

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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New Year Opportunities

We've come again another year
With joyful hearts to greet,
While precious memories of the past
We hold most dear and sweet.

Yet for awhile we now forget
Our failures or success,
And leaving these things far behind,
With hope we forward press.

The new year now presents to us
A widely opened door,
And many opportunities
We've never had before.

O, give us wisdom from above
Each task to bravely take,
And to perform in deeds of love
For our fellowtraveler's sake.

O, may we never idle be,
Nor sit around and wait
Till opportunities are past,
For then 'twill be too late.

To do the deeds we should have done;
For "time is on the wing,"
And when it once has passed away,
Will not come back again.

O, thou precious happy New Year,
Thou art a treasure rare;
And with thy golden moments
Chains of diamonds can't compare.

So we greet thee, happy New Year,
And with hearts of gratitude,
Render praises to the Giver
Of all time and every good.

—Ulysses Phillips

Conviction by Law and Deliverance Through Christ

"Heart belief in the law of God will cause a sinner to feel condemnation. Unbelief in the law is as common as unbelief in the gospel. If men from the heart believe in the gospel, they soon feel the power of it. So of the law; if they truly believe it, they will feel the power of its condemning voice. Few men can be found that will deny that they have sinned. Let a man, then, only believe in reality that death eternal is, according to the law of God, annexed to his sin as a punishment, and he will be afraid—his heart will sink within him. He will have no rest, he will have fearful forebodings of wrath; and if this be not the case, then plainly he does not believe the law and commandments of God. To hear the law, and yet be as hopeful and merry-hearted and unconcerned as if the law were an idle tale or a mere man of straw, that shows a most miserable state of blindness and want of feeling—a state that can be accounted for only by the fact that the law is not credited, and its threatenings are not believed at all. The law not only shows us our sin, but also makes us feel that we are lost—as good as dead.

"A man is in a room during the dark; he sees nothing, but imagines he is safe. At length the day breaks. Through the window of his apartment sunlight enters; and behold, he is, though he knew it not till now, in the midst of wild beasts, which like himself, have been asleep. They awake, and put on a threatening aspect. There is a serpent uncoiling its horrid length, and there is a tiger watching its opportunity for a fatal spring. The light has come, and the man now sees his danger—he is but a dead man. So when the law comes and is believed, there is seen guilt now in the past life in every part of it. There is felt now sin in the present condition of the heart. Every moment there is a discovery of sin. Everything past and present cries, as it were, for vengeance. Death everywhere stares him in the face—a horrible, miserable, wretched state!"

The above is a picture of a man under conviction of being a lost sinner and facing eternal death because of his sins. What is he to do? Let the inspired and sacred Word of God answer: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9. Also in Proverbs 28:13, we read, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." In Romans 10:9 it is written, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." "For God so loved the world [sinners] that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." Rom. 8:1, 2.

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God for he will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:7. "If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he hath robbed, walk in the statutes of life, [God's Word] without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die." Ezekiel 33:15. —Fred Pruitt.

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Since My Soul Is Sanctified

In the secret of His presence,
There I ever would abide;
Now to me it is made possible
Since my soul He sanctified.

Now the love of Christ my Saviour
In my heart does e'er abide;
Now no inward foes molest me
Since my soul is sanctified.

Down from Heaven came my Saviour;
For you and me He bled and died;
And my heart has been made perfect
Since my soul He sanctified.

Now the peace of God surpassing
Anything of mortal clay,
Has put within my peaceful bosom
A never ending Sabbath day.

In the precious Word of God we have everything necessary provided for the redemption of our souls. God in his love and mercy has not left man to grope around in sin and misery, but has made a way for us to be restored to the divine image which was lost when Adam and Eve disobeyed Him in the garden of Eden, for that is what salvation means: to be made holy and pure in our nature, as God is pure in his nature (1 John 4:17).

Unsaved or unregenerated people are not like God in their natures. They have in their hearts another

likeness that can be erased and changed by repentance and faith in God and taking up the cross and following Jesus.

