

# FAITH <sup>AND</sup> VICTORY

## The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



Volume 19, No. 4

Published at

Guthrie, Oklahoma

25c Per Year

December, 1948

### "Peace on Earth Good Will Toward Men"

*"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to ALL people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10, 11.*

"Peace on earth, good will toward men"  
Is what the angels sang  
When Christ was born in Bethlehem,  
And loud their anthem rang.

Peace and good will are here today  
If men would have it so,  
And even love their enemies  
And never fight a foe.

God's precious Word, His Holy Book  
Says man was made upright,  
But he of many sins partook,  
Which makes him quarrel and fight.

Pray tell me then whose fault it is  
If dark war clouds arise  
And hide the face of Him who wills,  
Not war but paradise.

—Geo. W. Stephenson.

### —oOo— "Be Ye Reconciled"

*"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." 2 Cor. 5:20.*

The word "reconcile" means to bring back into harmony or to restore friendship. Parties must first be out of harmony before they can be reconciled. In this case it is God and man. What is wrong between God and man? It is the plain teaching of the Bible that man in yielding to sin, which God hates and cannot look upon with any degree of pleasure, alienated

himself from God and became His enemy. These words may startle you, but do not be too hasty to declare that you are not God's enemy, even though you may do many good deeds which you think will further His cause in the earth. God says in His Word, "The carnal mind is enmity against God." Rom. 8:7. "Whosoever will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." James 4:4. A carnal mind is one that thinks of fleshly or worldly things and draws the one who possesses it to seek to advance his interests here upon this earth without considering God's will in the matter. He is a friend of those who are in like manner carnally minded, even though he may not run with them to the same excess of riot. He is ill-at-ease in a gathering of people where Christ is exalted and worshiped in Spirit and in truth; and in his heart is ashamed for his friends to see him too closely associated with anything that is truly holy, such as God's saints or His Word. He resents anyone applying the straight teachings of the Bible to his private life, and would rather help pay a preacher to deceive him with smooth sayings than to have one expose any of his sins or short comings by preaching the full gospel under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. It is easy for him to make excuses for absenting himself from prayer meeting. He would rather hear the Lord's name used blasphemously than to hear someone speak a word against any of his idols, such as some sport, article of dress, a denomination, etc.

Man in his sinful state cannot please God, regardless of how many benevolent deeds he does. There must be a reconciliation. Perhaps every one who reads this is acquainted with the Scriptures which teach how God provided a way of reconciliation between man and himself by the sacrifice of His Son; but reading those Scriptures and really accepting Christ and becoming reconciled are two different things. When one is really reconciled to God through faith in the atoning blood of Jesus, he becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus; the old things that he loved pass out of his affections and he loves to do whatsoever God would have him do; he loves to follow the example of Him who reconciled him to God.

This reconciliation between God and man was the real theme of the angels' song which they sang to the shepherds when Christ was born. "On earth peace, good will toward men." The poet understood this better than most people of today, when he wrote the carol in which are the words: "Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled." But we must understand that when a sinner is reconciled to God, he is no longer a sinner, but a child of God. "He that committeth sin is of the devil. . . For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin." (1 John 3). One is born of God when he becomes reconciled to Him.

If there were any power in sentiment to change man's nature and make a new creature out of him, then we could agree with the poet who wrote: "At Christmas time man is what God intended him to be." But, alas, this is far from truth. Their speeches and songs concerning "God," "Peace," and "Good will toward men" are prompted by nothing more than fleshly feelings and mental attitudes which change with the season; and they never expect an answer to their oft-repeated prayers, such as:

"O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray:  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today."

Vain displays of religion cause the true ambassadors of Christ, who know the true meaning of the angels' message in song, to groan in spirit and share the burden of their Master as He wept over Jerusalem whose inhabitants had rejected Him, and of Paul when his spirit was stirred within him when he saw a city wholly given over to idolatry. We plead with you to be reconciled to God. —Geneva Ray.

—o0o—

## The Last Night

"But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" Luke 12:20.

A fool does not necessarily mean a human being who has no sense. Some very wise men, from the standpoint of the world, have been notorious fools. The French Voltaire of the sixteenth century had one of the brightest minds of his day; he studied law and was educated to be a Roman Priest—a flaming wit of his time, but he was a fool. David Hume of the seventeenth century, a Scottish philosopher and historian, educated at Edinburgh University, was a fool. Tom Paine, British author of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, under the influence of Benjamin Franklin came to America and settled in Philadelphia. He fought in the American Army, wrote books and pamphlets on common sense, and climaxed his literary work by writing "The Age of Reason." But Tom Paine was a fool.

Bob Ingersoll of the eighteenth century, a great American politician and lecturer, son of a Congrega-

tional minister, studied law, was a colonel in the American Army, and a great orator. But Bob Ingersoll was a fool.

These men, and hundreds of others, wise and clever, had everything that the world called great, but they were fools, downright fools, notorious fools, for they were all infidels, they did not believe in God. Of such the Bible says, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God."

The man of my text was clever. He had accumulated great wealth, he had far-flung fields, large barns, and an abundance of everything. This makes clear beyond all doubt that he had plenty of worldly sense, business sense, financial sense. He knew well how to manage great farms, how to build large buildings, and how to lay up in store abundance of goods, and he thought he knew just how to plan for years that lay ahead. "I will say to my soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be?"

That was his last night. His sun went down that evening never to rise again. The moon that scattered her silver light across his spacious lawns and over his far-flung fields would never shine another beam before his death-closed eyes. And the twinkling stars, that hung like glittering jewels above his glided mansion, went into eclipse for him that night, never to sparkle again. His well filled barns passed into the hands of others, but for him their doors would never open. His stocks and bonds and bank accounts might go into receivership, but over it all he would have no more control. His wife and family and friends might weep and groan, and beat their breasts in sorrow, but his lost soul had gone beyond the realm of earthly comfort. An elaborate funeral with costly equipage, abundance of flowers, and a multitude of sorrowful friends—but all to no avail.

His silken shroud would rot and waste away, the worms would devour his well-fed body; his flesh and bones would crumble and mingle with forgotten dust; but his lost soul would live in hell while countless ages roll. That was the last night—the last night scheming, planning, money-making, and worldly comfort.

Next I speak of the last night of worldly amusement, frivolity, revelry, and pleasure—"That night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain." Belshazzar was undoubtedly a wise man. He came to the throne of the greatest kingdom on earth when he was about nineteen years old. He was the Lord and master of the greatest city on the face of the earth. According to Herodotus, the father of all history, the walls of Babylon were 350 feet high, and broad enough on the top for six great battle-chariots to drive abreast. Twenty-five spacious avenues 150 ft. wide running east and west, and the same number running north and south. The city was laid out with 676 squares, with gates of brass that shone in the evening and morning sun like banners of flame, with

towers and temples to heathen gods worth more than 200 million in gold. Over all this Belshazzar the king had absolute control.

He was what the world terms a wise man, but he was a fool and spent his last night in drunken debauchery, and went to hell from the glitter and glory of his hall of ill-fame, and from the presence of his drunken Lords and harlots.

One more last night—the last night of mercy. Saul, the first king of Israel, was wise in both the things of the world and the things of God. But jealousy, pride, and passion conquered him, and part of his last night on earth was spent in a witch's cave, seeking help and comfort from the devil. That was his last night of mercy! The next day he died a suicide, leaving behind the most doleful lamentation of all time, "I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly."

The last night of money-making, the last night of mercy! Sinners, take warning! Your last night may soon be knocking at your door. —Fred T. Fuge

### Singleness

"The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light." Matt. 6:22. Jesus here takes the eye of the body to illustrate a deep spiritual truth. There needs be singleness of eye that we might see an object clearly. It is also true that there must be singleness of the soul's eye to see spiritual things clearly. In Acts 2:46 the disciples are spoken of as eating their meat with gladness and singleness of heart. Undoubtedly this has reference to the eating of a common meal. It should be eaten in thankfulness and single-heartedness. In Eph. 6:5 and Col. 3:22 servants are exhorted to serve their masters in singleness of heart. In an old Greek manuscript supposed to have been written by Issachar, one of the twelve patriarchs, about 200 years B. C., are found these expressions, "Walk in singleness of heart." "Walk in singleness of soul." "Keep the law of God and get singleness." "Walk in the singleness of your fathers." "Know ye therefore, my children, that in the last times your children will forget singleness."

