is written to help you to be better boys and girls, as you will be the men and women of tomorrow. Many things are ahead of you, and you do need Jesus as your companion and guide.

One time I read a story that I want to tell you about. It was about a boy who had the habit of always taking the biggest and best of everything for himself. His brothers teased him about it, but he did not seem to care. His mother talked to him and still he would disgrace the family when they were invited out. So one day Mother talked to her sister who lived on the next street about what could be done.

A few days later the boys were glad to be invited to their aunt's house to eat. When they arrived, the table was filled with good things to eat.

When they were seated and the pies were passed, Robert took the biggest pie. The others had already cut into their pies and they looked very good, so with joy he cut through the top, but the whole pie collapsed. It was hollow!

Poor Robert! Tears filled his eyes, but no one seemed to notice, so he ate the crust as bravely as he could.

The cakes were passed. Robert felt he should have the biggest cake since his pie was hollow, but as he took a big bite he wondered what was wrong. It looked all right on the outside, but inside it was bitter, but he did not dare say anything as someone might laugh.

Now came the fruit. He was afraid his brother would take that big pear, but since he did not, he reached his hand in the middle of the fruit and took the big pear, while other fruit rolled in every direction.

He was soon taking a big bite, but something seemed to be wrong. He took his knife and cut it into and to his utter disgust he found the whole center bad.

Still no one seemed to notice, so when the chocolates were passed he thought he would make up for lost time. He took the two largest ones in the center.

"Ugh!" said Robert, blushing with disappointment, "What a terrible taste." Swallowing one, he tried the other and found it to be worse.

On their way home his brother remarked to Robert about what a nice dinner they had. Robert said he did not think it was so good, "Everything I took was bad even though I did take what looked best every time."

"Maybe that was the trouble. If I were you I would leave the biggest and best looking things for someone else next time," said his brother kindly.

That night Robert stayed awake a long time, and finally decided in the future he would do as his big brother had told him.

—Aunt Marie.

Ore.—Dear Aunt Marie,—I read your page in the "Faith and Victory." I like the stories you write.

We have Sunday School at home but we do not have Sunday School with other children.

I would like to read letters and testimonies from other children. I have three sisters and one brother. Jesus takes care of us. Saturday I was sick and He healed me.

Love, from Leora Wittenborn.



La.—I am a little girl 7 years old. God has helped me in many ways. When I had the measles God healed me. I got up and relapsed, then I sure was sick. My temperature was 106. Bro. and Sister Carver from Shreveport came and prayed for me. Then I got better. The next day the fever came back as high as ever. Mother and Daddy kept praying for me. Our neighbors wanted me to take medicine but I said no. And my Mother said no. We kept trusting God and He healed me. Praise His name. Pray that I may always trust Him.

I sure enjoy reading the "Faith and Victory."

Gatha Constable.

I receive the "Faith and Victory"  
And always read it through;  
It tells me how I ought to live,  
And what I ought to do.

It has a page for children—  
I like that page the best.  
I always try to read it first,  
And then I read the rest.

Aunt Marie gives good advice,  
And as I sit and read it,  
I ask the Lord to give me grace  
That I may always heed it.

I just love to read the poems,  
And the testimonies too,  
The articles are very good,  
So I just read it through.

Now, I want every saint of God  
To send up a prayer for me,  
That I may serve God faithfully  
And keep the victory.

Wilma Ruth Metcalf

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## CORRESPONDENCE

Mo.—Dear saints,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I wrote a request for prayer a few weeks ago for something like kidney trouble. I am glad to say that the dear Lord has wonderfully helped me, but not completely healed me. Please remember me in your prayers, as I need them. I thank and praise the Dear Lord for what He has done for me, and I thank you dear ones for your prayers. I am so glad the dear Lord is merciful and hears and answers prayer when we call on him with all our heart, believing. It has been about thirty-four years since the dear Lord saved me, and about thirty years since I began to trust Him for both soul and body. I do not want to take one step backward but go all the way with Him. When these trials and temptations come I take them to the dear Lord and He has always been willing to help me bear them. Sometimes I have to wait on Him, but I want His will, not mine, so please remember me when you pray. Your sister, Nancy, Sweeza





All we had at first was four of us saved and a lot of faith in Jesus to do the rest. A few Sundays afterward another was added to our number; but we knew Jesus had promised to keep us so we did not look to numbers.