In John 8:42, Jesus told the unbelievers of His day (which same applies to the world of today) "If God were your father ye would love me, for I proceeded forth and came from God, neither came I of myself but He sent me." Verse 44. (Now listen!) "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lust of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning and abode not in the truth." There is the other image or likeness. All mankind is of one or the other.

The Spirit of God speaking through a prophet of old said, "Son, give me thine heart." Man follows the desires of his heart, so if that is given to God then he will follow the Lord and lead a life of holiness, righteousness, and usefulness for the time allotted to him by the Lord while he is on the earth. God cannot use self-centered people at all. They are useless for His service.

In a sanctified experience our natures are purified or cleansed from every evil desire. The love of worldly things is gone. There are no more stirrings of envy, hatred, malice, pride, or seeking after the praise that comes from man, etc. No desire for revenge arises when we suffer wrong. Matt. 5:44 fulfilled in the purified soul, which reads thus, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you and persecute you."

In the sanctified life the Holy Spirit is dwelling within, a reality. Ephesians 3:16:17 reads thus, "that he would grant you according to the riches of his glory to be strengthened with might by his spirit in the inner man, that Christ might dwell in your hearts by faith, that ye being rooted and grounded in love."

Christ or the Holy Ghost dwelling in our hearts elevates us from a love of self to a supreme love of God. One lives the crucified life in imitation of the Saviour. 1 John 2:6 says, "He that saith he abideth in him, ought himself also so to walk even as he walked." This verse means that saints live as Christ lived by the power of God working in them.

The reason or motive in our doing as we do is the thing which God looks at. When we eat that we might have strength to live for God or we wear what we do for the glory of God or speak our words and go places because we love Him, then it is acceptable in his sight.

When God's love is in our soul, we give him our bodies that He might show his wonderful power and deliverance to an unbelieving world. Dear ones, you need never fear to trust God, but you should fear to trust the puny arm of flesh. When the soul is dwelling in perfect love we can trust God without hesitation or fear. 1 John 4:18. When trials of tribulations come, we have Jesus with us a living reality. Heb. 13:5 says, ". . . I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." Praise the Lord for Jesus.

The enemy of your soul would have you to believe that you might be ignorantly sinning against God in some way. Dear ones, there is no such thing

in the New Testament. There was in the Old Covenant, for it was a law of works, but now since Christ came it concerns the thought and intent of the heart. Heb. 10:14 says, "for by one offering he has perfected forever them that are sanctified." The soul is purified and fit for the society of heaven.

This blessed experience is received by faith, and you will know without a doubt that you have it. God's love will flood the entire being and there will be no more doubts and fears and wonderings concerning your standing with the Lord. This experience is for every one that has left all the world to follow Jesus, this experience is for every one who lives a clean holy life. The world cannot receive the Spirit of Truth (John 14:17), but only believers in Christ are qualified to receive this wonderful gift of God.

In the Old Testament the Sabbath was a type of the soul rest we enjoy when we are wholly sanctified. We are keeping a never-ending Sabbath day when we enter into the Holy of Holies or the standing grace of sanctification, living in the presence of God. Amen.

—H. Curtis Bedsole

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That The Ministry Be Not Blamed

"We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. Give no offense in anything, **THAT THE MINISTRY BE NOT BLAMED**: but in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in watchings, in fasting; by pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by **LOVE UNFEIGNED**, by the Word of **TRUTH**, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true." 2 Cor. 6:1, 3-8. Read the rest of the chapter.

Brethren and sisters, we have a great responsibility when we preach the Word of God so that the ministry cannot be blamed in any way. Saints, we have to be true to your souls and ours. If we fail to warn against things that are wrong, we shall have to give account of it in the Judgment.

We read in 1 John 2:15, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (Also read verses 16 and 17).

There are some things the saints teach and stand against according to the teaching of the Word of God. We shall mention a few of them; that is, little things. We read in the Word that the little foxes spoil the vines. First we want to say something about insurance. The saints do not believe in having life insurance, nor any kind of insurance that would be a benefit to self; but if we are not careful, we will let something little creep in. **BURIAL** insurance would be one. Read Matt. 6:19-34. The 34th verse says: "Take therefore **NO** thought for the **MORROW**: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself." These are Jesus' own words. Praise His name!