One reason why so many well-meaning Christians do not have a deeper experience in God is because they do not study such truths to arrive at their meaning and get them as living truths in their own lives. What is meant by singleness of heart? It is the inward intention or purpose of the soul. This is not difficult to understand, but the practice of it may not be so easy. Dig down to the center of your being and discover what is the real purpose or intention of every act. To have but one purpose in all you do is singleness. Just one main intention when you come to your common meal. Just one main purpose in all your service to others or to yourself. Just one purpose or motive is to be the spring of all your life. The psalm writer said, "All my springs are in thee." This would mean that the spring of all our actions is to glorify God in all we do. Go to your meals, to visit

the sick, to help the poor, to your farming, to your prayers, and to public services with only one motive, and that to glorify God. Do nothing to please self, but to please God. Beware, lest self deceives you. Look closely to see if there be some self-gratification, some desire to be first, to be noticed, to make some personal gain, to have comfort.—From "Path of Life."

### NEW REGULATIONS AFFECTING C. O.'s

Under a new Selective Service regulation local boards are required to make a determination on the conscientious objections of a registrant opposed to non-combatant service before considering his eligibility for any other classification except Class V-A (over age) or Class IV-F (unfitness.)

The regulation requires that the local board classify each registrant in the lowest classification for which he is eligible. Class 1-A is considered the highest class and Class V-A is considered the lowest class. Accordingly, the order of classifications for which each registrant shall be considered is: V-A, IV-F, IV-E, IV-D, IV-C, IV-B, IV-A, III-A, II-C, II-A, I-D, I-C, I-A-O 1-A.

This procedure reverses the wartime practice of putting every man in I-A first and then examining his fitness for service or his claim for dependency or occupational deferment. The reason given for the change is that Selective Service does not want a lot of potential IV-F's or other deferable men in Class 1-A; rather it wants only men who have been examined and found available for 1-A.

This regulation is of vital importance to conscientious objectors. If a local board classifies a conscientious objector who is opposed to noncombatant service in any classification above Class IV-E, it means that his conscientious objections have been denied. If he fails to appeal within ten days from any classification above IV-E he has forfeited his legal right to classification in Class IV-E.

Some farmers or married men may accept a II-C or III-A thinking they can get a IV-E later if farm and dependency deferments are abolished. However, a local board is not required to reconsider the conscientious objections of a registrant classified above IV-E who accepted any classification above IV-E. Likewise a registrant waives his legal right to consideration for classification in IV-E by the appeal board if he fails to appeal within ten days from any classification above IV-E. Thus, conscientious objectors who are farmers or married men and who accept II-C or III-A classification have no legal right to consideration for future classification in IV-E.

Some conscientious objectors have received notices from their local boards to appear for an armed forces physical examination. In some cases the local board had failed to furnish the registrant with the Special Form for Conscientious Objectors (SSS Form No. 150) which he had requested on the Classification Questionnaire.

Conscientious objectors can take the armed forces examination without endangering their conscientious objections. Taking the armed forces physical examination is not equivalent to accepting a 1-A classification.

Any conscientious objector who receives a classification in Class 1-A and a notice to take an armed forces physical examination may submit to the examination but should not fail to request an appearance before his local board or an appeal of his classification within ten days from the date of mailing of the Notice of Classification.

—L. D. Pruitt.

## "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, 8, 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. 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 1523-J

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

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.

## Editorials

In this issue of the "Faith and Victory" paper we are enclosing a subscription blank to make it convenient for you to renew your subscription to the paper. Please do this just as soon as you receive the blank so we can reenter your name on the list and you will not miss the next copy of the paper. Often we hear from people who say they want the paper but have just neglected to renew their subscription. Please do not do this and neglect your soul's need, for it is more important for your soul to have heavenly food than it is for your body to have literal food. These are the words of Jesus: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Many subscriptions will expire with this December issue, so please be prompt about this. If you have sent in offerings or have your subscription paid ahead, then send us a card to remind us of this, and we shall be glad to keep you on the list. Mistakes are sometimes made here at the office and names are taken off that should remain on; so bear with us and let us know and we shall be glad to send the paper on to you. It is not the quarter that we are after, but we want you to have the soul food and encouragement to be ready for heaven and to do his service. The quarter does not pay the expense of printing and getting the paper to you, but God is merciful and supplies otherwise. This is His work and we are his servants for Jesus' sake. Post Office regulations require us to charge a subscription price to be entitled to Fourth Class mailing rates.

If you should miss a copy (it should reach you by the first Sunday of each month for which it is issued) notify us and we will send you another copy. Print your name and address plainly when you write us about missing your paper so we can check our subscription list and see that we have it listed correctly.

In the November issue, "Three Month's" subscription blanks were sent out, which subscriptions will begin with the January Issue of 1949. If you have not sent in your list of ten names for \$1.00, please do it now as this offer expires December 15, 1948.

o-o-o-o-o-o

The January paper will be printed before the assembly meeting begins on the 24th of December. If you have a testimony or manuscript for the January paper please get it in to the office before Dec. 12th.

o-o-o-o-o-o

I wonder how many of our readers realize by possessing the Spirit of Christ that you become a part of the Lord himself? Listen to the words of the apostle Paul found in Rom. 8:16-18: "The Spirit beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

By this we understand that in order to have His glory revealed in us, it will be needful for us to suffer

with him. The true Christian is daily sacrificing unto the Lord, denying himself and all worldly lusts and allowing the life of Christ to have the preeminence all the time. The glory lingers near the cross.

Paul wrote in Rom. 12:1, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service, and be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." If saints would realize the deep meaning of these scriptures they would be more in prayer and fastings, and in that way suffer with Him that they might be glorified together with Him.

We who are saved and sanctified, filled with His Spirit, are the Body of Christ functioning in the world but not of the world. In 1 Cor. 12:18, we read, "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." In the 27th verse of the same chapter he says, "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." In Eph. 5:30 we read, "For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones." Certainly, the blood-bought children of God are close kin to the Saviour, and according to Scripture will be joint heirs, or equal heirs, with Him in Glory. Not one of us can claim these promises unless we are daily fulfilling the qualifications laid down in the Word. One qualification is, "If we suffer with Him"; another is, "If we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end" (Heb. 3:6); another is, if we deny ourselves of all ungodliness and worldly lusts and live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world (Titus 2:12); another is, that we be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers, for He says, "And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them and walk in them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." (2 Cor. 6:16). In the last verse (18th) He says if we will do this that He will be a Father unto us and we shall be His sons and daughters. If any of our readers are joined to organized man-made churches with a number of professors of religion who are sinners, or the organized sinful lodges and labor unions, it is high time that you are heeding this Scripture and "come out from among them," and be a real son or daughter of the Lord Almighty, suffer with Him in this life, and inherit a glorified body to live with God forever.

Many in the world are only playing religion. Such child-play will not get a soul into heaven. We beg you to get down to business with God. If your soul is not prospering, it is your own fault. All the excuses you might make for yourself would only be lies to the Lord. You might as well be honest with yourself and with God and tell Him that you have not come to the place where you can pay the price in its fulness every day. Just tell Him that you do not fast and pray enough, do not take time to read the Bible and be holy by really doing as it says, do not give of your substance as you know you ought, do

not suffer with others in afflictions and look too much for faults in others, and often you measure your experience with others when you ought to measure to the Word of God. The only way that any soul can prosper spiritually is by really being honest with himself, honest with his fellowmen, and honest with God every day. There is no circumstances that surround you, no matter how hard or complex they may seem, that can keep your soul from prospering if you love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and spirit, and your neighbor as yourself. Read Luke 10: 27, 28. Also read the 58th chapter of Isaiah. Really practice what you read and thy soul shall prosper and thou shalt live and be glorified in the end.

— o o o —

## Obituaries

Mrs. Carrie Allen Washington was born in Flora, La. Nov. 11, 1880 and departed this life Aug. 13, 1948. Her parents were John and Hester Allen. She had only one child of her own but reared three girls and one boy. Her life's work was to serve in any way she could for the up-building of humanity. She loved and devoted herself to rearing and caring for little children.

