

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



Volume 18, No. 11

Published at

Guthrie,

Oklahoma

25c Per Year

June, 1948

OTHERS

Do all you can for others,
Forgetting self, you see,
To help the ones about you
Is the way to victory.

Even Christ pleased not Himself,
For "others" was His goal.
Hear Him call, "O, come to me,
And shelter in my fold.

Jesus was not selfish,
He gave His life for others;
He bore the cruel cross in shame
That we all might be brothers.

He saved others, so 'tis said,
Himself He cannot save;
His precious blood was shed that day,
And they laid Him in the grave.

The precious story still is told,
How He burst the tomb asunder;
For others He arose that day,
And made all the world to wonder.

And now at Father's own right hand,
For others He is pleading,
For a blinded world lost in sin,
His loving heart's still bleeding.

So He left us an example,
How for others we should look,
Search them out and bring them back,
As 'tis written in His Book.

—Geo. W. Stephenson

o0o

Jesus Our Saviour

"And thou shalt call his name Jesus for he shall save his people from their sins." Matt. 1:21.

"God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." Rom. 5:8. "Death reigned from Adam to Moses even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression." Rom. 5:14. The sentence of

death was passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. Rom. 5:12. All were dead in trespasses and sins. Eph. 2:1-5. "But after that the love of God our Saviour toward man appeared." Tit. 3:4. "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

The name Jesus means Saviour. That was the mission of Jesus our Saviour into the world—to save from sin. And He is also our healer. He forgiveth all our iniquities and healeth all our diseases. Psa. 103:1-3.

"Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12. Again he says in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me." Again we read in John 6:44 where Jesus said, "No man cometh to me except the Father draw him." So we learn that God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all have a part in our salvation. The gospel is God's ordained means to save the world.

"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned." Mark 16:15, 16.

"The preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God." 1 Cor. 1:18. Paul says in Rom. 1:16, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. To the Jew first and also to the Greek." When the gospel is preached in the power of the Holy Spirit, the hearers are convicted by the Holy Spirit which accompanies the word to the heart, and the person thus convicted either yields to his convictions and begins to think on these things, or rejects them and grieves the Spirit away. If he continues to follow his convictions, he will be led to Christ Jesus the Savior. That is God drawing him by his Spirit. But if he fails to yield to his convictions, he cannot be led to Christ. As he hears the word preached or reads it from the printed page, he is convinced this is the truth, the way, and the life, but he does not want to measure up. The sacrifice is too great. He is not willing to forsake all to fol-

low Christ, so he turns from it and seeks some other way. But there is no other way to life. He just remains in the broad way that leads to destruction. When he turns away from the truth the devil takes advantage of his opportunity to send his ministers with smooth sayings that suit the carnal mind, and deceives many. They imagine they are in the way to heaven when they have not forsaken sin nor taken up their cross to follow Jesus.

Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. And whosoever doth not bear his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:26, 27.

Those who reject the way of the cross to seek an easier way are in great danger of falling into the way described in 2 Thess. 1:9-12: "After the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

—Cora Brant

—o0o—

The Lord's Building

Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. Psal. 127:1. Ye also as lively stones are built up a spiritual house. 1 Pet. 2:5. Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone, In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. Eph. 2:7-22. Ye are God's building. 1 Cor. 3:9. Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? 1 Cor. 3:16.

The new Jerusalem (saved) had the glory of God, and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. Rev. 21:11. Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people: that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light, . . . are now the people of God, . . . Therefore, thus saith the Lord, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone. He that believeth shall not make haste. Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet.

Peter was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church (lively stones) unto God for him . . . and as he was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: the angel of the Lord came upon him, saying, "Arise up quickly," and his chains fell off. The angel said, "Cast thy garment about thee and follow me." When they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city it opened to them of its own accord.

Paul and Silas were cast into prison and at midnight they prayed and sang praises unto God: and

suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. The keeper of the prison awakened out of sleep and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. Then he came trembling and fell down before Paul and Silas. . . and said, "What must I do to be saved?" And they said unto him, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

We then as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. 2 Cor. 6:1. For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 Cor. 5:1.

—Mrs. Chas. Reese.

—o0o—

ASK

We would hardly ask for a thing for which we had no desire, but for that which we do desire. Then asking follows desire. Desire takes the lead in most, if not all of our activities. Asking is desire put into words. In this way others gain a knowledge of our hearts' desires.

Desires are gained many times through the eyes. Then the individual goes about to either accomplish or acquire that which he desires. To keep from going after wrong or evil things, we must then reject seeing things that would cause us to desire things we should not. Paul says in 1 Cor. 9:27, "But I keep under my body and bring it into subjection; lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." So then according to Paul's words, if we do not keep our bodies in subjection according to our knowledge of what is right, we will be a castaway or be lost. This is an individual job. Each one must be watchful enough to keep his body under obedience to his or her knowledge of what is right. The good part about it is that where God has given knowledge he will stand by that individual to help him make use of that knowledge by doing what he knows is right to do. And more than that, God tells us just how to proceed to have our desires granted. He says in Mark's gospel 11:24. "What things soever ye desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them." Also in Matt. 7:7, 8, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." It is a wonderful thing to have only good and righteous desires, and then to pursue the Bible way to have them granted. God desires to accomplish good in all of our lives. If we have good desires, that is evidence that God is already working to accomplish good in us, and that of which we shall never be ashamed.

—Julia Tilton

What Am I Worth, Body and Soul?

A chemist, the other day, gave out the following as the analysis of the human body, which is, first of all, about seventy per cent water, and the remainder as follows:

Enough fat for seven bars of soap, enough iron for one nail, enough phosphorus for seven boxes of matches, enough lime for a pail of white wash, enough magnesium for a dose, enough potassium for a fire cracker, a little sulphur, and a few ounces of sugar.

This is what is left of a man or woman after the soul has taken its flight into eternity. You could purchase the same at the present day prices for about 98 cents. And after death the undertaker will take charge and will fill your veins with poison to preserve your body long enough to give your friends a last look at you. Then they will lower you into the grave, and all your friends must stand aside, as they can go no further with you.

It matters not what is said or done after that, so far as you are concerned. Your destiny will be sealed. God will have taken full charge. Your thots will then be a thing of the past. The worm will then do its awful work, and it will cut its roads through your face and body, leaving you a few whitened bones, and a little more time will reduce these bones to dust. Man, it has been declared, is born with his hands clenched. He dies with them wide open. Entering life he desires to grasp everything; leaving the world, all that he possessed has slipped away. The hour of death is one of great solemnity and momentous interest—the close of all earthly affairs; the end of human pursuits and aims. Upon the hour and article of death hang the issues of eternity.

I once stood by and looked into the coffin of a young girl who had been seventeen years in the grave. Time had done its work. As they lifted it to the surface the handles fell off, also the lid. As I looked into it, what did I see? About a hat full of dirty black mud. And thus it came to me: Perhaps at one time she was a center of attraction. Maybe the little party wondered how they would get along without Mary. She was so jolly, full of fun, etc. But as Jonathan said to David, "Thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty." (1 Sam. 20:18). So that "grim monster Death," whose hand none can stay, knocked at her door, and took her from their midst forever. Perhaps a few tears were shed, and then she was laid away. Soon the tears were dried, then another took her place and she was forgotten, as it is written in Eccl 8:10, "And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done: this is also vanity."

Dear friend, your name might be on every lip and adorn the pages of time, but after death, what? God says in His Word (Job 14:1), "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble." (V. 2), "He cometh forth like a flower and is cut down; he

fleeth also as a shadow and continueth not." Verse 5 says, "His days, his months, his bounds" are in God's hand, also his breath (See also Daniel 5:23). V. 10, "But man dieth and wasteth away; yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?" You see, death is God's appointment and you must meet Him there. (Heb. 9:27). You may be too busy to think about God, but God will not be disappointed. You must meet Him, and meet Him alone. Should you meet Him in your sins without Christ, woe unto you!

We have been looking at the body; we shall now notice the soul. The soul is a priceless jewel, a flower that ever blooms, a light that shall never go out. And it is destined to live forever in one of two places—Heaven or Hell.