Jesus said, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head." (Luke 9:58). God provided a burial place for His Son. Cannot we have faith that a way will be made for our burial? It is conforming to the world to want a big worldly funeral when we die and a fancy casket in which to be buried. I do not say it is wrong for our bodies to be buried in a nice casket; but the soul is what we should be interested in, and not the body. The body is going back to dust any way, so a pine box, or a sheet, or a fine casket would not help our soul. If we do not watch, we shall be letting in some desire for something worldly if we have a burial insurance. The Lord showed me I could not have burial insurance to His glory, shortly after I got saved. We are to follow in Jesus' steps, not the world. Did He make any preparation for the morrow while here for his body's benefit?

We warn against moving picture shows, ball games, mixed bathing, and such like, because they are of the world and people partake of them for the love of the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or the pride of life.

We teach against the use of tobacco in any form, also the drinking of coffee, tea, and Coco Cola because they contain harmful substances which are habit forming and people become enslaved to the desire for them. The main point which we want to bring out now concerning these things is the buying and selling of them. Saints should not buy such things for any one to use, nor sell them. A merchant offered me a job in a large grocery store, not long ago. His offer from a financial standpoint was good. I prayed about it, but God showed me that I could not take the job to His glory. Why? I preach that it is wrong for people to use such things. Now, how can I be an example of the believers and sell them? I tried to shift the responsibility on the merchant; but I would be the one selling them. We are responsible for what we do, not the other fellow. Let us read Eph. 5:10, 11: "Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord, and **HAVE NO FELLOWSHIP** with the **UNFRUITFUL WORKS** of **DARKNESS**, but rather **REPROVE THEM**." Let us think on these things. How can we reprove the world of these things and sell them or buy them? The Lord showed me it would be fellowshiping them. I do not believe we would be any more justified in selling those things than we would be in working in a bar room selling whiskey, wine, beer, etc. Let us remember it is the little foxes that spoil the vines.

Let us cry aloud and spare not, neither fear some nor favor others. Preach the Word of truth so the ministry can not be blamed before that eternal Judge.

—Clyde Lea

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 9¼ 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.

"FAITH AND VICTORY" 16-Page Holiness Monthly

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

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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.

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

Mich.—Dear readers of the "Faith and Victory,"—Greetings in Jesus' love. It has been quite some time since I last wrote my testimony for the Lord. I have been reading the many good testimonies in this month's paper, and I thank God he has been so good to all his dear people.

God has truly been good to me. I thank him most of all for saving my soul and forgiving me of my transgressions. I have been saved a little over three years. During that time He has been so precious to my soul. He is an ever present help in time of need. Truly I love the Lord with all my heart, mind, and soul.

Last week I woke up to get my husband's breakfast. When I first got up I felt fine, but after I was up about fifteen or twenty minutes I began to get very sick. I called my husband to pray for me. While we were praying I started getting weak. Ralph started to take me into the bedroom so I could lie down, and I just fainted away. When I came to again the pain was still there so we called Brother and Sister Brown to pray and it wasn't long until the Lord touched and healed my body. I believe the Lord had this to happen to help us see in how short a time He could take us from this world. Oh! it behooves us to be ready to meet Him at all times.

Your sister in Christ,

Dorothy Wilkins

Editorials

We greet all of our readers in Jesus' name in the beginning of the New Year of 1949, and our prayer is that all of you will be more blessed and enriched from heaven's store than in any previous year.

Of late we have been greatly burdened for the soul's welfare of the many thousands of you that read the "Faith and Victory" paper every month. The burden became so heavy and the responsibility seemed so great before the Lord that I lost appetite for food, and for days was in fasting and prayer for this and other things connected with the work of God. During these days the Lord appeared to us in many precious ways, and we have an assurance in our heart that He will qualify us better for the task that is before us than in previous years, and that the "Faith and Victory" paper will be filled more and more with wholesome soul food that will lead souls in the right way to greatly please the Lord in this life and bring to them in the end a crown of eternal life that will never fade away, glory be to His name.