She was converted in her youth and continued in the faith of the Lord. At first she was affiliated with the Methodist denomination, but after her marriage she felt that a good wife should go side by side with her husband so she left it to work with him. As she advanced spiritually she received more light and was willing to walk in the light. She would often say, "Search the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life." In Nov., 1942 she accepted the full gospel with the saints of God. She was true to her convictions until death. She was a firm believer in all the mandates of the church of God, and was ever ready to receive counsel and advise. Her devoted life was an example to others and we feel we have lost a precious jewel, but our loss is heaven's gain. Her favorite song in her latter days was "Blessed Quietness."

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

Augusta Iverson, born in Sweden Dec. 26, 1956; departed this life at home, the Iverson Ranch, Chatsworth, Calif.; age 91 years, 9 months, and 7 days.

In 1870 she came to the U. S. Later, while she was yet a young woman and unmarried, she homesteaded what is now known as the Iverson Ranch, and which was her home for the remainder of her life—more than 60 years.

She was married to Carl J. Iverson Oct. 20, 1888, and five children were born to them, two sets of twins, Carl and Anna, now Mrs. Lee Foss, and Joseph and Sena, now Mrs. Sena Baker, and another son Aaron. Her husband preceded her in death September 4, 1947.

She is survived by her three sons, all living at Chatsworth, Calif. and her two daughters, Mrs. Anna Foss of Chatsworth and Mrs. Sena Baker of Canoga Park, Calif., six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and one sister.

She was associated with the church of God for many years and loved God and his saints. She was a semi-invalid for the last few years of her life, and not able to attend church services, but always rejoiced when the saints visited her, and appreciated their songs and prayers. She always had one standing request for prayer: "Tell Jesus I want him to come and get me and take me home." She looked forward to that day when she could lay off this tabernacle and be clothed upon with the house not made with hands eternal in the heavens.

Funeral services were conducted by O. B. Wilson, Jr. and A. E. Harmon, Oct. 6 in the Oakwood Cemetery Chapel at Chatsworth, Calif. and interment was in that cemetery. Sermon text was 1 Pet. 1:3-5.

Mrs. Zola Dove Stubblefield of Earlsboro, Okla. departed this life October 22, 1948 at the age of 51 years, 11 months, and eight days. She was born Nov. 14, 1896 at Cherokee Nation, Okla. She was married to Erick E. Stubblefield October 19, 1912, and to them nine children were born, six surviving.

Surviving relatives are: husband, E. E. Stubblefield; four sons, Raymond, Alton, Willard, and Freddie; two daughters, Mrs. Mabel Melot and Mrs. Louise Lindsey; eight grandchildren; two sisters; and two brothers.

Sister Stubblefield drifted from her first love of the Lord, but repented and returned to Him with her whole heart several years ago (about 12 yrs.) and lived a consecrated life unto the end. She has been a stand-by in her family and neighborhood. She was known as a woman of faith. She trusted God in every affliction and was often healed. The saints had precious seasons with the Lord in her sick room and late in her sickness she said, "Wouldn't it be wonderful to be in heaven?" She wanted to go on. She is surely missed very much by the congregation of saints at Shawnee where she attended services, but they feel that their unspeakable loss is her unspeakable gain.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. O. B. Wilson, sr. and Bro. Fred Pruitt. Subject: "The Lord hath need of her." Interment: Fairview Cemetery at Shawnee, Oklahoma.

— o o o —

### THE CHURCH OF GOD ASSEMBLY MEETING

The state assembly meeting at Guthrie, Okla. will begin December 24, 1948 and last ten days, which will cover the holidays and two days of the new year of 1949. This meeting is expected to be a wonderful gathering of God's saints from all over the country. Ministers that are sound in the truth and with a clean life back of it will be present to expound the Scriptures and bring to light the truths hidden from many in the world today. Those who need to be saved, those who need to be sanctified (filled with the Holy Spirit), and those who are in need of healing to their bodies should attend this meeting. The Scriptural oneness of God's people will be presented in a clear Biblical manner, showing the true holiness church as the body of Christ functioning in this present world, but not of the world.

The meeting will be run on the free-will offering plan, and all are expected to obey God in supplying the needs of the meeting. Bring blankets and pillows if you can. Cots and mattresses will be furnished in all the sleeping quarters. Send your supplies and money for the meeting to O. C. Porter, 511 E. Springer, Guthrie, Ok.

All saints should come to the meeting fasting and praying and leave off all fault finding and live in the Spirit of Christ that the fellowship of the saints may flow freely and the working of God be not hindered and that many souls be saved, believers sanctified, and bodies healed as in the morning church.

The saints at Guthrie welcome all and will do their best to make you comfortable while here. Come praying and looking to God who giveth to all men liberally.

See Page 14 for California Assembly Meeting Notice

## Articles for Sale



1949 Scripture Text Calendars

Beautiful calendars with Scripture texts for daily meditation and study and attractive full-color picture, which brings to the mind interesting Bible scenes, for each month of the year. This is the large wall calendar like we have been sending out for years, size 9 1/4 by 16 in. They are now in stock, ready to mail. Price 30¢ each four for \$1.00, or ten for \$2.25. Post paid in U. S.

Oxford Bibles with Morocco leather overlapping covers are now in stock. These are well made and just the kind of present your friend needs. They are teachers' and ministers' Bibles with Reference and Concordance. There is a good variety from which to choose; some with good quality Bible paper and others with India paper; some with zippers and others without; prices range from \$9.00 up to \$14.00 each. One is a "Basket Weave" Reference Bible with zipper, size 5 by 7 inches for \$8.50.

"New Testament Church and Its Symbols" by Fred Pruitt, recently revised and enlarged; 145 pages with good paper binding. It portrays the true church with Bible symbols in a plain simple method, making it easy for spiritually-minded people to understand. Price 25¢ each, five for \$1.00, twenty-five for \$5.00 post paid.

Church of God Doctrines, a 190-page book by C. C. Carver is still in stock and may be obtained from this publishing house or from the author whose address is Shreveport, La. in care of Post Office. Price 50 cents each or five books for \$2.00, post paid.

### LARGE PRINT BIBLE

"Old Folk's Bible" would make a precious gift for that aged mother or father, or others who enjoy resting their eyes by reading large print. Large clear print with references. A good Bible for family worship. Size 9 1/2 by 6 1/2 and is only 1 1/4 in. thick. Good cover with "HOLY BIBLE" in golden letters on front cover. Now in stock. Price \$6.50 post paid to any address in the U. S. These Bibles make good Christmas presents. Order today.

DeLuxe Scripture-Text Christmas Folders with envelopes to match, assortment of 21 in box for \$1.00.

"Sunshine Line" Christmas Folders with envelopes, assortment of ten in box for 50 cents. Full-color, beautiful designs. Post paid.

"Songs and Poems," written by Mother Meyers and her daughters in the last 50 yrs. is an appropriate gift for old or young. It has eight pages of pictures of the family. Price only one dollar. Postage rates on books will be doubled after Jan. 1st. Order now from Mrs. W. F. Reichelderfer, 901 Colerick St., Ft. Wayne 5, Ind.; or Mrs. Emma A. Meyers, 25 Eldred St., Battle Creek, Mich.

### A BROTHER IN NEED

Bro. Clyde Lea, who lives near the Mississippi line in Louisiana is in hard circumstances financially. His wife has been bed fast most of the time for two or more years, and he has had to stay by her bed side so closely that he has been able to work very little to earn a living for his family. He is a saint minister, and they are faithfully trusting God for healing, but for some reasons unknown to us she has not been healed. If any of you have any of the Lord's money to send this brother, it would be much appreciated and would help lift a great burden. You would surely be rewarded. Send it to Clyde Lea, R. 4, Osyka, Miss. or to us for him. Ray Key, Box 370, Hammond, La.

oOo

## Why Call Ye Me, Lord, Lord, and Do Not the Things which I Say?

Jesus said, "Strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matthew 7:14. Jesus said, "The riches, and the lust of other things entering in choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful." Mark 4:19. One of the sins today, and one of the most destructive ones, is covetousness. It is so deceitful that the one who is bound by it does not realize it.