How foolish then are they who for aught that earth can give would barter it away! Judas sold his for only thirty pieces of silver (about \$17.00). So many are selling their souls for a little sinful pleasure, or an empty name.

God alone knows its value, hence the mighty price He paid for its redemption—even the precious blood of Christ. Suppose the earth were made of pure gold, the sun diamonds, the moon rubies, and all the stars composed of pearls. They would not be a drop in the ocean compared with the mighty price that God paid that you and I might be redeemed.

Learn the value of your soul before you have lost it forever. "For what is a man profited, if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" The world has many things, but nothing that will satisfy a longing soul, but God has provided something that will satisfy and will give real joy.

God, when He saw us lost, guilty and vile thru sin, provided a means of salvation by which He could be just in pardoning the sinner's guilt. But sin must be punished, either in the sinner or the substitute. Guilty cannot die for guilty. An innocent victim must die for the guilty. An angel would not do, and concerning earth, God has said, "The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are altogether become filthy, there is none that doeth good, no not one." (Rom. 3:22, 23). But God found a spotless victim in the person of His Son; even our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave Him a body and sent Him down to earth. Read Heb. 10:5-7; Luke 2:7; Isa. 53:3; Luke 22:39-57. He was wounded for our transgressions. I am going to heaven, not because I deserve to be there, but because Jesus paid my way. Read Romans 5:6; Isa. 53:5. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Acts 16:31. "Behold, now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation." (2 Cor. 6:2). "Only a step to Jesus, only a step to Jesus—believe and thou shalt live. Lovingly now He is waiting and ready to forgive. Only a step to Jesus, then why not come and say, "Gladly to thee, my Savior, I give myself away."

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

"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—

Single copy, one year	\$.25
Single copy, five years	1.00
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.,

PRAYER REQUEST

We are asking the saints to be agreed with us in prayer and fasting on Sunday, June 6th, for the healing of June's afflicted body. She has two incurable complaints, but God is able to heal them. Yours in the one body, the body of Christ, Rena Armstrong and June

Editorials

In meditating upon the greatness of the Son of God, we thought of what a stirring ministry he had; although it only lasted three years and a half; just think of what God accomplished through him in those few short years.

At the time of the coming of the Son of man and before his coming Satan had so lied to the people in general and they had so completely believed his lies that they were in great darkness, spiritually speaking. Satan was playing god to the religious Jews in a general sense, being their spiritual father (John 8:44) and had them so blinded by his trickery and clever lying that they were greatly incensed against the true God when he came among them in the form of the Son of God, and they went about to kill him.

The religious world, or rather Christendom, is in about the same condition today as it was when Christ was here in the body. It seems so much easier for human beings to believe the devil's "angel of light" preachers than to die out to selfish desires and take the crucified way with Christ. They often make such a big show of religion, have wonderful visions, and perform lying wonders until the crucified way does not look attractive to those who have a love for self, and thus Satan has great revivals and adds thousands to his already unnumbered hosts. Many who once knew God in a degree are caught in this whirlwind of doctrines and are blown along with the crowd, and as they listen to Satan's lies they become settled in darkness and have dreams and visions of an age to come where the flesh will be exalted and fleshly lusts will be gratified and satisfied in an unlimited degree.

These religious Jews went about to kill Christ because Satan was their spiritual father (John 8:41) and had them believing lies which fed their self life, making them self-righteous men, and in this state they had no use for the teachings and life of Christ which would really do away with self and exalt the God of heaven.

When Pilate brought Jesus before the Jews and asked them whom he should release unto them, Jesus or Barabbas, they cried out, "Release unto us Barabbas and crucify Jesus." Now Barabbas was a robber and murderer (Read the 23rd chapter of Luke). Barabbas represents your self life, and if you love your self life you will never find Jesus as he will only be as a murdered man to you. And if you have Jesus and you allow your self life to begin to live, it will rob you of Christ by crucifying and putting him to death, and you will be left with only self-righteousness as were the Scribes and Pharisees, and in this state Satan will play that he is God to you.

The time in which we are now living is a very perilous time, as the prophesies for the last days are being fulfilled and those three unclean spirits like frogs are loose in the world. Let us turn to Rev. 16:12 and read, "And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates [The word "Euphrates" signifies, "Good and abounding"] and the water

thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared." The Euphrates being dried up symbolizes the spiritually dried up condition of the members or followers of the great religious movements that are in the world. The good and abounding flow of heavenly life is not in them any more (and in many of them never was), so the words, "Euphrates" being dried up portrays their dried up condition, and in this state they are ready to receive and are receiving the doctrines of the three unclean spirits like frogs. "The kings of the east" no doubt represent the leaders or king spirits in the false movements who are giving spiritual power to lead and rule the people as kings over them.

The 13th verse reads thus, "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the Dragon, [Read Rev. 20:2 and you will see and understand what the dragon is. And he was to be loosed a little season to deceive the nations. Rev. 20:7, 8. This Dragon power which persecuted the early church is loose and the evil spirits from his mouth or seat in the eastern countries are spreading out all over this western country, and since almost all are dried up spiritually they become easy prey in receiving their undermining, lying, and deceitful ideas.] and out of the mouth of the beast, [The beast represents Catholicism, which has been beastly in its general operations all down through the ages past. Many of the saints have been slain by this beast-like evil power covered up by a cloak of religion. Today, wherever its rule is general we find Communism is flourishing, for the prophecies are being fulfilled and the unclean spirit which is frog-like in its operations, is coming from that source and is deceiving the nations. Catholic rulers who are in authority oppose it, yet have no power to stamp it out. Its subjects are easy prey to this spiritual deceiving demon power. Its subjects still claim to be Catholic in religion and at the same time are lined up in spirit with the dragon influence which is sweeping over the land.] and out of the false prophet [The false prophet represents sectism which one time had the appearance of a golden cup (Rev 17:4), but now in a general sense has become so dead, formal, and dry that its subjects are falling in with this unclean spirit that is deceitful, and the manifestations are either to throw off religion nearly altogether and be a Communist or become more religious. In the latter condition they seek and seek and strain in order to receive this religious demon power that causes them to make a big show of religion, and causes them to do many signs and lying wonders (2 Thess. 2:9) to deceive others and line them up with the unclean spirit in likeness to a frog. For the next verse says that these unclean spirits are working miracles.]"

The kings of the earth are spiritual men that have power to cleverly sway the people with their deceitful lies and slowly line them up to be among the throng that will persecute Christ and his humble followers more and more until the judgment sets and they are burned up and their souls burn in hell.

In the 17th verse we find that the seventh angel "poured out his vial into the air and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven from the throne, saying, It is done." In other words, these great troubles that are upon us now and in the coming years will finish up the prophecies and the wicked will be consumed by the flames of God's wrath, the dead will be raised and the judgment will set and all mankind will meet their doom.

Brethren, let us be wise and receive instruction from God, keep ourselves unspotted from the world and be content to be in the world but not of the world, and be on the watch for clever religious reasoners and leaders that would sway us from the simplicity that is in Christ by making a lot of the Scriptures to mean nothing and many of them mean different than what God intended they should.

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

I have been thinking lately of what it really means to fear God. In looking upon Christendom today, it is evident that not many really fear God. Almost all people will compromise with the world in one form or another rather than bear reproach and shame which our example Christ so meekly and humbly suffered. It seems that self has to be respected even if Christ is put to shame and the truth misrepresented. Many will be partakers with corrupt politics and claim that God is leading them. Others will adorn themselves in the world's adornments, keep up with the fashions and fads of the world in dress, attend the movies of the world or at least say nothing against them, strive for earthly possessions and for prestige, honor, and standing among earthly men at the sacrifice of their eternal souls, for a failure to lift up Christ will bring death to the soul. Many will keep their money tied up in earthly things and have very little money to use in the cause of God, and souls are perishing while their selfish interests are being cared for. Oh, the patience and long-suffering of God with mortals! No doubt, many will not escape the wrath of God in that day. Covetousness seems to be one of the most deceitful and covered-up sins that Satan imposes on humanbeings.

When I look upon some who have grown old in the ministry and have failed to keep themselves unspotted from the world, making peace in many forms and ways with the world, the enemy of Christ, rather than suffer and bear shame and reproach for Jesus sake, and then to think of what ungodlike influence it is having on this coming generation, it makes me sad at heart and creates within me a greater determination to be true and faithful to the end, no matter what comes or goes.