The Lord is not only supplying better and more equipment, but he has also supplied six good workers to help keep the work going by the printed page.

It has been our custom to introduce to our readers new workers whom the Lord sends to the print shop, but through an oversight we failed to tell you that Sister Ruthe Byers of Shreveport, La. came Sept. 11th. She has been faithfully using her talent here for the Lord. She left a good paying job to launch out by faith on the promise of God that temporal needs will be supplied. The Lord's work is the greatest work on earth, and we thank God for the few who have spiritual vision enough to realize it.

The other workers are Kenneth Flynn from La., Harvey Johnson from Ala., Dora Lela Sorrell from Mo., Evodna Thurman from Texas, and Geneva Ray, whose home is now in Guthrie, besides the editor and wife. Pray much for us and the work. We are aware that the devil hates this printing work, and would keep it choked down if possible. He often snarls and roars and tries to bring the forces of darkness against it, and spiritually wicked spirits in high places rise up in force, bluffing and puffing with misrepresentation, fabrication with shuffling dissimulation, and pretended piety. The enemy often changes his tactics to flattery with hope of affecting the head, and then when that does not work, he will cunningly condemn, and find fault with ridicule and outlandish reports. By the grace of God, none of these things will move us from the will and pleasure of God. Jesus would neither receive honor nor dishonor from his spiritual enemies. He said, "How can you believe that receive honor one of another and seek not the honor that cometh from God only." John 5:44.

Let us so live that God will honor us as his children regardless of what men say or think of us. The Lord has the grace and wisdom for us if we will furnish the continued willingness and chasten our souls before him to know and to keep in his will. Dear readers, pray for us and the work that he has laid upon our souls.

In the November issue of "Faith and Victory" paper we mentioned the Linotype machine, and that we had received a phone message from the company saying it would be shipped to us in November. After we had this news printed and sent out, we received word from the salesman that they had made a mistake and that it would be in January before the machine would be shipped. This was quite a disappointment to us and we began to wonder if the Lord would want us to cancel the order. While we held the matter before the Lord, he made it quite plain to us to let the machine come for His work here. We called Mr. Jenkins, the salesman, and closed the deal in writing with \$500.00 advanced as security and good faith. The company in writing has agreed to ship the machine in January, and we are all looking forward to the coming of this new up-to-date Linotype.

Several of our readers have recently sent offerings to help pay for the machine, and we appreciate it very much and believe that God will have the full amount on hands to pay the cash for the machine when it arrives. Those whom God prospers with earthly goods and money can have a part in the great work of getting the gospel to men by the printed page if they give of their substance for this purpose. Let each of us be wiser than the children of darkness and seek to lay up treasures in heaven, where moth cannot eat it nor rust corrupt, neither can thieves break through and steal it. It is not unreasonable to expect a selfish person to have a shriveled soul with the salvation walls broken down, but the liberal soul will be fat and flourishing. Sowing to the spirit is the most profitable work that any living person could be doing; such a person is rewarded with eternal profits, with assets that never cease.

Sister Minnie M. Krause of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania passed to her reward in heaven on the 24th of September, 1948. She became ill suddenly with a blood clot in the veins and passed away in a few hours. Sister Krause was quite well known among the saints scattered abroad and was loved and respected for her loyalty and devotion to God. She was a succorer and a comfort to many and loved to do service for the Lord who has been her comfort, stay, and staff in life. We were expecting someone to send in her obituary, but as none has arrived, we feel it good to mention her passing so the saints everywhere will know about it.

Sister Krause was liberal with her giving to the work of the Lord while living, both to ministers and to other charity work. The administrator in sending out copies of her will to the different beneficiaries, states that it will perhaps be a year before the estate will be settled. She has left much of her earthly possessions to different ones of the Lord's ministers, and also for the publishing and printing of the gospel to be sent to the different prisons and charitable institutions and sending out Bibles and portions of the scriptures, and a good sum for the general occurring needs of the Lord's printing work. She leaves \$1000 to the secretary of the Monark Springs, Mo. National

Camp meeting board to be used for the real estate at Monark Springs.