Jesus said, "If any man will come after me let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Matt. 16:24. Self is the hardest person whom we have to deny. Once I had a sick neighbor whom I should have gone to see, but I wanted to wash that day. When I finished, I wanted to scour. Then it was too late to go. The next day they came after me. She had died. She had needed my help badly. Her husband, in tears, asked me to pray for him. Oh, I felt so unworthy! "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

Another time a little boy who lived by me had the dropsy. The doctor wanted him to have sweet milk to drink. I had plenty, and could have divided with the child, but I did not visit the home until too late—the child was dying when I found out what he needed. The Lord instructs us to visit the sick. Oh, that God's children could see their duty before it is too late! "Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or in prison, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?" Matt. 25:44. "In as much as ye did it not unto the least of these, ye

did it not unto me." "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world; if any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." John 2:15. I want to ask, my reader, which holds your attraction, for which are you laboring, a home here or a home beyond this veil of tears? Jesus said, "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in and shall not be able." Luke 13:24. Let us strive to enter, denying ourselves and taking up our cross to follow the One that died in our stead.

God's Word is a looking glass. In it we may see ourselves and correct our lives. It says, "If any are afflicted, let him pray." Jas. 5:13. Jesus said, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation." Matt. 26:41. Jesus spent all night in prayer. How much time do we, his children, spend in prayer?

The Word says, "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother hath need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" 1 John 3:17. "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupt and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth and been wanton. Ye have nourished your hearts as in a day of slaughter." James 5:1-5.

The blessed Lord has done all he can to humble and turn lost souls to him. Read Deut. 8:1-10. The Lord does all he can to wean us away from this world and at the same time give us good things to enjoy. "But know also that in the last days perilous times shall come for men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof; from such turn away." 2 Tim. 1:5.

"Therefore my people are gone into captivity because they have no knowledge. Hell hath enlarged herself and opened her mouth without measure." Isa.

"For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience." Col. 3:6.

"But the Lord is not slack concerning his promises as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9.

Jesus said, "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28.

—Neva Buchanan.

## ARE WE SERVING GOD OR MAMMON

I awakened this morning with a burdened heart, and feel that the dear Lord would be pleased for me to write a few questions for each saint to ask himself or herself:

Am I following the world or the Lord?

Do I dress to please the world or the Lord?

Do I wear my hair as the world or as saints should?

Is my general appearance worldly or saintly?

Do I sing in the Spirit of God or in the spirit of the world?

Do my actions glorify God?

Am I unspotted from the world?

Am I in the narrow way or broad way?

Am I living for the Lord or the devil? We are living for one or the other, not for both. Emma Ritchie.

o-o-o

Okla.—Greetings to all of the saints in Jesus' dear name. I am still saved and much encouraged to go all the way with the dear Lord. I mean to make heaven my home at any cost. I was ill about four days and told the Lord if he would heal me I would tell all about it through this paper. When I woke up the next morning I was not hurting at all. Praise the dear Lord! I knew he would heal because he has done it so many times before and he is just the same today. I need your prayers that I stay true. And pray for my unsaved husband, that he see the way before it is too late. I am a young saint, but I know what it is to serve the dear Lord, the one that will not leave nor forsake his children. Lorene Payne.

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

Ind.—In 1931 my husband's health was bad and he had to leave his job at the factory and was under a doctor's care. I was feeling bad and unable to work. I went to a doctor for an examination and he told me I was going to have another child. I already had two children. I almost collapsed, because the way things were I could see no way out. I cried and prayed that somehow someday I might be spared this. After praying for some time, I whispered, "Lord, have your way." He said, "Child, would you be willing even if my name might be glorified through this?" I looked up and told the Lord that I was willing, but that if it must be to take me into His care and take complete care of me. I also dedicated the child to the Lord then and asked Him to give it health and happiness and use it in His own work.

The months passed as I became more in love with my Jesus and got closer to Him. Then on Sept. 2, 1931 I was sitting in my chair in the living room and had one sharp pain. I walked to my bed and lay down and passed out. My husband called a doctor and I gave birth to twin sons. One was dead and the other alive. I lay unconscious four days and nights, having one convulsion after another. I had twenty convulsions in one day, they said. I turned black from the top of my head to the bottom of my feet. Those who came said they had never seen anyone in such a terrible condition, and that I would surely die. They took me to the St. John's Hospital to die. This was on Thursday. On Friday night my doctor left with my temperature 107 and I was still having convulsions. He said he had done all he knew to do.

About midnight I got up and preached one hour, "Prepare to Meet Thy God." Six nuns tried to put me back in bed but they couldn't touch me. I would slip away from them. They said they called the priest and he said he had never seen anything like it. They said I quoted a

complete chapter from the Bible, but at that time I only knew the 23rd Psalm by memory. They said that was not what I quoted but they would not tell me what it was. They thought I knew what I was doing, but I did not for I was under the power of God and unconscious to this world. After preaching one hour I walked over and lay down on my bed and went to sleep. The next morning (Saturday) I rolled out of a high hospital bed onto the floor and gained consciousness. I got up. The nurse came running and said I had fallen out of bed. I asked where I was and she told me that I was in the hospital. I told her I would not go to a hospital unless I was unconscious. Then she told me how sick I had been and told me to go back to bed. I asked for my clothes so I could go home, but she said I was there under a doctor's care and could not go until he dismissed me. I consented, but told her I was not sick and that I would not take medicine. I was laughing and talking with her when the doctor came in. He said, "Here, what is going on here?"

I said, "Doctor, they say I have been sick; but the Lord has healed me." He said that I had been a very sick girl and that when he left the evening before he thought I would die and he would not see me alive again. He said, "Mae, I did all I knew to do. You know I never believed in God or hell or heaven, but some how I have to say a higher power took place somewhere."

The priest came to see me and said he had never seen anything like it. A nun said she had never seen such faith on earth. They brought me requests for prayer from all over the hospital.

When they dismissed me I went home and went to services where we rejoiced because of the way God answered prayer. My son today is stout and healthy and happy. He loves to attend services. Some day I expect him to become a real man of God and maybe preach the gospel. Mrs. Mae Etta Becraft

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

Calicut, India—Brothers, beloved in Christ, the Lord be with you all—As I was employed as a teacher in the Basel Evangelical Mission School of Chitatur, I along with our whole family left Kunnamkulam, our native place in the year 1910. In a revival meeting led by "Sadhu Sunder Singhe" I was re-born in the year 1916. As a result of the fellowship with certain believers, I took immersion baptism in the year 1921, Nov. 6. I was transferred to Netur in the year 1922. While I had been working as teacher, I was very much interested in the gospel work. My idea was to do this work in my non-working time. I did not know that our Master hath idea of taking me for His own work. Praise Him!

At 3 a. m. on the 13th of Sept., 1922, I had a vision. In the vision I heard a voice from a brother-like man standing by my bed, saying to me: "Leave your job and be my worker." When I was awake I understood that the brotherly man was Christ, and the call was from Above. Immediately I took half a sheet of paper and wrote the resignation. Thus I became His servant in the year 1922. From that moment I am working for Him and Him alone.

Having come to know of my change, Bro. K. V. Cherian wrote me a letter, requesting me to help him in the Mission work, but I had no guidance. And yet I wanted of him some books and papers for my study. Through those books and papers I got good experience of the rich doctrines of the "church of God." By His grace, I started a congregation in Calicut; and Bro. V. Paul is the first member.

—A. L. Varghese

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

Hello, children:

I am so happy because some of our children have learned so *many* Scripture verses. Leonard Carter has learned a lot of them, don't you think? Also Alta Ritchie, who is younger than Leonard, learned a lot. I am sure Jesus has made all of you happy while learning His words.

It will soon be Christmas and I can just hear you say how glad you will be. Most children look forward to Christmas. Did you ever stop to think of just why you do? Is it because of the gifts you receive, or because it is Jesus' birthday? Which is more important to you? Oh, we hope and pray that Jesus is more important to you than anything else. He is God's Gift to the world. He wants to live in our hearts and be first in our thoughts. It rejoices our hearts because we have heard from quite a number of our children who tell us that Jesus does live in their hearts. Don't ever displease Jesus so he will want to leave. If you feel you have done anything wrong, ask him to forgive you right away and he will surely do it.