I think of the Scripture in the 8th chapter of Romans which reads thus, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." How few of us really believe this Scripture and prove it by acting it out in our lives. This Scripture did not say that every one thing worked to our good, but it says, "All things work together for our good."

Many begin to look for a way out when the Lord lets the pressure on, and some real suffering is taking place. (The enemy will always have a way out for you besides God's way if you look for it.) Therefore they will suffer and get no good out of it because they did not keep in God's way and meekly bear suffering, shame and reproach so God could cause all things to work together for their good.

We read about Paul and Silas being put into prison with their feet fastened in the stocks all because Paul dared to rebuke an evil spirit in a damsel that brought men of the world gain. These masters of the damsel had Paul and Silas beaten and thrown in jail. What if Paul and Silas would have apologized after being beaten. They no doubt could have escaped going to jail, but they would have suffered without getting any good out of it. They kept their faith in God and kept loving him and gladly received all that God was allowing them to suffer for righteousness sake and went to jail without murmuring, but with their backs bleeding and their limbs fastened in the stocks. They sang and praised God, so God saw their faithfulness and reversed the circumstances by showing his mighty power, sent an earthquake, loosened them, and opened the jail doors. The jailer was stirred about the matter and gave his heart to God and all his household was saved. God made the whole thing work together for their good and his glory because they kept loving and obeying Him.

If they had murmured and complained and decided down in their hearts that they were resolved to use more wisdom in the future in order to escape such a predicament, God may have let them remain there a long time and suffer and suffer before he allowed the officers to let them out, and they would have gone through much suffering without getting any good out of it, and neither would the Lord have received glory out of it. It took all those things with patience and love for God's ways in the hearts of Paul and Silas to cause good to come out of it.

Brethren, the Scripture is true, "All things work together for good to them that love God." If we continue to love God and patiently bear reproach and shame and keep taking his ways and making no peace with the enemy, it will work out to our good and his glory.

—o—o—o— Campmeeting Notices

The 41st annual General Southern campmeeting of the church of God at Hammond, La. will be held on the saints' campground from June 25 to July 4th. The grounds are located about one mile southwest of the Ill. Central depot. We have good bus and train service, also mail service. Highways 51 and 190 lead here. The meeting will be run on the free will offering plan. Provisions or money that anyone feels led to donate will be thankfully received. Meals are served free on the grounds, and sleeping quarters provided for all who come. Bring bed linens, towels, and straw ticks if possible. Send provisions or donations to M. F. Williamson in care of Post Office, Hammond, La.

We are expecting the Lord to send Spirit-filled ministers who will preach the truth without compromise. "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."
—M. F. Williamson.

—o—o—o—o—o—

The National campmeeting of the church of God will be held, the Lord willing, July 23 to August 1st, inclusive, 1948 on the camp ground at Monark Springs, Mo., which is five miles east of Neosho, Mo., the county seat of Newton County. Monark Springs is not a post office or rail road station. Those traveling by bus or train should come to Neosho and take a taxi-cab to the camp ground or phone some of the saints through the Monark Springs grocery store to come after you. Highways No. 71 and 60 pass through Neosho, and all-weather roads lead to the campground.

You are cordially invited to attend this meeting—a place where you may receive help in soul and body. God's ministers will be present to preach the Word. Come praying and expecting the Lord to be present in the camp.

Meals will be served at the dining hall, financed by free-will offerings and contributions of groceries, fruits, and vegetables.

Pressing problems in regard to the campground improvement necessitated the calling of a special trustee meeting, which was held on the camp ground on Saturday, the 8th of May. Bro. and Sister O. B. Wilson of Shawnee, Okla. and my father accompanied me on this trip. We inspected two new cabins which had just been completed on the campground. All five trustees—Bro. Barton, Bro. Albert Eck of Kansas, Bros. Allen and Wyatt of Neosho, and the undersigned—were present. Several very necessary improvements were discussed, but the greatest problem we faced was the lack of funds with which to make these improvements. Surely the Lord wants his work to go forward, and its progress should be uppermost in the minds of all the saints. The trustees declared themselves ready to make the improvements as the means become available, so let us pray and work together, for it is a great work. The tents that we have been renting in the past years from a firm in Joplin have proved very unsatisfactory, so the trustees decided to purchase 30 new tents, size 9¾ by 11¾ feet, costing \$1100.00, and let the rent from tents and cots pay the debt. Rent on the new tents will be \$5.00 each and steel cots \$1.00 each (including a mattress as long as the supply lasts). Individuals desiring quarters in the dormitories, the price will be \$2.50 for cot and space. Let none stay away from the meeting who are unable to pay. Quarters will be provided. Please bring bedding and straw ticks and come prepared for very cool nights. Straw will be furnished. If you want a tent and cot, please send your order, with money, direct to Bro. Sam Barton, R. 11, Box 119, Tulsa 15, Okla. by July 10th. Bros. Barton and Davis are the business managers.

Help will be needed to get the grounds and buildings ready a few days before the meeting, and if you can come, please write Bro. Barton.

Each individual and congregation should make an offering to the national campmeeting. Please send it to Bro. Sam Barton or to the undersigned by July 10th.

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

—o—o—o—o—o—

The Jefferson, Oregon Campmeeting will be held this year, Lord willing, on the saints' grounds on Hazel St., July 30th to Aug. 8th inc. The campground is one block south and a half block east of the bus depot in Jefferson,

9 miles north of Albany, Ore. and 17 mi. south of Salem.

Meals will be served free in the dining hall. Tents can be rented for \$3.00. The saints have a number of bed springs, which may be used free of charge, also straw. The saints near the grounds turn their houses into sleeping quarters for the more aged saints. The good Lord has always provided us with the needful things to care for all who come, and we urge all who can to come. Those who can should bring straw ticks, blankets, and pillows. We always look to God to send the ministers of his choosing and he has sent faithful ones, and blessed wonderfully. It was glorious last year and we are looking for better things this year. We humbly ask all saints to agree with us in prayer for the meeting.

For any further information write to Sister Emma Busch, Scio, Ore. or Noah White or Sam Wilson, Jefferson, Ore.

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

The Oklahoma State Campmeeting of the church of God will be held at Guthrie, Okla., beginning on Friday August 6th and will continue ten days, Lord willing.

The pavilion in which campmeeting services will be held is located in the 600 block on West Warner Ave. The dining hall is in the same block across the alley. We are thankful to the Lord for the privilege of having conveniently arranged buildings for the campmeeting. The pavilion is much cooler than a tent and the new dining hall has two stories with sleeping room and cots in upper story, with modern conveniences for campers.

As usual we are expecting the Lord to send in able ministers from this and other states to preach the Word and clearly give out the full gospel of Christ to the people. Those needing help in soul or body should attend this meeting.

Those few preachers who have been upholding the S. T. divisional spirit need not expect liberty in the saints' campmeetings, for such would only work confusion, of which God is not the author.

The meeting will be run on the free-will offering plan of God and all are welcome to supply for the meeting in every way that God directs and lays it upon your heart. Send all offerings and supplies to O. C. Porter at 511 E. Springer, Guthrie, Okla. Please do not send it here to the printing office.

All are welcome. Bring your friends.

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

The Kalamazoo, Michigan Campmeeting will convene August 20-30, inc. Saints in the East should be interested in this meeting. Lodging and meals freely given as the Lord provides. For further information address Bro. Claire Blanchard, 129 E. Ransom St., or the pastor Earl M. Brown, 3606 S. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo 56, Mich.

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

The Midway, La. church of God campmeeting will be Aug. 13-22. The Lord has blessed at this place and met with us from year to year. Midway is not a post office. For information write Ruth Murphey, Box 673, Jena, La. or Willard Esters, Jena, La. Bus connections here.

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

The Dover, Okla. campmeeting will be Aug. 27th to Sept. 5th, inclusive, Lord willing. The camp ground is one mile north and two and one half east of Dover. Bring bedding. Any one desiring to be met at the bus station notify in time. Pray for the meeting. H. C. Caldwell, LeRoy McCray, Ulysses Phillips, Dover, Okla.