It seems to me that this disposal which she has made of her estate is a good example of what the end of true saints should be. In the past many have made the mistake of leaving their substance, or the bulk of it to unsaved children and kinsmen who would only squander it in riotous living, and all would be a total loss so far as God getting any benefit from it is concerned.

Generally speaking, money and worldly goods are hindrances to one who wants to get saved, fastening him more and more to this old perishing world. Paul admonishes us about these matters in 1 Timothy 6:6, which reads, "But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain that we can carry nothing out, and having food and raiment, let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition." In the 17th verse he continues by saying, "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life." It does not seem possible that a child of God who has the true assurance of heaven in the soul, would make a will without thoughts of leaving what God has intrusted into his (or her) hands in a way that it would be used in the work of the Lord to the saving of souls that are in a perishing condition all around us. Giving is to the soul what air is to the body. As air and breathing is necessary to keep the body alive, so also is the giving of our substance necessary to keep the soul of man alive. As God gives in, the saint gives out and the soul is healthy and prospers in this state. Let us live in the Spirit and we shall not obey the lust of the flesh to the destruction of the soul.

Obituaries

Robert Milton Trimble was born in Texas County, Mo. on Dec. 7, 1866. After several months of failing health, he departed this life Oct. 25, 1948, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Ruby E. Stover, Pomona, Calif. at the age of 81 years, 10 months, and 18 days.

In the year 1897 he moved to the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) where he met Ida Parlee Warden, and on March 13, 1898 they were united in marriage. To this union three children were born. The oldest passed away in infancy. On Jan. 9, 1944, God, in His wisdom, saw fit to take his companion home.

He leaves to mourn his passing one daughter, Ruby E. Stover, Pomona, Calif., one son, Jesse F. Trimble, Newport, Ore., five grandchildren, one sister, nieces and nephews, and a host of friends to miss his presence here.

In the year 1904 he became acquainted with and embraced the truth of the Church of God as was taught in this Evening Light Reformation. He especially enjoyed

gospel singing and will long be remembered for his talent along this line and also his many labors of love to all he met.

Funeral services were held in Pomona on Oct. 27th by O. B. Wilson, Jr. of Glendale, Calif., and Sam Wilson of Jefferson, Ore. Sermon topic was "Life." Interment was at Pomona.

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Mary Beatrice Norling, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Will Norling, was born March 23, 1911 at Castle, Okla. and departed this life Sept. 19, 1948 at her home in Bakersfield, Calif. Age 37 years, 5 months, and 26 days.

She was united in marriage to Israel Johnson in the year of 1928 at Bristow, Okla. To this union three sons were born, Edison, Eddie, and Edmond who died in infancy.

In the year of 1937 she with her family moved to Bakersfield, where she remained until her death.

She sought and found the Lord in her early life. She would always attend church services faithfully unless there was illness. Her place and presence in the church will be missed greatly. During her illness, she said that there was nothing between her and the Lord and that she was ready to go.

Her mother and father preceded her in death. She leaves to mourn their loss: a husband, Israel Johnson; two sons, Edison and Eddie; four sisters, Louella Bramlett, Lillie Mae Chandler, Idonia Harris, Juanita Sheppard, all of Bakersfield; three brothers, Ulysses and Willie Louis Norling and Robert Mays, all of Bakersfield; five uncles; twelve nieces; fifteen nephews; and a host of relatives, saints, and friends.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Z. E. Francisco. Text: Heb. 9:27 and Rev. 20:12.

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Polly Ann Elizabeth Widders was born Sept. 13, 1857 in Nashville, Tenn. to Billy and Louisa Widders, and departed this life Nov. 27, 1948, age 91 yrs., 2 mos., and 14 days. She was one of nine children, all of which preceded her in death except one brother, John Widders, and one sister, Lucy Hester, both of Fayetteville, Ark. She was joined in holy wedlock with Henry P. Brewer in 1874. To this union eight children were born, four girls and four boys, four of whom preceded her in death. Those left to mourn her death are Louisa Allen of Neosho, Mo., Easley Brewer of Pitcher, Okla., Nettie Cook of Peoria, Okla. and Ida Helsey of Joplin, Mo. Her husband preceded her in death 23 years, having passed away April 4, 1925.