Faith and obedience to God's Word is what brings answer to prayer. Since then what wonderful things God has done! He supplied our every need in every way without our telling man. Oh, how wonderful is God. He already knows before we ask Him. His healing power has been manifested many times in our midst and thru our efforts for God, souls are coming to Him.

We truly want God to have His way in our hearts and lives and by His grace we intend to have a congregation of saints that will stand aloof from the world and formality and live for Jesus only. Oh, the sweet hours of fellowship with his loved ones in service where we sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Many times in the night even after a hard days work He awakens us to talk with him alone. How wonderful to be called his child, his chosen ones.

Dear ones, it pays to serve Jesus. Heaven is cheap at any cost. If I could tell of the many things he has done for this unworthy handmaiden, you would be convinced that it was no other than God. Thru fire or flood I mean to keep pressing on and gain a crown.

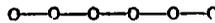
Sister Minnie Brown.



Mo.—Dear saints,—Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. I am so glad to say I have victory in my soul this morning and doing all I know to please my heavenly Father. I want to thank you dear ones for your prayers and the anointed handkerchief you sent me. Those pains I had in my foot and ankle were so severe they went up to my knee, but after requesting prayer and applying the handkerchief they stopped almost instantly. I can give our dear Savior all the praise. Blessed be His sweet name for ever. I am so thankful He will not let more come upon us than we are able to bear. I am expecting a complete work. What God has promised he is able to perform (Romans 4:21). Abraham did not stagger at God's promises, and we should not, for we are serving the same God and He is no respecter of persons, and he is the same yesterday and today and forever (Heb. 13:8).

Pray for me that I will stand firmly upon God's promises, and ever be found busy about my Father's work. May God bless you dear ones. With much love,

Effie Miller.



England—It was in Jan., 1923 when I had the wonderful experience of the new birth. For many years I had been very self righteous and worked very hard at a little mission to get money to pay for its upkeep (Titus 3:5). Then the Lord sent along a Christian sister who invited me to their meetings. I stood with them in the open air and the pastor asked me to sing. He recognized I was a trained singer and I believe he thought I was saved. I felt such a hypocrite, but continued going. Then at the Christmas convention he asked me again to sing.

I sang, "What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus." The Lord used that solo to be a mighty blessing, and yet I knew very little, if anything, of the power of the Precious Blood.

Through that solo I was invited to sing at the J. E. B. convention held in the Y. M. C. A. in Jan. It was during one of the meetings that the Holy Spirit deeply convicted me of sin. The speaker, a Spirit-filled man, read from 1 Sam. 25th chapter. He was speaking on being married to Christ, Rom. 7:1-4, and Abigail married to Nabal ("our old man" Rom. 6:6) was bound by the law

to her husband so long as he lived, but when the Lord smote him, she was free to marry David (typical of Christ). I knew that I was not and could not bring forth fruit unto God, hence the deep conviction of sin. Going home that night (I had been married five months) my husband asked me if I was not well.