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

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

The Jumbo, W. Va. campmeeting will be held from Aug. 27 to Sept. 5th. This is our second effort to have campmeeting in this new field. We have received many inquiries concerning the meeting here, so we believe the saints and others are interested. The location is 3 mi. above the little town Dianna on Holly River, 1 mile off Route 20 between Buckhanon and Webster Springs. The Holy Trinity is our pulpit committee. The meeting will be run on the free-will offering plan, as last year. All who can bring bedding. Everybody invited.

We want to do some work on the building and ground for comfort and protection from the storms. Any one desiring to help on this can get in touch with Sister Maud Clifton, R. 2, Webster Springs, or myself, Geo. Peek, at Camden on Gauley, W. Va.

—o-o—

A Message to Saints of California

In regard to the erecting of the buildings on the California State Campground in Los Angeles, we feel the Lord has given us a message for the saints of California.

The building restrictions in California are such that it is not possible for us to go out and erect inexpensive buildings. In making application for building permit we were required to sign a statement that no camp meeting would be held on grounds until such adequate buildings as would pass approval of the Building and Health Departments, were built. Upon realization of the immense cost and amount of labor required to do this in so short time (less than four months) we were driven before the Lord with burden and great earnestness of prayer. God revealed to my soul that the saints in California were able in every way to do this great work. I marvelled at this, knowing the cost to be between \$20,000.00 and \$40,000.00 for the three main buildings, the tabernacle, cafeteria, and dormitories with necessary sanitation facilities. As I marvelled, God revealed to me the secret: If every saint will make a sacrifice—give, not of our abundance, not what we can conveniently spare, but as the widow did, even all her living, then God would bless that as he did the five loaves and two fishes. God has not run out of multiplying power today. All he needs is something to multiply—that something is "our all." The loaves and fishes that met the demand of so great a multitude was a little lad's lunch, like the widow, all he had. Not until you and I give our all, will God multiply it to meet the great demand we are faced with today. We have passed through an age when very few have given all. Has God stopped calling for all??? Nay, verily, the call is ringing out through the land: "Who will give all?"

Our all may be the widow's mite, the lad's lunch, or it may be that bank account, or that nice savings account we have laid up for old age or a rainy day or for our children to fuss and fight over. It may be that fund we have saved for a new car, new home, new furniture, new clothes, or it may be that nice vacation and pleasure trip you are planning this summer. Be it large or small, God is calling for our all. And again I say, when He gets all, He will multiply it to meet the need—however great the need may be.

As I mused on these things, I saw great and marvelous things for us. I saw the unlimited power of God to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think; ACCORDING TO THE POWER THAT WORKETH IN US. Eph. 3:20. Are you and I going to let that power work in us?

Then a shadow hung over this beautiful picture. The question came: "Will all the saints in Calif. give their all?" Sad to say, a doubt came in my heart that ALL would give ALL. Again with a burdened heart, I said, "If not, Lord, what next?" And here is the message and warning God told me to sound out: To the ones who would give all, even to their living, and HAVE FAITH IN GOD, He would see this work through and they would be greatly blessed. To those who would not heed the message, they would suffer great loss, and when the times of refreshing come from the presence of the Lord, they would not be in condition to receive them.

May God bless us all with a great conception that "Gain comes through loss, Life through death."

Opal B. Wilson.

—o0o—

WHY WE LOVE HIM AND HIS CAUSE

We love Him because He first loved us, 1 Jno. 4:19.

We love His Word because it is a light to our path. Psalms 119:105.

We love the Holy Spirit because He is our Guide, John 16:13.

We love the Oneness of God's people because Jesus prayed and died for it, John 17:20, 21; John 11:51, 52.

We love EQUALITY for therein is great power and great grace, Acts 4:32-33; 2 Cor. 11:13, 14; Luke 3:11.

We love the CHURCH OF GOD because He built it and is its Head, Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:28; Col. 1:18.

We love righteousness because of its great assurance, Isa. 32:17.

We love to trust him for his great keeping and healing power, James 5:14, 15; Psalms 73:28.

We love the Holiness Highway for it is the only one reaching Home. Isa. 35:8, 9; Heb. 12:14.

We love Him because His yoke is easy and his burden is light, Matt. 11:28-30.

We love Him for digging us out of the horrible pit we were in, Psalms 40:2.

We also love Him for giving JOY for our mourning, Isa. 61:3.

We love Him for saving our souls from all sin, Matt. 1:21; 1 John 1:7.

We love the WORD for it changeth not; nothing can be added to nor taken from; it is a safe rule to walk by, Isa. 40:8; Rev. 22:18, 19; Gal. 6:16.

We are encouraged to press on for God. The end is too near to idle any of our time away. The need for the pure gospel is very great, but the laborers are so few.

"Blessed is that servant whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing," Luke 12:43.

"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved," Matt. 24:13.

We are your brother and sister earnestly contending for the FAITH once delivered to the saints. Jude 3. D. A. and Evelyn Gibson, Seymour, Mo., Phone 123F32.

—o0o—

The Door Shall Be Shut

Dear reader who has not yet accepted Christ, the Lord Jesus even now is patiently standing at the door of your heart. Will you let Him knock in vain? The latchet of your heart's door is on the inside, so it is up to you to let Him in. Oh, receive the Son of God now into your heart that He may dwell there and be to you joy, strength, power, and life. Let

Him clothe you with His spotless righteousness and make you fit for heaven, glory to his name. Why not settle the matter of your eternal destiny now? Do not resist the Holy Spirit and keep the door of your heart barred against the Lord Jesus Christ.

While you have the keeping of the door of your heart and may refuse him admittance if you choose, there is another door which Jesus controls, and He is that Door. You can never gain heaven except you enter this Door while there is opportunity. He warns, that the time will come when this door will be shut, and then you will knock in vain. "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh." Now is the accepted time, Behold, now is the day of salvation. 2 Cor. 6:2. The fulfillment of Bible prophecies makes us to know that we are living in the last of the last days, and soon this Door will be shut. If you do not open to the Lord now you will be numbered among those standing on the outside saying, "Lord, Lord open unto us." But the only answer will be, "Depart from me, ye that work iniquity: I know you not." For the Door shall be shut.

Oh, sinner, admit into your heart now the One who died on the cross to save you from sin. Turn from your wicked ways to Jesus for pardon and he will clean up your heart and fit you for eternal life. If you will come to Jesus as a poor broken hearted sinner, owning your sins and trusting in His word, be sure He will be true to his word: "Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37.

Death may overtake you suddenly. Be ye also ready.

Jesus has purchased our pardon,
Yonder on Calvary's tree;
His heart and body were broken,
Atoning for you and for me.
At your heart's door He is standing,
He's seeking an entrance each day.
Will you not bid Him to enter?
No longer turn Jesus away.

—Bro. Harvey Johnson.

—o—o—o—o—o—

Mo.—Dear saints and readers of the "Faith and Victory"—Greetings in Jesus' name. Today I am much encouraged to press on for the Lord. He is so good to his children. I truly want to live for him the rest of my days, as that is the only real joy and peace there is.

The Lord has healed me of a bad cough which I had for several months and I truly thank the Lord for it. He has also touched my body a number of times, but for some reason I have not received complete healing yet. I am still looking to the Lord for complete healing.

Our little boy that has been afflicted in his body almost all of his life has gone to school almost one full term and is much stronger than he was before he started, and has never broken a bone while in school yet. We are so thankful to the Lord for his protection and goodness to us. Your sister in the Lord, Helen Allen.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Hello, Children:—

We were glad for the letters from Gatha and Leora, also the poem Wilma wrote. We are happy to know that you truly love Jesus, and I am sure Jesus blesses you. We just pray to Jesus that he will bless each of you and all the dear children who love Jesus. We pray for those who do not know how to pray to Jesus and live for him, that they will understand how to really pray to Jesus and receive blessings from him. Jesus loves all dear little children and he wants you not to forget to pray to him.

I trust you will not forget the story we wrote in the last paper. I know sometimes little boys and girls are tempted to take the biggest piece, but you do not feel good inside when you do. That is Jesus making you know he is not pleased. Let us heed the voice of Jesus and he will lead us right.