She was a sincere Christian woman and had embraced the truth of the church of God for thirty years. She was kind and much beloved by friends and neighbors, but we know she has gone home to be with the Lord and has peace and rest. Job 14:14; 2 Cor. 5:1; and 2 Tim. 4:4 were the Scripture texts used by Bros. John Wilson and Sam Barton who conducted the funeral.

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Sister I. T. Homes, of Mansfield, La., was born in 1888, and departed this life Oct. 16, 1947, age 60 years.

She was united in holy matrimony to Lomber Holmes, to which union ten children were born.

Bereaved are: her husband, ten children, 16 grandchildren, one great-grandchild, five sisters, two brothers, and a host of relatives and friends.

Sister Homes was called 23 years ago to teach the women. She said Jesus told her to tell the women to stand for more than the decoration of their bodies. She had Bible lessons from time to time. She taught them the

Bible way, how to dress as becometh holy women. She lived a holy sanctified life to the end. Brother Tyler, who conducted the funeral services, used as a text: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

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Santa Hutch, born Nov. 22, 1895 in Novasota, Texas, passed away Nov. 26, 1948 at his home in Wichita, Kans. He was 53 years and 4 days old. His immediate family preceded him in death. He saw extensive service over seas in World War I. After being honorably discharged, he spent some time in Kingman, Kansas where he was united in marriage to Mrs. Dollie White Smith, August 10, 1930. He was later converted and baptized in the church of God in Anthony, Kans.

His health began to fail and he spent some time in numerous resorts to try to regain it, to no avail.

Bereaver are: a faithful wife, son Charles and wife, several nieces and nephews.

The "Lord giveth, and the Lord hath taken, blessed be the name of the Lord." Services by Bro. L. Williams of Hennessey, Okla. Text: 1 Samuel 20:3. Funeral service was conducted in a funeral home in Anthony, Kans.

NOTICE

Our congregation is praying for a pastor to come and take up this work here in Venango, Pa., church of God. We desire a minister filled with the Holy Ghost and one who preaches the "faith once delivered to the saints." We desire a single brother if possible.

Before coming, correspond with J. S. Smeltzer or Mrs. Rosetta Boda. Venango, Pa., Crawford County.

"FAITH AND VICTORY" BOOK

The eleven papers of "Faith and Victory" issued during the year of 1948 have been bound together in book form and covered with good paper cover for handy use. This book will be post paid to any address in the U. S. for 40 cents each. Send for your copy today.

A few of these books made up of the 1947 papers were left from last year. If you want one of them include it with your order.

OREGON ASSEMBLY MEETING

To the saints in light, greetings,—Lord willing, our assembly meeting will be held in the saints' chapel on Hazel St. in Jefferson, Ore. Jan. 14th to 23rd, 1949. We are looking to the Lord to send the ministers of his choosing, then we know that they will preach the truth as it is in Christ. We earnestly urge all saints who can do so to be with us. We are expecting great things from God, and desire the prayers of all the saints for the work of the Lord here. He has done for us more than we have asked or thought and we feel his hand of love and power over his work. Come all who can, all will be cared for who can come.

Sam Wilson

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Miss.—Dear saints,—I want to write what is on my heart, and tell how the Lord blessed me when I was in trouble. I was dying three times and called on the Lord and he spared my life. I did not have to call a doctor. If we put our trust in the Lord, he will carry us thru at any cost. If I can be any help to people that are lost in sin I am ready. I want you to pray for my sister, Mrs. Forest Smith. She needs your prayers that she may gain more faith. If we have faith we will not have to have a doctor when we are sick.

Flora Ruth Pugh

Have Faith In God

"For we walk by faith, not by sight." 2 Cor. 5:7.

Do you have faith in God or in man? Do you go to man for all your needs or to God? Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matt. 11:28-30.