I said, "Yes, except for a great burden I seem to be carrying." He could not believe it was the burden of sin but said we must pray and get the Lord to remove it. That night as we prayed my heart was broken. I wept and wept and pleaded with the Lord to remove the burden whatever it was, but it remained. When I awoke the next morning it was still there, so we knelt down again and prayed. Again my heart was broken, but still no relief. My husband began to sing softly that lovely hymn, "They are nailed to the cross. Oh, how much He was willing to bear, With what anguish and loss, Jesus went to the cross, He carried my sins with him there." Then I began to sing with him: "They are nailed to the cross," and the moment I said that the Lord Jesus gave me a vision of the cross, and across the arm of it I saw seven sins with huge nails in the center of each, and I knew that I was free. St. Jno. 8:36. I got up and praised the Lord, when I felt an actual load on my shoulders fall down my back onto the floor. It was so real and wonderful, I was filled with joy unspeakable and full of glory. The next week the Lord led me to speak to a woman about her soul.

During my 25 years of Christian experience He has never forsaken me. He has permitted me to have the experience of Isa. 43: 2. He says, "Fear not. I have redeemed thee, thou art mine." Allelujah.

I have always believed Isa. 53, that when He bore away our sins and carried our sorrows (sicknesses) and with His stripes we are healed. Through anointing with oil and prayer I have seen people healed of T. B. and other complaints in our home and many have been led to the Lord, praise His holy name!

Now we are looking for His glorious appearing in the clouds, when the dead in Christ shall rise first, and we that are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

B. Wade.



## Come Unto The Marriage

"Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb." Rev. 19:9.

He is calling you, man and woman, boy or girl, giving you this blessed invitation. He is not calling you to a life of grievous bondage, but He is calling you to "Come unto the marriage." He is calling you to a great feast which He has prepared, a feast of good things. "And in this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees, well refined." Isa. 25:6. The food He has prepared is "sweeter also than honey and the honey comb." Psa. 19:10. "How sweet is thy word to my taste! yea sweeter than honey to my mouth!" Psa. 119:103. "Eat ye that which is good and let your soul delight itself in fatness." Isa. 55:2. He calls you to come and feast on the good things of God until your soul is satisfied and fat and flourishing in Him. He says, "I have prepared my dinner . . . all things are ready; come unto the marriage." Matt. 22:4.



Let every one with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and labour on the day.

23. So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes, saving that every one put them off for washing.

6:15. So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days.

16. And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God.

**Memory Verse:** What shall we say then to these things? If God be for us who can be against us? Rom. 8:31.

**Practical Thought:** There is no defeat for those who put their trust and confidence in God.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

This lesson should be a source of comfort and consolation to those who are fighting in the army of the Lord today. We should be much encouraged and never discouraged, for if the Lord be for us, who can be against us? Nehemiah's heart and soul was stirred in him when he heard of the pitiful condition of his people (the Jews) who were left in Jerusalem when they were carried away captive to Babylon; so he prayed and fasted till God was moved on his throne in their behalf. And God worked it out for Nehemiah to go back to what had been Jerusalem and rebuild it. The walls were all destroyed (or broken down) and the gates of the city burned with fire. Jerusalem was just a heap of rubbish, as God's faithful servant Nehemiah found it when he returned. The first thing to do was to clear the rubbish all away and then they began to rebuild. Then Sanballat, their enemy, did all he could to discourage them and to make them afraid. But Nehemiah and all the ones who were with him had a mind to work and Jerusalem was rebuilt in spite of their enemies.

We find Scripture in Acts 5:38, 39, which shows us that when God is with us we are sure to win. It reads: "For if this counsel or this work be of men it will come to nought, But if it be of God ye cannot overthrow it: lest haply ye be found to fight against God." Read Ex. 14:23, 24, 25.

While they were rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem Sanballat and his followers did all they could to scare them off the job. But Nehemiah and his faithful workers kept their weapons by their side and continued to work till the walls were rebuilt. When the enemies heard that Jerusalem was rebuilt and finished they were much cast down in their own eyes, for they perceived that this work was wrought of God.

In this Christian dispensation the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty thru God to the pulling down of strong holds. Our fight is not against flesh and blood. Read Eph. 6:10-18.

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### EZRA LEADS A RELIGIOUS REVIVAL

Sunday, May 9, 1948.

Printed Portion..... Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5, 6, 8; 10:28-32.