There is something else children sometimes forget to do. When a grown person—and especially an older person—comes into the room you should get up and give them the best chair. You can always sit on the floor but an older person cannot. Jesus will bless you if you will do this kind deed. Next time, you do that without Mother reminding you, won't you? Jesus will surely make your heart feel glad.

There are so many things children can do for Jesus. Just stop and think of all the little things you can do to help Mother. In helping Mother you are doing things to please Jesus and he will reward you for it. Jesus said if we give a cup of cold water to some one we would receive a reward (Matt. 10:42).

Jesus sees all the things we do and will bless us when we do good.

But the most important thing to do would be to give Jesus our hearts. Just pray to Jesus and tell him you are sorry for your sins. And if you are really sorry he will forgive you and make you very happy.

—Aunt Marie

Speaking In Tongues?

As respecting the things of the Spirit, a woman once troubled me much by her convincing attitude regarding the baptism of the Holy Ghost. She strived to persuade me that unless I spoke in tongues I had not the sanctifying Spirit, and she besought me in every way to speak in tongues. At that time, still young in the Lord and unlearned in these things, I listened to her with outstretched ears. She had resorted to some strange actions in a way that gave me the impression that she was being moved by some supernatural power over which she had no control. I did not understand the Bible teaching concerning the baptism of the Holy Ghost. I recalled how that my conversion was not followed with shouting and ecstatic speaking. Her experience was lively and full of outward manifestations. I confessed that I had not the outpouring of God's Spirit such as she did, but only a peaceful entrance of God's Word speaking to my heart: "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." I felt God's divine presence, and did believe in my heart that God had forgiven me and given me a message to depart from the evils of this world. But the woman insisted that it was

a matter of life or death if I did not receive the evidence of speaking in tongues. "What shall I do?" I inquired, "Should I ask God to give me this power to speak in tongues?"

"Fast and pray," she advised. "At the end of the fast, when your body is weakened, it will become faint and be brought under control of the Spirit. Sing and pray, and shout praises unto God. This will be followed by that which was promised that they shall speak in tongues. If then nothing happens, wait on the Lord; and if you are earnestly seeking for it, God will see to it that you finally get filled with the Holy Ghost baptism and speak in tongues."

Under the influence of a grieved conscience, I promised to fast and pray, and beseech God not to deny me the truth about the matter. I was eager to search this out and plead with the Lord that if I was lacking, for Him to fill my desire. I sought God with all of my heart and soul to speak to me through his still small voice. I would lift up my hands to ask God to deliver me out of this confusion and distress of soul. I became desperate as a feeling of unworthiness crept over me as I prayed. O God have mercy! was all I could say. I groaned with agony of soul and wept aloud. I swayed to and fro; fell prostrate on the floor, rose again, stretching forth my hands to God pleading for him to help me to speak in tongues and to know for sure that I was saved. I struggled with myself, remembering the instructions that now the physical body must die out that the Spirit might manifest itself. Sweat exploded from the pores of my body and I was in great turmoil. I gnashed my teeth together, straining my jaws to force some sort of utterance to come from my lips. I went into such a strain that I thought I would faint, when suddenly I broke out into speaking words of no understanding. In such a manner did I speak, and though I cannot repeat what I mumbled, yet you must believe me, for I say this with a clear conscience. Such words were gibberishly spoken through some strange power separate from God which twists your tongue forcibly to utter nonsense.

But God was not willing that I should be deceived through the invitation of devilish exercises which invokes not the Spirit of Christ, but the spirit of error and unfaithfulness to God's Word regarding the fruits of the Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance . . ."

Now, did I really speak in mysteries? No, I jibber-jabbered.

Did I speak in tongues easy to be understood? I spoke things of no effect against the Spirit's will.

Was I able to define these utterances? I was not able, and if I spoke in profane words, I could not tell.

At the end of this feverish procession I knelt down to pray again to ask the Spirit's forgiveness if I had done foolishly. I asked the Lord to give me a dream or vision that night and make his ways known forever. That same night I dreamed that God's Spirit came to me and told me repeatedly that I should take his Word faithfully as it is written. The end was an awakening to which my soul did recall the wonderful revelation, and I thanked God from the depths of my heart for such an answer to prayer and assuring me of his WORD that it will never pass away. Praise the Lord!

Now thanks be to God who through his mercy and instructions shows us the benefits in accepting his truth; and the gift of his Spirit is followed by the manifestation of delicious fruit. Amen. 2 Tim. 2:15.

—Bro. Salvatore DiDio

The Christ of Calvary

(A Testimony)

I love the Christ of Calvary,
His life for me he gave,
He suffered bitter agony
My sinful soul to save.
Although the sinless Son of God,
He stooped for sin and woe,
And on the cross he shed his blood
That washed me white as snow.

I praise the Christ of Calvary,
I praise Him all day long.
E'er since by faith to Christ I came,
My heart's been filled with song.
Once I was lost in sin and shame,
No song had I to sing,
But now my heart does praise the name,
Of Christ my Lord and King.

I serve the Christ of Calvary,
My all to Him I give;
He gave his life a ransom,
He died that I might live.
Then why should I not serve him,
And give to him my all?
Where'er He leads I'll follow,
And gladly heed His call.

I trust the Christ of Calvary,
There is no truer friend;
He saves, He keeps, He satisfies;
I'll trust Him to the end.
I'll trust Him when my day is dark,
And through the dreary night,
I'll trust Him till the shadows fall
And faith has changed to sight.

I rest in Christ of Calvary
Secure for evermore,
Assured that I his face shall see
When storms of life are o'er.
I rest in his atoning blood
Shed on the cross for me,
And now I am at peace with God
Through Christ of Calvary.

I know no human Savior,
No Christ that men invent,
I only know the Christ of God,
Him whom the Father sent.
No human Christ could save me,
Nor from sin set free—
The only Christ I worship
Is the Christ of Calvary.

—H. I. Munden

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

Okla.—To all the saints scattered abroad, greetings in Jesus' precious name.—May God bless you one and all.

For some time I have felt like giving a brief outline of our lives since we accepted the truth in 1912. We were young married people, but the truth found us weighed and found wanting. We lived in Springfield, Mo. Bro. Harmon, sr., came there to hold a meeting. We attended and accepted the truth. For eight years we did our best for God. We did personal work from house to house, spent much time with the sick. Then came World War 1,

and husband was in the draft call. We were advised to go on a farm, so we did, yet we felt we were leaving our gospel work behind, as by this time we were in Tulsa, Okla. engaged in the work of the Lord. So during the war years we got away from our vows to God, much to our sorrow. We got back to the Lord with a load of debts hanging over our heads. We had promised God we would go in his work but God could not get glory out of a man in debt, so we have done our best to pay all our indebtedness to man and God. We kept working for the Lord here in Tulsa and other places where help is needed and God has blessed us in our efforts. He sees that we have a way to go when it is necessary to go. We have tried to not let any sacrifice be too great when it is for the Lord and his people.

Our God is all in all to us. We could not be home with our children on Mother's Day, but the cause of God is at stake. We find no time to observe days with our family. We love ours as well as any one, but out there are souls seeking for God and need all our special attention. So pray that we keep able in body to do our little bit for God.

Sometimes ministers' children are censured for the way they act. Instead of censure and blame, they need prayer and help, because a minister often has to neglect his family to go for the Lord. A minister is sometimes traveling in the dark over the highways while others are at home with their children. Surely, we need to appreciate those who go in the rain and cold. I wonder sometimes how it will be for those who give so little of their lives to the service of God. Does God require the minister to give all, his life, his means, his home, and his children, and others go free? Dear ones, God does not require any more of the minister than he does of you. God did not require His Son to die on the cross that we might be at ease and free of a cross. If every saint would go down on bended knees and really consecrate their all to God and His cause, I am sure the minister could accomplish more for God.

It is wonderful how God has provided for us. We were in need of a car and when we decided to get one the dealer had it. It only took two days to get it ready for the road. We wondered how we could ever pay for it, but if God helps us like he has the past three months, the car will be paid for many months before it is supposed to be. We never need gas money, for it is provided before time. Truly it pays to live for God. He owns the cattle on a thousand hills. Let me recommend this wonderful Saviour. He will reward here as well as in heaven. His supply of grace is worth all our efforts. I am not tired of serving such a wonderful God. He means all this world to us.