I am sure you have heard the story of Jesus being born and was laid in a manger; how the angels appeared to the shepherds and told them the great news. The angels in heaven rejoiced, and the shepherds rejoiced when they saw the baby Jesus. Then the wise men of the East saw the beautiful big star and came to see Jesus. They brought costly gifts to him. How happy Mary the mother of Jesus must have been to see how wonderfully her babe and God's own precious Son was being honored. Surely the Father in heaven was very pleased, too.

Gifts are given at Christmas in remembrance of God's gift to the world, which was Jesus. Also, we know how the Wise Men gave gifts to Jesus because they loved him. So we give gifts to show our love to those around us, and that we do care for them. But always remember it is *never* the cost or the size of the gift that is given, but rather the spirit in our hearts that causes us to give. Be happy to receive a small gift as well as a large one, because we were thought of, is a wonderful thing.

Are you as eager to give a gift as you are to receive one? Do you just give to those whom you expect to give you a gift? Do you think that is the right kind of giving? No, I'm sure you don't. Is there someone you know who won't receive many gifts at Christmas to whom you plan to give a gift?

Jesus will help us to give gifts and receive them in the right spirit if we ask him to help us. The reason I say "receive them" is because some boys and girls want one certain thing for Christmas and when they do not receive it, they let it spoil their whole Christmas. You may want something, but do not be disappointed if you do not receive it. —Aunt Marie.

oOo

Wash.—Dear Aunt Marie,—I go to Sunday school and church services. I am 13 years old, and I enjoy church

services and go when I can but I have been sick for a year and could not go. But I can go sometimes now.

Sincerely,

Carole Crain

o—o—o—o—o—o

Wash.—Aunt Marie,—Every Sunday we go to Sunday school. Our teacher is Mrs. Rundel. We learn all about Jesus. I am 11 years old.

Corene Archer

o—o—o—o—o—o

Wash.—Aunt Marie,—I go to Sunday school every Sunday and sometimes I go to church at night. I like my Sunday school teacher and her name is Mrs. Rundel. We live only five blocks from Sunday school. I am eight years old.

Norma Archer

o—o—o—o—o—o

Wash.—Dear Aunt Marie,—I am nine years old and like to go to Sunday school. I go every Sunday I can. I love my teacher and like to study my lesson.

Sincerely,

Mary Foreman

### PRAISE HIM

Praise Him, praise Him more and more,  
Praise Him, praise Him o'er and o'er.  
Precious name, oh, how sweet!  
Oh, how sweet to trust Him more.  
He is the one that I adore.  
Praise Him, praise Him more and more,  
Praise Him, praise Him o'er and o'er.  
With spirit and soul and life divine,  
Be happy and trust all the time.  
Have faith in Him in every way,  
Praise Him, praise Him every day.

—Larry Lee Allen, age 11.  
Carthage, Mo.

—oOo—

## CORRESPONDENCE

Miss.—I promised God I would write my testimony to His glory. He has been so good to me I cannot help but praise his name. For several years I suffered with eczema on my back. It was something terrible. I wrote to Bro. Pruitt and sent a handkerchief to be anointed. He anointed it and prayed and returned it. I applied it to my affliction and prayed the best I could and God truly healed me. Praise the good Lord, He never refuses us when we come to him, obeying, and in the right humble way. I hope and pray someone will derive good from this, for God is able to heal all things. Dear saints, please pray for God to heal me of this cold that I carry most of the time. When you pray, remember me; and my family needs help from God. I am still saved, sanctified, and satisfied with this Highway of holiness. I expect to keep praying till Jesus comes or calls for me.

Your saved sister,

Hattie Legg.

o—o—o—o—o—o

Ark.—Dear saints,—I want to testify that I am much better from the fall I had. To the Lord be all the glory. I thank every one that has prayed for me. The Lord was with us in our little Sunday school, our last meeting together. We look forward to it each Sunday. Keep praying for us.

Sister McMurrin.

o—o—o—o—o—o

Ala.—Dear saints— I am glad today finds me saved with a determination to see the other side of a Christian life. I have much to praise God for. Jesus healed my husband some few weeks ago of T. B., a serious case, too.

He is at home today in the woods, logging. Jesus is the one that cured him. He had two large cavities in his left lung, but, praise God, there's not even a scar left. The doctor's looked on in wonder. Jesus is able today to heal all kinds of disease and to save the meanest sinner. Oh, if people would cast their whole life upon the Lord, they would soon see that things would be brighter for them. Praise God. Pray for us all. I have four small children. I am twenty-five years old, and we lived here alone until my husband came home from the T. B. hospital, but Jesus filled all our longing. He is a real Saviour yesterday, today, and forever. Mrs. J. D. Divine.

—o—o—o—o—o—o—

Mo.—Dear workers in the Lord,—In Jesus' dear name we write you. The Lord was good to us. He answered prayer when we called you in behalf of Floyd. His nose had bled until he was very weak and it was getting worse every minute. It gushed out both nostrils and filled his mouth. He knew his time had come unless God helped him. I had hardly left the telephone when my mother said, "It is stopped." She said it stopped just like God had shut a door. It had bled for two and one-half hours. The more we tried to stop it the worse it bled. I don't think he could have lost much more blood and lived. He was snatched from the jaws of death. We truly thank the Lord for his mercy to us. We had been praying for more faith and for encouragement, and for the Lord to draw us closer to Him. He did it in his own way. We have promised the Lord to try to please Him with all our hearts. We love the Lord, but it is so easy if we neglect the Lord to get cold, and we all know so well what the Lord does when we do get cold. When folks need the Lord as badly as we needed Him it will cause them to think. If we really want to draw closer to the Lord, I believe we had better get to looking around. The Lord will send something to help us. We thank Him for it.

Pray for us that we watch and pray.

Yours in Christ, Floyd and Goldie Knapp.

—o—o—o—o—o—o—

Oklahoma—Dear saints in Jesus' name,—I feel like I should tell you that I enjoy reading the "Faith and Victory" paper. I do thank the dear Lord for what he has done for me. He picked me up and made me clean. Praise his blessed name. I am still saved and sanctified, and going all the way with him. I am not turning back. There is nothing to turn back to, bless the dear Lord for ever. I am growing stronger every day. Although we are few in number here in Gerty, the Lord is with us and He has healed my body many times. I put all my trust in him for both soul and body. Praise the dear Lord.

Pray for me and my family. Your saved sister in Christ Jesus our Saviour, Mrs. M. F. Allenbaugh.

—o—o—o—o—o—o—

Holy greetings to the saints of God everywhere in Jesus' name,—On Jan. 28, 1948 I fell and broke a small bone in my left leg. I did not go to a doctor until the 19th of March because I kept thinking it was a sprain instead of a broken bone. When I reached the doctor's office he told me before he examined my foot that I had waited too long. He put a cast on it, which I wore for seven weeks, then I went back for him to take it off. My bone had not knit together. My foot and leg had swollen very large. Then I went to the hospital and the doctor said I would have to do a lot of walking. The more I walked the more my foot would swell. I stayed in the hospital one week. One day while I was there I said, Why am I here? I know I can get healed without being out here.

They made an X-ray and it still had not knit together. I returned home and sent for an anointed cloth. When I applied it most of the swelling went out of my thigh, leg, and foot and I could hop around very well on two crutches. Then I sent for the saints of God to pray that I may have power over those crutches. Today I am walking without the crutches and doing my house work. It was said by some of my neighbors that I would never walk again. I told the Lord if he would heal me I would put my testimony in the "Faith and Victory" paper.

Now I am asking prayer for my kidneys. My daughter, for whom I asked prayer, is doing fine. I went to prayer meeting and Sister Sophia Johnson laid hands on my leg. I believe the bone knit back together then because I haven't felt it being apart like it was.