Neh. 8:1. And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded to Israel.

2. And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.

3. And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.

5. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up:

6. And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

8. So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.

28. And the rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the porters, the singers, the Nethinims, and all they that had separated themselves from the people of the lands unto the law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, every one having knowledge, and having understanding;

29. They clave to their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse, and into an oath, to walk in God's law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the Lord our Lord, and his judgments and his statutes;

30. And that we would not give our daughters unto the people of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons:

31. And if the people of the land bring ware or any victuals on the sabbath day to sell, that we would not buy it of them on the sabbath, or on the holy day: and that we would leave the seventh year, and the exaction of every debt.

32. Also we made ordinances for us, to charge ourselves yearly with the third part of a shekel for the service of the house of our God.

**Memory Verse:** And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great mirth because they had understood the words that were declared unto them. Neh. 8:12.

**Practical Thought:** It pays to serve the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

This great throng of people was ready for a revival. They all gathered together as one man (in perfect accord) and ask of Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the law of Moses and read to them what God had commanded to Israel. Before they were carried away captive to Babylon they had forsaken God and turned to idols. After spending seventy years in Babylon where they wept and hung their harps on the willows as they longed for Zion again, they were anxious to know about God and what he had commanded Israel. So they all came together and ask for God's Word concerning them. When Ezra read God's Word to them they all stood up and were very attentive. As Ezra blessed the Lord the great God all the people answered Amen, Amen with lifting up of their hands and they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. The 8th verse shows that the Word was expounded and put in simple language so they understood it. So the people turned back to God and had a real revival with much rejoicing

As God's people are a "called out" people, so these people who had separated themselves from the idolatrous people about them, took an oath upon them to walk in God's law which was given by Moses and to do all the commandments and keep his statutes. They would not give their daughters to the young men who were idol worshipers nor would they take the young women to be wives for their sons. This should teach us a lesson about God's will concerning his young people today. It is not pleasing to Him for saved people to marry unsaved.

The sabbath as given in the law was a type of the rest Jesus gives to His true followers. Col. 2:16-17.

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### MALACHI DEMANDS SINCERE RELIGION

Sunday, May 16, 1949

Printed Portion . . . . . Malachi 1:1, 6-9; 2:13, 14; 3:7-12.

Mal. 1:1. The burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi.

6. A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the Lord of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

7. Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the Lord is contemptible.

8. And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the Lord of hosts.

9. And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the Lord of hosts.

2:13. And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the Lord with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth it with good will at your hand.

14. Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the Lord hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion and the wife of thy covenant.

3:7. Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

8. Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

9. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

10. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

11. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit: before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.

12. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts.

Memory verse: For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich yet for your sakes he became poor that ye thru his poverty might be rich. 2 Cor. 8:9.

Practical Thought: The way to prosperity is to give bountiful to the Lord's work of all you possess.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

"What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?" Psa. 116:12. "Blessed be the Lord who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation." Psa. 68:19. As we read these two precious Scriptures we may well ask ourselves the question: How much do I owe? According to the 6th verse in this lesson we see that the Lord felt himself slighted as he sees how much of their time and means and talent they bestow on other things and forget him; and he asks the question: "If I be a father where is mine honour? and if I be a master where is my fear?" In other words, "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" To fear the Lord means to reverence him and honor him. I say, shame on us when we say we love the Lord and then offer him less than our very best. And the attitude we show toward the Lord's table he has prepared for us helps him to know our standing before him. Think of it! God charges them of offering polluted bread upon his altar—which means less than our best. God in his holiness cannot and will not accept less than the best we have. Shame on us when we offer to God that which we would be ashamed to offer to a man when we want to win his favor. Even though we go to the altar of the Lord weeping and cover his altar with tears he will not hear us unless we give him the first place, which means the very best we have. Turn to Isa. 1st chapter and begin reading at the 10th verse: "If ye be willing and obedient ye shall eat the good of the land, but if ye refuse and rebel ye shall be devoured with the sword, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." Isa. 1:19-20.