—The Sam Bartons

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

Seaman Inst., N. Y.—Dear Christian friends, greetings in Jesus' precious name. I am glad to say I am still holding on to Jesus. He is helping me day by day. Although I have many trials he is ever near me and I am determined to follow to the end, no matter what comes about. So always remember me in prayer, dear ones, that the devil may not get his desires out of me. I am very glad to say I have received the books. I was not in at the time they came. I was also glad to get the "Faith and Victory." Oh, I like to read them! They comfort me much and are sweet to my soul—especially the good testimonies. Pray for me that the dear Master will help me so I can testify to what he has done for me. The Lord bless all the saints.

Samuel A. Haven

Ore.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt,—I send greetings to you in Jesus' dear name. I trust all is well. I received your letter some days ago and was very glad to hear from the dear saints again. It encouraged my soul very much. It seems I get so lonesome for the dear saints until just a letter seems to make my way grow brighter. I love and appreciate the Lord's people so much. It seems it has been the dear Lord's will for me to be put through many tests and trials since I have been here in Oregon, but I mean to live for him as long as I live, by his grace to encourage my soul. I have not had an opportunity to meet with the dear saints here very much. I cannot drive a car, and we live nine miles from Jefferson, Ore. where the saints meet.

I desire the saints to pray much for us, that the dear Lord will see fit to open up a way for us to attend services, as my soul hungers for the ways of the Lord. I am looking unto Him for this blessing. I know he is faithful to do what he promises us. I need food for my soul, that I shall be able to withstand the wiles of the devil. I was permitted to attend services last Sunday and was strengthened and encouraged in the dear Lord.

May the dear Lord ever bless and encourage your dear hearts and souls. Give my love to all the saints.

Iva Pearl Holman

O—O—O—O—O—O—O—O—
Oklahoma—Greetings to the saints in Jesus' name,—Today I am saved and praising the Lord for his goodness to me.

For some time I had been bothered with an affliction, due to too much standing on my feet. I would pray and get victory over it for a while but it would come back again. One day the thought came to me to look to the Lord for complete healing, and through faith the Lord did heal me, for which I thank him.

I know the enemy will want to contest me for testifying of God's goodness, but in Jesus' name the victory is mine to keep. Remember me in your prayers.

Olive A. Phillips.

O—O—O—O—O—O—O—O—
England,—My Dear sister in Christ,—Greetings in His precious name. I do thank you for your letter. It is so very kind of you to take time to write to me, when I know how very busy you are for the Lord. But I also know you do all as unto Him who has loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood and made us kings and priests unto God His Father. To Him be praise and glory, both now and evermore. I thank you, too, for all your prayers on my behalf and for my body. I have proved Rom 8:11 many times, the quickening power of the Holy Spirit in these temples, for we are the temples of the living God. Soon, how very soon we shall see Him as He is. How we long for our new bodies, when we shall have that perfect freedom and liberty in the Spirit and to praise Him as we ought. Oh, may he ever give us grace to walk faithful to him, that he may be continually glorified in our lives as well as our bodies. What a privilege and joy it is to meet at the throne of grace and to pray one for another. I thank you very much for remembering me in your petitions. Hold on. I believe yet the Lord will fully deliver me from the infirmities of this flesh, that I shall be able to go out and witness for Him. Until then, I just praise Him for patience and grace. We know only too well that Satan is very busy, and is out to injure, if possible, the Christians, but "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him. Your sister in Christ, B. Wade

Calif.—Dear saints,—I am sending in my testimony for the first time. The Lord heard my prayers and saved me from my sins two months ago and I have been growing in grace ever since and enjoying the wonderful light the Lord has given me. I was a lost sinner, living in darkness until the Lord heard my cries and saved my soul and gave me peace with Him.

I have had a nervousness for over a year now and want your prayers that the Lord will heal me of it and that I will do the Lord's will at all times, as I want to stay with him to the end. Pray for my unsaved loved ones,
Evelyn Linch.



Ala.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I received the anointed handkerchief, and I am thankful for your prayers. I feel much better, and am still trusting in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Continue to pray for me, and I am doing the same for you.

When I was taking medicine I could not see or feel any results, but since I have given up doctors and medicine and asked you to pray for me, and am trusting and believing in Jesus, I do see and feel great results. I could not even raise my right arm or close my right hand, but now I am thankful that I can raise my arm and close my hand well and I can walk around in the house and yard by myself—Jesus and I—with a walking stick. Now I am going to pray and trust the good Lord to loose me from that walking stick. Pray with me. I have found out that He is the one for me to trust in and not man. I am glad I learned that in time. Emma Lee Hudgins



Maine—Dearly Beloved Brethren:—Having received, read, and enjoyed your publication, "Faith and Victory" and the testimonies therein; I thought you might be interested in publishing mine.

A little while after the Lord came into my heart and I was "born again," I was calling on a dear Christian lady. During our conversation she mentioned that she was a tract distributor, and giving me a handful, asked me if I would distribute them.

Brethren, I received those tracts with very mixed feelings. I distribute tracts! For one thing, I did not believe it did any good to pass people tracts that nine times out of ten only made them angry, and I knew I did not have the courage to do it, nor did I think I was good enough; but not wanting to hurt her feelings, I took the tracts.

Since that day (over two years ago) I have distributed hundreds of them, and the Lord has blessed me beyond my wildest dreams. At first I sent those she gave me to my mother, sisters, and near relatives, and finding I did not have enough to go around, I sent to the addresses for more. Now I write from six to ten letters a day enclosing tracts and my own testimony. Now my mother, three or four sisters, a friend in New York state, and several friends in Maine are distributing tracts too. A healthy "oak tree" has grown from the "little acorn" my Christian friend gave me. Only the Lord knows how large it will grow. I have also written to ministers and pastors to ask their congregations to distribute tracts, referring them to Rev. 12:11 and other Scripture. There is plenty reference to "sowing the seed."

And I am praising and glorifying my Lord hours at a time. He will greatly reward me when He comes. His promises are sure and He said, "As ye sow so shall ye reap." Sincerely and humbly in His precious name,

Marguerite Knowler

Ind.—Bro. Pruitt, greetings from Union City,—Thank you for the anointed handkerchief. The Lord touched my body before the handkerchief arrived, for which we give God the glory. When it came Bro. and Sister Bill Abbott came in. We applied the handkerchief and had prayer and I have been growing stronger every day. I attended services today, for which we are grateful. We know the Lord did the work because we did not even consult a physician. The Lord knows what is the matter with these bodies, and he knows how to heal, thank the Lord. I desire you to still remember me before the throne, that I use this body for His glory and continue to grow stronger soul and body. Give our love to all the saints.

Sister Nottingham

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

Pa.—My dear Bro. Pruitt and all the children of God that are with you,—Greetings in Jesus' name.—As it has been some time since I wrote to you, I am glad to say that I have the victory in my soul over all the powers of the devil, and I do thank and praise God for it. It is only through him that we can keep saved, with no place to go to meeting, all alone with Jesus, no saints near. You see that I need your prayers, and that God will open the way that we might have meetings here. I am well in body and soul. I have been trusting God for soul and body for 42 years—no medicine, no rub on, but only Jesus. I am past 82 years, and I am so glad that I found Jesus.

Your saved and sanctified brother, William Maurer

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

Ala.—Dear saints everywhere,—greetings in Jesus' name. I feel led to write to the "Faith and Victory" paper and tell of some of the Lord's blessings to me. He saved me from sin, keeps me each day of my life, and encourages me to go on in this way. I was very sick the first of Feb. My left arm seemed to be paralyzed. I could not move it. It was stiff. I could use my fingers but not my arm. I suffered much with it. I wrote to Guthrie Feb. 16th. They prayed for me and sent me an anointed handkerchief. I received it by air mail the 18th and the dear Lord touched my body with his healing power. I could lie down and go to sleep, praise his holy name. The dear Lord knows what I suffered. He came just before it was too late. I mean to go on in this way until he says, "Come home." Saints, pray for me and my husband. He has heart trouble.

Your sister in the one body, Lillie Hood.