Pray that I may ever go on with the Lord,

Quida Bivens

—o—o—o—o—o—o—

Mo.—I feel led to write my testimony to the "Faith and Victory" paper, and tell what the Lord has done for me. I have been sick for three days with pain. My husband went to the doctor for medicine for me. I had been praying for the Lord to ease me, but it seemed I hadn't got any ease, so my husband went on to the doctor for me. When he came back I was eased. I did not have a pain in my body. The Lord had touched my body. I do thank his dear name for helping me. I did not take the medicine, but went off to sleep and rested all night. I know the Lord can heal me if I come to him in the right way. We have a merciful God in whom we can trust when we are sick. Pray for me that I will always be found doing something for my Lord, and pray for me that I will be healed, for I believe in healing, but I am weak in the Spirit.

A sister in the Lord, Mrs. Eathel Hill.

—o—o—o—o—o—o—

Miss.—Dear ones in the Lord,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. Praise God for his wonderful power of healing. Dear ones I received a double blessing of healing for my back and my shoulder. Thank God for opening up the way for me to hear of you saints. My daughter is suffering with pain in her side. I pray for her and for me.

—T. B. Sayles.

—o—o—o—o—o—o—

Ohio—I am glad I can praise God for salvation and to know my title is clear. The Lord has touched my body and taken away all pain, praise His dear name. When I received the anointed handkerchief the Lord had already taken away the severe pains at the time you prayed. But I was weak and nervous from suffering. When the handkerchief came I applied it to my body in faith, asking the Lord for complete healing, which I received. I have trusted Him for thirty-five years for soul and body and have always found his promises true. I need no earthly physician, none of the world's advice. I only need the children of God to agree with me in prayer and take God at His Word and the work is done. I have no desire for the things of the world or to go anywhere Jesus would not go. May God bless in the work and supply your needs is my prayer. Your sister in Christ, Iva Evans

—o—o—o—o—o—o—

Mo.—Dear saints, Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I feel that the dear Lord wants me to write a few lines to tell what he has done for me. He blesses me in many ways. I had a cold and woke up in the night with my breast and shoulders hurting, and they continued to get worse. My throat and nose were stopped up until I was gasping for breath. I told the dear Lord I could not

stand it much longer, so I thought of the scripture which says, "Resist the devil and he will flee." I told the Lord if the devil were tempting me, to take him from me right now, so he went away. I was very happy and give God all the praise for it. All the smothering left me and I went to sleep. I still thank the Lord for it.

Years ago I had an awful headache for three days and could get no relief. One morning my husband and daughter Eathel were trying to get breakfast when the dear Lord spoke to me and told me to have those people to pray for me. I called Eathel and told her to get me a tablet and pencil. My husband wanted to know what I was doing and I told him, so after breakfast he started to the Post Office with my letter and before he got out of sight my head was easy. I thought, "They didn't pray for my head;" and then I thought, "Well it got easy for me being willing to obey what the Lord said." So I have tried to obey the best I could from that day until now. It has been about thirty years since I began to trust the dear Lord for both soul and body and I am not tired of trusting him yet. By his grace and help I mean to go all the way with him. Please always pray for me and family. A sister in Christ. Nancy Sweezea.

## — o o — Child Training

In attempting to write on this subject of child training, I am aware that I will meet with some opposition, nevertheless truth is truth and is often made clear by experience. Solomon said, "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6.

There are different periods of a child's life, but desire to begin with the first day of its existence. Since the child does not have any knowledge of anything that takes place then, the mother is solely responsible for any habit formed at this early period that would affect the child's future.

Nature causes even a babe to become restless and agitated for the lack of something satisfying to its stomach, and if the babe is agitated continually for he want of food over a period of time, its temper will be cultivated until by and by it will become angry very time its desire is not granted. So there is more in starting a child's life right and continuing the habits right, than many imagine.

Then a little later, before the child is old enough to learn from scarcely any other source, it learns considerable from the mother's conduct (I say from the mother for she is generally the one who is taking care of the child.) If the mother is impatient she is teaching her child impatience, or rather laying the foundation for impatience later on, for that is the only way it will know how to express its feelings of anger when upset. A child is very quick to notice the different expressions on mother's face, and so realizes that when mother is in a good humor it can feel safe, but when anger and ill-will are present with the mother, it has reason to fear.

Right here is probably the first that the child usually distinguishes between good and evil. Usually no one loves a child more than its mother, and generally no one feels as bad over its going wrong in

later years as mother. So God in His wisdom gives mother the first opportunity of setting a correct example before her child.

If the child sees mother often on her knees praying, it will, little by little, learn what prayer is for, and how it affects people; for the child will soon learn that when mother prays she is so much kinder and more pleasant than when she does not pray. Thus it learns the benefits of prayer by her example. This valuable knowledge can be acquired by the child early in life, and is the choicest heritage a mother can give to it. She can then say, "Child, when you get into trouble, pray." And the child will know that it will work too, for he saw it work when mother prayed. Thus the child learns what the habit of prayer will do for one, and also has faith in God that He will answer prayer. What a blessing this is to one who has to struggle through this wicked world after mother is gone; against inward carnality, against the temptation to seek fame, against discouragements, and many other things.

Children should be taught to pray before they are old enough to form a prayer themselves, by the parents telling them words to say. It should be only a very short prayer with simple language, and that prayer should be mainly thanking God for temporal blessings and making simple requests. The main thing now is to get the habit of prayer formed. This will not be hard to do when they hear papa and mama pray. This makes unnecessary any trying to get the children to pray against their wills, as generally happens after they are ten or twelve years old. But the job was completed before the children remember when it took place. As soon as they can, children should be allowed to form their own prayers. Many a child that was taught to pray very young, received answers to its prayers at a very early age. Heretofore the mother was mainly responsible, but now that the children are older the father comes more on the scene.

If the parents use vulgar language, the children will soon be using it too. If the parents steal, the children will learn to steal. And if the parents drink the children will learn to drink also. If the parents do not regard public worship and attend services, the children will imbibe the same spirit and attitude toward the church that their parents possess. Even though the children be sent to Sunday school and church services, the father and mother are continually lessening their good influence by not going themselves. Since going does not mean anything to daddy and mother, for they do not go, naturally it would not mean much to the children; they just go because daddy says go; the same as the boy would go bring the cows from the pasture because daddy said to. If you want your children to be interested in their soul's spiritual welfare, be deeply interested in spiritual things yourselves and they will no doubt imbibe the same spiritual interest you have.

Children are very quick to notice any wrong spirit manifested by either parent. Their hearts are tender, so they are very sensitive to such things. Parents must believe that they can rear their children

right by God's help. It is with rearing your children like believing for your own soul's salvation; so long as you cannot believe God accepts you, you are on the defeated side, but the moment you believe, you are on the victory side. Just so with your children: if you do not believe you can rear them right by God's help, you are on the defeated side, but as soon as you believe you can, you are on the road to victory with them, and God will help you. There is quite a period in the children's lives when the parents are wholly responsible for them. Parents should teach their children right, both by example and precept—how to get saved, how to keep saved, and many other things that go with salvation—and see that they themselves practice only good habits.

Children will take up with and learn of whatever is before them. They are not able to distinguish very much which is right and which is wrong, and even if they could, they do not know how to use their will-power against the wrong. So in their childhood, parents must guide them, and sometimes compel them to do that which is lawful and fair. While all that parents can do in the way of teaching does not save them, yet it keeps them in the right channels, and forms good habits, and helps them to know what is right, and at the same time keeps them from getting started in wicked paths. God can work through good channels, righteous habits, etc., so when the children come to the age of accountability God meets them right there face to face, so to speak; and having been taught how awful sin is and the benefits of a righteous life, God right there shows them His wonderful goodness and mercy; so it makes it easy for them to accept Him as the Saviour and especially since their parents are believing on God for their soul's salvation. This all together brings victory and both parents and children rejoice in the Lord together.

But some say, "I do not believe in child conversion for they nearly always backslide." Do not older people sometimes backslide too? If a child does backslide, it was in such a pleasant satisfied condition when it was saved that it will ever long to be back in that saved condition again. While if the child had never been converted he would not have that longing, and possibly would have got so far from God and so entangled with sin that he never would give himself over to the Lord. But as it is, knowing that peaceable state he was once in with the Lord, as he goes over life's troubled pathway the very thoughts of that peaceable condition once enjoyed will be an incentive for him to return to God again.