Under the law the tithe was the financial plan to carry on the Lord's work, but no where in the New Testament are we commanded to tithe. The tithe would be far too small for true saints to offer to the Lord in this blessed gospel age in which we are living. Read the following Scriptures on New Testament giving: Luke 6:38; 2 Cor. 9:6-8; Acts 20:35. Under the law they paid tithes or a tenth of their income, but true Christians in this day of grace do not pay the Lord. They just give him what belongs to him. Haggai 2:8.

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### OUR NEED OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

Sunday, May 23, 1948

Printed Portion . . . . . Ezra 3:10-13; Psalm 84:1, 2; Ezekiel 11:16; 37:26-28.

Ezra 3:10. And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the Lord, after the ordinance of David king of Israel.

11. And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the Lord; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.

12. But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy:

13. So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.

Psalm 84:1. How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts!

2. My soul longeth, yet, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.

Ezek. 11:16. Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord God; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come.

Ezek. 37:26. Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.

27. My tabernacle also shall be with them; yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

28. And the heathen shall know that I the Lord do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.

**Memory Verse:** One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple. *Psa. 27:4.*

**Practical Thought:** We behold the beauty of the Lord in his true saints.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We know of no more vital subject than is presented in this lesson today. All through the precious old Book we read where God's people assembled themselves together in public worship. How perfectly the first verse of Psalm 122 fits in this lesson: "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." We read in today's lesson that when the foundation of the temple was laid (or finished) all the people sang and shouted and praised the Lord because a place of worship was being erected. They had been without a place of worship for the seventy years they spent in captivity in Babylon. But now they were over-joyed at the thought of having a place where they could meet in public worship. It makes our hearts sad when we see the great falling away from public worship which is so prevalent at this time. In Heb. 10:25 we read, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is." This great falling away as we see it today is foretold in God's Word. That day (the day that the Lord comes) shall not come except there come a falling away first. *2nd Thes. 2:3.*

Our express purpose of going to the place of public worship should be to worship God. All those who worship the Lord in Spirit and in truth will be greatly blessed of Him. Honor the Lord with thy substance and with the first fruits of all thine increase so shall thy barns be filled with plenty and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. We can know of no better way of honoring the Lord than to be present at public worship with a good honest heart, open to receive the truth as God's ministers give it out. So let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Amen.

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#### STANDING TRUE TO GOD-GIVEN CONVICTIONS

Sunday, May 30, 1948

Printed Portion ..... Daniel 1:8-20.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17. As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

18. Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.

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

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

**Memory Verse:** Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him. *Job. 14:15.*

**Practical Thought:** Do right and fear not.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

As we study this lesson let us begin with this quotation from the 14th chapter of Rom., "Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth." We receive our God-given convictions thru reading and studying God's Word and communing with Him. Daniel had strong convictions that he should not defile himself with the king's meat. He knew that the rich food and wine from the king's table for him would be displeasing to God. So he purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king's meat. And God showed himself strong in Daniel's behalf when he was cast into the den of lions. No doubt God thought of Daniel as he did Job—a perfect man.

If we will stand true to our God-given convictions, we, like Enoch of old, will have this testimony that we please God.

The three Hebrew's stood true to their God-given convictions and refused to bow down to the golden calf and were cast into the fiery furnace. But God quenched the violence of the fire and they came out of the furnace without the smell of fire on them, nor was a hair of their heads singed. It takes much courage to stand true to our God-given convictions in the face of fiery persecutions. In the 21st chapter of Luke when Jesus was telling his disciples of the persecutions that were before them, He said, "And it shall turn to you for a testimony." Now let each one of us ask ourself the question: Can the Lord count on me when I am face to face with severe tests? Will we suffer severe persecutions rather than to back down on our God-given convictions? —G. S.