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

Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—Just a few lines to let you and the saints know that I am yet living a holy life, and my health is getting better all the time. I thank the saints for their prayers, for the prayers of the saints surely brought me out of that suffering condition. I want you to keep praying for me, that I may be able to visit you this summer. Also, I want to know if there are any saints in Texas close to where I am planning to go soon, in Red River county?

Bro. Wesley Smith

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

Ind.—Greetings in Jesus' dear name,—I am glad I can say I am saved and living for the Lord. I hope all the dear saints at the office are well. I enjoy reading the "Faith and Victory" paper. It is food for my soul. I just have my Bible and the good books and "Faith and Victory" from the print shop to read. There is no church of God congregation here, and no one to pray for me and daughter and family. Please pray for me. I am weak in body. My back hurts much at times and I cannot be up on my feet. My eyes are getting weak and sore. I believe the dear Lord will heal me.

Emma Mathers.

Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints there,—Greetings in Jesus' name. May the grace and peace of God be multiplied. This morning I rejoice in my precious Saviour, and desire and pray that God will help me to know his will and do it as a faithful servant in his vineyard. How my soul looks to God who is able to give me my desires at his own good will. Will the saints agree with me in prayer that the gospel of Jesus be preached, that the Father's name may be glorified here in this place where also I am a witness to his holy name? God will have to supply all needs according to his riches in Christ Jesus. I am sending a small offering which now may be used to God's glory; and may it bear so much fruit that in turn the precious gospel of peace and victory be preached here so that souls will be delivered from deception. This is the greatest sorrow that has come upon mankind. To me it seems that there is no greater sorrow than to be deceived.

Mrs. Eva Penner.

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

Mo.—I told my dear Lord if he would heal me when I was suffering so much, that I would write my testimony of his healing. I was suffering with my right side. The soreness reached almost half way. I could not cover the place with both hands. It bothered me a long time. I could hardly do my house work. I started to write and send a handkerchief to be anointed, but did not have the letter finished until I was healed. What a mighty Lord we serve! Praise his wonderful name. I can work in my garden. I have a large garden. I always raise truck for campmeeting. Please pray for me, that I will be faithful to the end.

Emma Ritchie.

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

Fla.—Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, greetings in His precious name, for He is precious to me, and without Him I know not what I would do. I received your letter a few days ago and was glad to hear from you again. Your writing these letters means much to me. It is encouraging to know that I am being remembered by you in your prayers. Please pray earnestly for me that I may ever be found living close to the Lord every day. Also pray for my brother who is living with me. He has taken to the drink habit. And I have two other unsaved brothers. O, if they would only turn and accept the Lord as their Saviour, what a joy it would be! Not only them, but it also brings great joy when I see any sinner accept the Lord and His plan of salvation.

I thank God for sending such a loving Saviour to die on the cross that saved a poor sinner like me. I also thank God for brothers and sisters in Christ, whose faces I cannot see, yet they love me enough that when they kneel in prayer they ask His blessings upon me, thereby help me to bear my burdens. It is a sweet thought to me to think that though I do not have much of the riches of this world and only a frame building of a house for a home, yet some day I'll leave all this behind and go to a good home.

Bertie Smith

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

La.—Greetings to all the dear saints,—We have been feeling for some time like we should write a testimony, telling some of the many ways the Lord has blessed us.

First, we want to say we praise the dear Lord for saving our souls and helping us to see the light of his Word, and leading us in the truth thus far.

We had four sons in service in the last war. They went through many dangerous places but we were praying for them. We promised God if he would spare their lives to get back home we would write a testimony and testify to the goodness of God. And praise His name,

they all came back safely. Three of them are working in the mail service, which is another blessing of God in answer to prayer.

God has healed my bodies many times. I have had an affliction on my body for over three years. The Lord touched my body and I am much better, but I cannot seem to get complete victory over the trouble. We still desire the prayers of the saints, that I will be completely healed. We know God is able to heal me and our trust is in Him. We are not looking to the arms of flesh for healing. My husband has varicose veins on his leg. About five weeks ago they became infected and caused quite a bit of suffering. We looked to the Lord and he healed him. He has some other ailments. We are looking to the Lord to completely heal him. We praise the dear Lord for all he is doing for us.

Our grandson, 16 years of age, struck the bottom or something in the water last June while diving in the river. He was unconscious for two hours and was paralyzed for some time. The doctors said he could never walk, but we called upon God, and when school started in Sept. he was able to go to school. It is wonderful what the Lord did for him. We still desire the prayers of the saints that he will be healed completely and will be saved. That is the most important thing.

I can never tell of the many things the Lord has done for us. May God bless all. We are determined to keep pressing on by the help of the dear Lord, and make heaven our home. We thank the saints for their prayers. Please pray for our unsaved children.

Your sister and brother in Christ,

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Miller

—o0o—

Resist The Devil

"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you." The devil is going about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour, and the children of God will do well to diligently guard against his evil ways.

Jesus told us that the devil is a liar and the father of lies, and he is very cunning with his lies. It is not safe to accept a reproachful report on someone and repeat it, for it may have been twisted a little by a lying spirit to deceive unsuspecting souls. The devil is working hard against God's people along this line. Saints need to wake up and keep busy for the Lord. The world is watching all we do and say, and we are to be examples unto them. We are instructed to speak evil of no man, and if any man seem to be religious and bridled not his tongue, that man's religion is vain. God's people have pure religion and undefiled, and it is not vain. His church is pure, without spot or wrinkle. There is nothing unclean in it. He instructs us to let all bitterness and wrath and anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from us with all malice.

Before repeating any report that we have heard about another we should be sure that it is true and that it is necessary to repeat it, and that the repeating of it will help the cause of God rather than injure it. The devil and all his hosts are arrayed against the truth, and it is to his advantage to cause a misunderstanding and get reports started that will hinder

the influence of true children of God. It will cause many to turn from the truth.

"What would Jesus do?"

—Lucy Lizar

—o0o—

THE LORD'S SERVANT NEEDS A CAR

Eleven years ago, the saints purchased a used car for Bro. Ulysses Phillips of Dover, Okla. Bro. Phillips has used this car faithfully in the Lord's service and it is now practically worn out, and we who know his faithful labors as a minister of the gospel of Christ and the clean life back of his preaching are burdened for his need of a car. Funds are being gathered together for this purpose.

Those of our readers who have some of the Lord's money and want to place it where it will really be used in the service of God and be as treasures laid up in heaven will do well to send an offering to help buy this car. Most of our readers have been blessed no doubt, by reading Bro. Ulysses Phillips' poems and articles which appear in the "Faith and Victory" paper from time to time.

Send your offerings to us here at the Faith Pub. House or to Bro. Ulysses Phillips of Dover, Okla. May God bless each giver.

—Fred Pruitt.

—o0o—

Save Them from the Wreck

Those precious jewels God has given,
Children of thy care;
Teach them now the way to heaven;
Expose the tempter's snare.

Hold up the light, and let it shine
Around their little feet,
Teach them the way of truth divine,
Those little ones so sweet.

O, save them from the awful wrecks
Where many have been slain,
Expose the sin of drink and lust,
Lest they should live in vain.

O, what an awful sight to see
A drunkard in his plight;
Earning his wages through the day,
Then spend it all at night,

To satisfy his thirst for drink,
And appetite for lust;
And going down in filth and shame
To wallow in the dust.

Or sit beneath the wheel to drive
To some far distant place;
And swerve his car across the line
Right in some traveler's face.

Thousands have been killed in wrecks
Because of drunken sots;
Save, O, save that child today
From Satan's dreadful plots.

Warn him to not stroll around
Where boys play cards and drink,
The drunkard sure will come to want;
And to destruction sink.

For they who fumble with the flask
And sip of rum and wine,
Will find themselves enslaved at last
With drunkard's chains entwined.

With courage crushed, and hope all gone,
A wreck indeed is he,
Who has no will, nor grace to stand
For right, and liberty.

—Ulysses Phillips.

"Many, who one time were saints, have sold their souls through the deceitfulness of covetousness and are now living off the proceeds."