To obey God never makes anyone worse off. Jesus said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God." Luke 18:16. Solomon said, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." Eccl. 12:1. So we see by the above Scriptures that in childhood and youth is the time for people to come to God. None of us can say the day nor the year, but when God him-

self works on the child's heart, that is the time for it to come to God.

When God saves us it not only results in good for us at present, but also for the future. So we are always safe in doing what God bids us do, and what His Spirit reveals to us that we should do.

In accordance with the fore-going, the author and her companion have reared five children to manhood and womanhood who are all living upright Christian lives.

Observation shows us that even grown-up people have been led astray by reading wild-west stories, etc.—even to the point where they unlawfully divorced their companions. How much more careful then we should be to see to it that our children read only wholesome literature.

For every evil thing a child gets into, the time will come when that evil must be repented of and ever afterward the temptation to yield to it again be rejected or hell will be his doom. So we can see the importance of trying from the beginning to guide our children in righteous ways.

Children should be taught the wrong there is in going to picture shows while they are young, parents verifying their teachings by not patronizing them themselves. If children have not been taught the wrong along this line by precept as well as example a very large loop-hole has been opened for satan to get control of them in this respect. There is a saying, "Like priest, like people." So one might say, "Like parents, like children," and you have it nearly right. Carelessness should be an unknown thing in rearing children.

Then there is the divorce question. Do we teach our children that there is only one lawful cause for divorce? I believe we can see that parents must live right in order to rear their children right.

—Julia Tilton.

## The Blood for a Token

*"When I see the blood, I will pass over you."*  
Exodus 12:13.

After many judgments sent upon Egypt, which left Pharaoh and the Egyptians as hard as ever, God determined to execute judgments still further by slaying the firstborn, or oldest child, in every family in Egypt. On the night this was to happen, God appointed the Israelites to take a lamb, to kill it, and with its blood to sprinkle the posts of their doors, and the lintels over their doors. "And when," says He, "I see the blood, I will pass over you"; that is, He would not destroy them, nor any in the house where the blood was seen. In 1 Cor. 5:7, it is written, "Christ our Passover, is sacrificed for us." John said of Jesus, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." (John 1:29). Believers are said to be redeemed with the precious blood of Christ as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came into the world to save sinners, and gave His life a ransom for many.

No house in Egypt was free from judgment, but the house that had the blood for a token. It might have been a lofty house, a beautiful house, a strong house; this made no difference; when God saw no blood on it, His judgment entered there. Its height, its beauty, its strength, could not protect it when the blood was wanting. How many think they shall escape coming judgment because they are moral, or have done their best, or paid their debts; but this can never keep away the wrath of God. When He sees no blood, His judgment must come. As the finest house in Egypt, as well as the plainest, was on a level—all that had *no blood* were visited with judgment; so it is now; the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the learned and the unlearned—God hath concluded all under sin: and the “wages of sin is death.” *All, all* must perish, save those under the blood. God will look only at this—regard only this. It is not, When I see you sober, or moral, I will pass over you. No; it is, When I see the *blood*. Nothing under heaven can protect a soul from the coming wrath but the shed blood of God’s dear Son, which is applied to the heart of the humble repentant soul by faith. “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” (John 3:36). “He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:8). Without the shedding of blood there is no remission. Jesus has shed His blood for the remission of the sins of many. Who are they that have this remission? God hath told us, “Whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins.” (Acts 10:43). “Through this man is preached the forgiveness of sins, and by Him all that believe are justified from all things.” (Acts 13:38).

It is not a believer’s own works that make him happy; but this, “We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” (Eph. 1:7). That which gives him boldness in coming to God is the blood. “Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the Holiest by the blood of Jesus.” The believer enters by faith where Jesus is, worships in the courts of heaven, feels at home—even in the presence of God—because He who was wounded for our transgressions is there for him. This makes him bold; not because he is anything, but because the great High Priest is everything. Many a child of God is in bondage from seeking to super-add, though he is not aware of it, something to the finished work of Jesus, just as if this were not enough; and yet God, by raising up Jesus and setting Him at His right hand, has shown Himself fully satisfied with the work of Jesus.

Jesus is able to save to the uttermost all them that come unto God by Him—not some of them, but all that come unto God by Him. Now, the unbelief of man’s heart often says, “If I had not sinned in this or that particular way, I might have hope; or, if I had this or that qualification, then I might come.” But all this is excluded. It is those who come unto God *by Him*; come, not by their prayers, their tears, or

their works, (all right in their place); but who come *by Him*.

Someone might say, “The Bible tells us to *work out our own salvation*.” True, and this we do by coming to Him, and continually holding our trust and confidence in Him as He works in and through us, and His righteousness is lived out of our lives. The devil has a host of influences arrayed against us to lure us away from our trust and confidence in Him, hence it is necessary to watch, and pray often that our faith fail not, for as we have said, it is by faith that the blood is applied, and it is by faith that we are kept by the power of God. Those who receive the atonement are called unto holiness, to bring forth fruit unto God; but this fruit is not our own self-righteous acts, but that which the Spirit produces in each believer. The soul gets peace only by looking off to the peace made through the blood of His cross. The heart wants a perfect thing to give it rest, and that perfect thing is the offering of Jesus Christ once. As the eye of God is on the blood, so He would have us look at the same thing. The offering and sacrifice of Jesus was a sweet-smelling savor unto God (Eph. 5:2), a thing He could approve of in every way. God never found any sweetness in fallen man. Jesus came and offered Himself; the smell of that offering was sweet to God, and the Holy Ghost makes that sweet to us. He delights to spread out Jesus in His love, compassion, and blood, before the believer as all his joy. As it is written, “He shall glorify me; He shall take of mine and show it unto you.” It is not opinions—not mere sentiments—that are our boast; but the One living Person of the Lord Jesus. The Holy Spirit does not speak of Himself nor turn the believer’s eye to the fruit which He produces as a ground of confidence. He holds forth Christ Jesus the Lord; fixes the believer’s heart on Him; so that if we rejoice, it is in Christ Jesus; if we are glad, it is in the Lord; if we have boldness and access with confidence, it is by the faith of Him. All is by Jesus. Jesus is all, and in all; He is our peace. We love Him and yield unto Him and His righteous works show forth themselves in our lives to the glory of God. As we trust in Him, He CAUSES us to walk in His statutes and keep his judgments and do them.

We are ever in danger, like the Galatians, of turning aside to something besides Christ, to get something to rest upon. It may not be circumcision; but by whatever name it is known, if it be not the Lamb and His blood, it can only bring us into bondage, and dishonor Him. “God forbid,” said Paul (and it was a solemn word), “that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ”—save in Him who hung upon it, and offered one sacrifice for sins forever. The self-righteousness of our nature is ever ready to turn us away from the grace of Christ—to take us from the offering of Jesus Christ. The Holy Ghost leads to Him—testifies of Him—makes Him precious.—Sel.

Be joined to the Lord, then you will not want or need any other joining.

### CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held in the chapel at the corner of Walnut and Naomi Sts., Los Angeles, beginning Dec. 24, and continuing ten days, Lord willing.

All the saints in this section of the country are urged to attend this meeting. It will be run on the free-will offering plan, as usual. Regular meals will be served in the annex to the chapel building and other accommodations will be provided as far as is possible. Several rooms were available for rent in the vicinity at camp meeting time and possibly will be again for assembly meeting. Any who desire rooms in the vicinity of the meeting should write beforehand and send the price of the room so arrangements can be made in time.

Anyone desiring a room, or sending contributions for the meeting or desiring any further information concerning the meeting, may address your correspondence to Bro. J. P. Sims, 11111 S. Compton Ave., Los Angeles 2, Calif.

Will be seeing you at the Assembly Meeting, Lord willing.

—O. B. Wilson, Jr., 4254½ Perlita Ave., Los Angeles 26, Calif.

— o o —

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.

### BIBLE STUDY

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

#### HISTORY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Sunday, December 5, 1948

Printed Portion.....Acts 1:8; 4:1-4; 13:2, 3; 16:9, 10; 28:16, 30, 31.

Acts 1:8. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

4:1. And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them,

2. Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

3. And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.

4. Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of men was about five thousand.

13:2. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

3. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

16:9. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.