He will help us in time of need.

Moses had faith in God when the Israelites passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, but the Egyptians were drowned.

Let us cherish all that tends to strengthen our faith in the gospel. Let us read the Word of God, praying that we may be able to believe. Let us say from day to day what the disciples said, "Lord, increase our faith." By faith Noah was warned of God to prepare the ark. There was no rain in those days, but Noah had faith and believed the Lord and prepared the ark. He became the heir of righteousness of faith. God loves us all and is willing to help us in all of our troubles. Praise His holy name! Dear ones, let us have more faith and put our trust in God, for Jesus is coming again some day and we know not when. We must keep our lamps burning bright; watch and pray and live faithfully each day, and then we shall be ready when He comes.

Is it possible that you can have faith in your fellow man and cannot have faith in God? Faith is simply believing and trusting in God. No earthly parent could guide his children if they refused to take His commands as being really the expression of his will; and God cannot guide the souls who never trust Him enough to believe He is doing it. Some Christians are slaves to an inveterate habit of doubting. That is very dangerous, and if you are given to it, you must overcome it. You should pay no attention to doubts, but look to Jesus. Tell Him you desire more faith in Him and that you will trust Him. By holding on by faith you can get to the place where you can wait on Him for direction. For Jesus says, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." "Therefore, being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

O Jesus, I need thee every where I go,
I need thy hand to guide me thru this world below.
I ask thy blessings now on bended knee:
Come, dwell within my heart so I'll be close to thee.

—Bro. Harvey Johnson

Prayer and Assurance

Lord, hear my call for help today
To walk where thou hast trod.
And keep me in the heavenly way,
That leads us home to God.

O Lord, you know I am so weak!
I know that thou art strong!
Help me each day thy strength to seek,
To keep me all life long.

Sometimes I know not what to say;
Sometimes I speak amiss;
But if He sees our heart is pure,
He will take care of this.

The scenes of life are growing dim,
I faintly see my way;
But light shines brighter now in Him—
Hope of eternal day!

—Sister Minnie Noakes

—oOo—

Travels With the Lord

For several months the saints at Coffeyville and Chetopa, Kansas have been building a meeting house in which to hold services. They have been working at it as they had time and as money was supplied. Now they are rejoicing because the building is finished and they can have a place to meet together to worship God in the beauty of holiness.

The first service was held Sunday, Nov. 14th. The house was well filled with saints and others who were interested in the truths of His Word. Rejoicing and happiness in the Lord was everywhere in evidence.

The desire of the saints there was to have a revival meeting through the week on up to the 21st of the month, which day was to be an all day meeting with saints gathering in from Springfield, Webb City, and Neosho, Mo., and from other places.

The writer, learning about the intended revival meeting there, felt impressions from the Lord to go and help in the meeting, but the work at the print shop was much in need of our time and attention, so we tarried in prayer before the Lord in regards to the matter. Finally the Lord made it plain that He would care for the printing work and I could safely leave it with Him and the workers, and go, doubting nothing.

I went up there on Saturday and stayed in the meeting over Sunday and Monday. Bro. Ray Key, Bro. Victor Orr, and Bro. Miles, ministers, were there, and Sunday evening Bro. Lewis Williams of Hennessey, Okla. and Bro. John Williams and wife of Okeene, Okla. arrived to be in the meeting until Wednesday.

They seemed to have plenty of ministerial help for the meeting. On Monday I became burdened and went to an old barn to pray. (I was staying with Bro. and Sis. Goldsberry about two miles south of Chetopa.) As I prayed and waited before the Lord, His Spirit spoke to me something similar to the way he spoke to Philip when he was bidden by the Spirit to go down into the desert country where the Ethiopian was converted and baptized. He bade me go to Webb City and visit the saints at Neosho and around that place. When I came to the house that evening I told Bro. Ed Miles and Bro. Williams about the leadings I had received. Bro. Ed Miles offered to take me to these places in his car, so the Lord had a way prepared unknown to me.