Roll of 5 "Faith and Victory" papers, one year \$1.00
12 papers each month, one year 2.00
25 papers each month, one year 4.00
50 papers each month, one year 7.50
100 papers each month, one year 14.00

If you desire to work for the Lord, send for a roll of papers to give out to friends and neighbors. The Lord has no idlers in His vineyard.

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Tim. 2:15.

BIBLE STUDY

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

MEN WHO DARED TO STAND FOR GOD

Sunday, June 6, 1948

Printed Portion Daniel 3:4-7, 13-18; 6:10.

Daniel 3:4. Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages,

5. That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:

6. And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

7. Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

13. Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king.

14. Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

15. Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

16. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

17. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

18. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

6:10. Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Memory Verse: Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid: for the Lord JE-HO-VAH is my strength and my song: he also is become my salvation. Isa. 12:2.

Practical Truth: Either in life or by death the Lord always delivers his true children who put their trust and confidence in Him.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In this lesson we have one of the most outstanding examples of faith and courage and boldness ever recorded. No doubt, many today, if they were put to the same test, would reason with themselves: "To save trouble I will just drop on my knees when the music sounds, but we will not worship the golden calf." This would be a detour around persecutions. We may well be glad that they answered the king as they did. With the burning fiery furnace right before them (and they knew the king's decree would not and could not be changed) with perfect boldness they said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the fiery furnace and he will deliver us out of thy hand. But if He does not deliver us, we want you to know that we will not serve thy gods nor worship your golden image!" Our Lord is the same yesterday, today, and for ever. May God help us who say we are Christians to be bold and very courageous, and when we are put to a severe test we will remember the words of old Isaiah, "Behold, God is my salvation: I will trust and not be afraid." These three Hebrew children were bound hand and foot and cast into the burning fiery furnace, but God forbid the fire to hurt them. The fire just burned the straps off them, and when the astonished king looked into the furnace, what did he see? He saw these three men loose and walking about in the furnace. He also saw the fourth One whom he said was like the Son of God. Yes, God quenched the violence of the fire and delivered his faithful servants who were not afraid to trust Him.

Now concerning Daniel, we all know how he was faithful to God and prayed three times a day with his window open toward Jerusalem. We know how he was cast into the lions' den and God sent an angel and shut the lions' mouths, and when they took him up out of the lions' den they found no manner of hurt on him, because he believed his God. Dear brethren, do we believe our God?

—oOo—

ESTHER'S ZEAL FOR HER PEOPLE

Sunday, June 13, 1948

Printed Portion Esther 4:10-17; 9:20-22, 26-27.

Esther 4:10. Again Esther spake unto Hatach and gave him commandment unto Mordecai.

11. All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.

12. And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.

13. Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.

14. For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place: but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

15. Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,

16. Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.

17. So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

9:20. And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both nigh and far,

21. To establish this among them, that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly,

22. As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.

26. Wherefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. Therefore for all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and which had come unto them,

27. The Jews ordained, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon all such as joined themselves unto them, so as it should not fail, that they would keep these two days according to their writing, and according to their appointed time every year.

Memory Verse: So I will go in unto the king, which is not according to the law and if I perish, I perish.

Practical Truth: It is a noble thing to jeopardize our lives to save others.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The Sunday school pupils will need to read all of the book of Esther to have an understanding of what we are to learn from this lesson. Time and space will not permit a lengthy discussion, so let us look at a few of the high lights.

There are four principal characters in the book of Esther: King Ahasuerus, Haman, Mordecai, and Esther. Esther was a beautiful young Jewish woman whom the king loved and set the royal crown on her head and made her queen. Mordecai and Esther were cousins. Esther's parents were dead and Mordecai took her to be his own daughter. Through his scheme Esther was brought before the king and was chosen of him to be the queen. Haman seemed to be what we would call the king's right

hand man, but he hated Mordecai with a bitter hatred as he did all the Jews also. So Haman laid a plot and got the king's consent to kill and destroy all the Jews. The king did not seem to know that Esther was of the Jews. Haman wanted to get rid of Mordecai, so he built a gallows fifty cubits high. He planned to ask permission of the king to hang him. Something had to be done, so Mordecai prevailed on Esther to make Haman's plot to destroy the Jews known to the king. So it turned out that Haman was hanged on his own gallows which he had made on which to hang Mordecai. Esther had to go before the king to make her petition concerning Haman, and any one could be put to death who came into the presence of the king without being called. So after three days of prayer and fasting she went into the presence of the king, and she looked so lovely the king held out his sceptre to her and bade her make her request known. We can see the hand of God in this although his name is not mentioned in the book of Esther. Esther had to sum up all her courage to do such a daring thing. Mordecai persisted on her to risk her life to save the Jews: She dared to do what was right even at the peril of her own life. Please take time to read the whole book of Esther.

— oOo —

THE HOPE FOR THE MESSIAH

Sunday, June 20, 1948

Printed Portion Ezekiel 34:23-28; Daniel 7:13, 14; Zechariah 9:9, 10; 12:10; 13:1.

Ezek. 34:23. And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.

24. And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the Lord have spoken it.

25. And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods.

26. And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.

27. And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the Lord, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them.

28. And they shall no more be a prey to the heathen, neither shall the beast of the land devour them: but they shall dwell safely, and none shall make them afraid.

Daniel 7:13. I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

14. And there was given him dominion and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Zech. 9:9. Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem; behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

10. And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.

12:10. And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

13:1. In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

Memory Verse: His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Practical Truth: What will you do with Jesus?

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

At the time of this lesson, more than five hundred years before Christ came, God's people were looking forward to the coming of the Messiah. We are told in this lesson today of the wonderful blessings that follow Him when he made his first advent to this world. His people were rejoicing because of the rich blessings that were to be theirs when he came, but, sad to say, only a few accepted Him when he came. Just before his arrival, an angel announced to Joseph that Mary his wife would bring forth a son and that they should call his name Jesus for he would save HIS people from their sins. Yes, he came to seek and to save that which was lost. Their eyes were turned toward Zion (the church Jesus built while he was on earth, or was to build when he came). In Isa. 65:18 we read, "But be ye glad and rejoice forever in which I create: for, Behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing and her people a joy." To understand the meaning of this, Jerusalem (New Jerusalem) read the fourth chapter of Galatians 21 to and including the 26th verse. Christ's real purpose in coming to the earth as he did was to build and establish a home (the church) for his people and gather all who would come to him into it where they would be safe. He likens it to a sheep fold and himself as our shepherd. Now let us remember that all these good things Jesus promised are ours IF we meet the conditions on which they were to be given. To make it brief: it means to repent and believe the gospel and be born again and be baptized (Mark 16:16) and then go on to perfection.

— oOo —

FROM MALACHI TO CHRIST

Sunday, June 27, 1948

Printed Portion: Malachi 3:1-5; 4:1, 2, 5, 6; Luke 1:76-79.

Malachi 3:1. Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

2. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fuller's soap:

3. And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

4. Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years.

5. And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the Lord of hosts.

4:1. For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

2. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

5. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:

6. And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Luke 1:76. And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

77. To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,

78. Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,

79. To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Memory Verse: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for He hath visited and redeemed his people. Luke 1:68.

Practical Truth: Prepare to meet thy God.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Here in Malachi we have the prophecy of John the Baptist, the fore runner of Christ. This is followed by a brief outline of what Christ would do when he came. Luke 1:76, speaking of John, says, "And thou, child, shall be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways."

What an honor it must have been for John to introduce Christ, the Son of the true and living God. We see John the Baptist preaching and the great crowd of people who came to hear him, and we look and see the meek and lowly Christ appear in the crowd; and as John's eyes behold Him, we hear him say, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." "Behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts"—and then the question: "But who may abide the day of his coming?" Because he is going to sit as a refiner and purifier of silver. The process of his refining and purifying, and being put into God's crucible is a thing that most people shrink from. So Jesus said, "Strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leads to life, and few there be that find it."

Now again let us give a listening ear to John the Baptist as he tells us how it will be when Jesus comes on the scene as a purifier and refiner of silver. We hear him say, "Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low: and the crooked shall be made straight and the rough ways shall be made smooth (no high sounding titles as "Rev." or "D. D." for Jesus said, "Ye are all brethren." No big "I's" or little you's) and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. And we notice in Mal. 4:2 the wonderful blessings that the Lord has for those who fear his name.