10. And after he had seen the vision, immediately endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

28:16. And when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard: but Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him.

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

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

Memory Verse: But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me . . . unto the uttermost part of the earth Acts 1:8.

Practical Truth: If our work is to be successful as a Christian, then we MUST suffer with Christ.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Just before Jesus ascended, after his short stay on earth and after his resurrection, he told his disciples to remain in Jerusalem until the promise of the Father should come to pass, for He had promised to send the Holy Spirit upon them, Who would endue them with power to successfully carry on the work he had assigned to them. For Jesus had told them, "For without me ye can do nothing." This power of the Holy Ghost would enable them and their successors to carry on the work of the Lord unto the uttermost part of the earth and to the end of time.

The wicked professors of religion who hated the Lord crucified Jesus, and buried his dead body, supposed they were rid of him for all time. But the promise of the Father was fulfilled and Christ arose from the dead, and we hear his say, "I am he that liveth and was dead; Behold I am alive for ever more."

In today's lesson we find the disciples teaching and preaching in the name of this crucified Saviour, and wonderful signs following them, just as the Lord had promised. But the wicked men who had crucified Jesus came out strong against his disciples and tried to stop them from preaching the name of Jesus. How foolish it is for men to fight against God. In the day of Pentecost we have record of three thousand souls being saved, and in today's lesson we have record of five thousand more being saved, which no doubt was very gratifying to the disciples, even though they were being severely persecuted. When they were demanded of these wicked men to stop preaching and teaching in the name of Jesus, they responded with these words, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

The Lord designed that he would govern his work through the Holy Ghost. In this lesson the Holy Ghost is directing the church to separate Saul (Paul) and Barnabas to the work whereunto he had called them. This happened after the church had fasted and prayed. Paul was forbidden of the Holy Ghost to go to some place where he had plans to go and later through a vision he was directed to go unto Macedonia where he suffered some severe persecution. But at the same time he had wonderful success, for the Philippian jailor turned to the Lord with all his house, and they were all baptized after they were saved.

Later we find Paul being taken as a prisoner to Rome where he was permitted to dwell two whole years in his own hired or rented house. He was permitted to receive and teach all who came to him. Most of the fourteen books Paul left on record in the Bible for us was written while he was a prisoner at Rome.

### LETTERS IN THE BIBLE

Sunday, December 12, 1948.

Printed Portion:.....Philippians 1:1-11; 4:8, 9.

1:1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

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

3. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

4. Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,

5. For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

6. Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

7. Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye are all partakers of my grace.

8. For God is my record, how greatly I long after you in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

9. And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more in knowledge and in judgment;

10. That ye may all approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

11. Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God:

4:8. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

9. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

Memory Verse: Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. James 1:22.

Practical Truth: The Lord takes pleasure in us when we obey his word indeed.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The lesson for today is a part of Paul's letter addressed to the Philippians. It is addressed to the saints and bishops and deacons at Philippi.

Paul was faithful to teach by precept and example. We see him first invoking God's blessings on them, then we hear him thanking God for their faithfulness, remembering them in all his prayers, praying earnestly for them, making request with joy. Evidently he had much confidence in them. It is good for us to live so those who know us will have confidence in us. Paul was confident that the One who had begun a good work in them would continue it unto the end. There is no question but that Paul loved these Philippian brethren with a pure heart fervently; for he said, "I have you in my heart." Paul surely was glad for the standing they had with the Lord and that they were partakers of his grace. He said, "God is my record [or witness] how greatly I have longed

after you." It takes real heaven-born love to cause us to have this same feeling toward our brothers and sisters in the Lord; and I cry out, "Oh, Lord, help us to have more of this pure love toward each other!" And Paul prayed that their love would abound yet more and more in knowledge and all judgment so that we may be able to prove or show to others things that are excellent. We know that God looks at sincerity as a thing really worth while.

How much it means for us to be filled with the fruits of righteousness. In the 11th Proverb, we read, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life: and he that winneth souls is wise." May the Lord give us more wisdom so we will be able to win more souls for Him. Now Paul says, "Finally, my brethren"—and mentions many good things and says, "Think on these things." "For as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." In the latter part of this lesson Paul exhorts us to do the things which we have heard and received and seen in him.

God is so gracious and good to have left on record all of these godly examples so that we might know how to live and to please Him.

### GOOD NEWS IN THE BIBLE

Sunday, December 19, 1948

Printed Portion .....Luke 2:1-14.

Luke 2:1. And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

2. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

3. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

4. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

5. To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

6. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

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

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

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

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

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

13. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Memory Verse: And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS, for he shall save his people from their sins. Mat. 1:21.

Practical Truth: Jesus came to save sinners and heal the sick.

## COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Going back to the 9th chapter of Isaiah, we get the story of this wonderful event which our lesson today brings to our minds. This prophecy was given almost eight hundred years before Jesus was born: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulders. His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father"—and last, but not least—"the Prince of Peace." How fitting this last name is, for he came to bring peace on earth, good will toward men. The prophet Micah foretold that He should be born in Bethlehem. God has such perfect ways to carry out all His plans. This calling of the people to be taxed came just at the right time and the place where Joseph and Mary were called was exactly the right place. It was Bethlehem where Jesus was to be born. This sweet little babe had no other place to be born but in a stable with the manger for his cradle. But God honored this wonderful event with a beautiful bright star in the heavens and also with a band of angels from the glory world to announce the coming of His only begotten Son, who came to seek and save that which was lost. And we read concerning the shepherds who were watching their flocks by night: "And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them," and this caused a fear to come over the shepherds. But the angel of the Lord said unto them, "Fear not, for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to ALL people," for a Saviour is born who is Christ the Lord. Then a multitude of angels hovered over them, singing, "Glory to God in the highest; and on earth, peace, good will toward men." When the angels departed the shepherds decided to go to the place where the angels directed them to see this wonderful thing that had come to pass. Also, the wise men from the east followed the beautiful star (His star) and came to the place where they found the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. And now let us all join with the angels and sing "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, good will" toward me.

## APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE IN THE BIBLE

Sunday, December 26, 1948

Printed Portion . . . . . Revelation 21:1-7; 22:1-5, 17.

Rev. 21:1. And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

5. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

6. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

7. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

22:1. And he showed me a pure river of water of life,

clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

2. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

3. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

4. And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

5. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

17. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come, And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will let him take the water of life freely.

Memory Verse: And there shall be no night there . . . for the Lord God giveth them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. Rev. 22:5.

Practical Truth: The true church is heaven in earth.

## COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The true church and heaven are so closely associated or related, the one to the other, that there is no way of drawing a line between them. The true church is a part of heaven, or the family of God, which fact Paul makes clear in his letter to the Ephesians (3:14, 15): "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Of whom the whole family [church] in heaven and earth is named." In today's lesson the church is first mentioned as New Jerusalem, and then as John saw it coming down from God out of heaven, it appeared as a bride adorned for her husband. Since the Lord has established his church on earth, we hear the words, "Behold the tabernacle of God is with men." And we who are true Christians are his people and God himself is our God. The old law and the Jewish tabernacle and form of worship never was satisfactory with God; but in the fullness of time Jesus came and built his church (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:47). Every true child of God is born of God and is a member of the true church by virtue of the new birth. Read Psa. 87:5, 6. In the Bible the true church is repeatedly spoken of as Zion. Read Isaiah 65: 18, 19. Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

God's people are called a "city" in many places in the Bible. God is the light of this city. Some day this city which came down from God out of heaven will be moved back to heaven, "and so shall we ever be with the Lord." Hence, we also get a picture of heaven in this lesson. There will be no night in heaven, but one long bright eternal day which will never end. We must make preparations for heaven here by having a godly sorrow for our sins and repent of them, and surrender to God. Then the Lord does His part and we are born again. Then we must be baptized, go down into the watery grave and come up out of the water, which symbolizes that we have been resurrected to walk in newness of life. Jesus said, "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give you a crown of life."

(Space will not permit a thorough explanation of the Scriptures used in today's lesson. If you wish to get a better understanding of them read the book written by Bro. Fred Pruitt, "The New Testament Church, Its Symbols, Metaphors, and Analogies.")

—G. S