On Tuesday morning we set out for Neosho, Mo. It was marvelous how God did work. He went before us preparing and opening up ways for labors in His vineyard. First, we stopped at Bro. Sell's home in Neosho. He was gone, but Sister Sell came to the door and was very glad to see us. She had been in her bed room weeping and praying that God would sanctify her nature and

give her power to live right for Him. Bro. Sell soon came, so we prayed for her and laid on hands asking God to sanctify her. She claimed the promises and was gloriously sanctified, and they both seemed much encouraged. Next, we visited Bro. John Wilson and wife who live on a farm east of Neosho. We had a good fellowship meeting with them. In the evening we went to visit Bro. Vada McMillian and family and Bro. Wyatt, who received us in the Lord's Spirit of love and gave us a hearty welcome in their home. I had been burdened for them as they had sickness in the family. I had been desiring to see Bro. McMillian for several weeks and when we met, about the first thing that he said was, "Bro. Pruitt, I have been wanting to see you." He was under some heavy burdens and it seemed that the Lord had the very message on our hearts for him that he needed, and he rejoiced in the counsel and instructions of the Lord.

As night came on, Bro. Allen and his wife came with word that they had received a phone call from Joplin, Mo. that Sis. Brewer, Sister Allen's mother, had had a stroke. They were starting for Joplin, but his car was not working right, so Bro. Miles said we would take them in his car. When we arrived she was unable to speak and seemed not to know any of us, but after several prayers were offered she began to recognize and talk some. She seemed much better in every way. Two other old people in that home for the aged were sick and wanted us to pray for them, which we did, and soon one of them was snoring in sleep and the other one was resting easily.

About eleven o'clock at night we arrived at our cabin on the Monark Springs campground where we slept that night and the next night. On Wednesday we visited Bro. and Sister Morris, the caretakers on the campground, and they were delighted to have us in their home. The Lord blessed us in talking to them of the good things of God and of His precious ways. They seemed to be in much burden and somewhat discouraged when we went, but were greatly encouraged and built up in God by our association, prayers, and fellowship. Wednesday evening we had preaching service in the chapel at Neosho, and the Lord blessed the service. The saints seemed to be encouraged and it was a pleasure and mutual benefit to all of us.

On Thursday we went to Webb City, and the Lord had gone before. They were rejoicing because the Lord had sent us there. We had meeting there for three nights with good results, and the saints were greatly encouraged. The enemy has been causing them trouble there in different ways, taking advantage of the lengthy bondage under which they had previously been held to try to keep discouragement upon them. It seems they have been ruled by a "lord over God's heritage" and to some extent enveloped with spiritual darkness so long that it takes some time for them to get cleared from the effects, as some there have never known what it means to live in the liberty of the Spirit of Christ, but have been swayed by floating spirits of the prince of the power of the air. They mean well, but the enemy takes advantage of their zeal and plays god to some in different ways, which causes friction, surmising, and evil thoughts that should not be. However, we believe that by personal visits and messages given out that some have their spiritual eyes open to Satan's devices and that God will in time put down every evil spirit and give that love and unity that belongs to his truly "born again" ones. Every soul is precious in the sight of God no matter how Satan may have used them in the past. Let every one of us pray for souls and deal with them as the most valuable things

in existence. It is almost unbearable to think of a soul being in torment forever.

On Sunday morning, the 21st, we returned to Chetopa for the all-day service there. Saints came in from different places and filled the meeting house. After the morning service there was much rejoicing as Bro. Key brought us a message on the church and the kingdom. Several exhortations were given, which enlivened the saints and revived their souls in the old time way. The sisters had prepared food which was spread for all to satisfy the need of the body. Bro. Willie Murphey and wife and others were there from Guthrie, so the Lord provided a way for us to return to the print shop work.

The Lord led so precious and helped us to be a blessing to so many souls on this trip that we still rejoice in Him and are determined to be more in fasting and prayer as time goes on so we can hear plainly his Spirit's voice and be led of Him in all that we do and say.

—Fred Pruitt

o o o IF EVERY ONE

If every one who drives a car could lie a month in bed,
With broken bones and stitched-up wounds, or fracture of
the head,
And there endure the agonies that many people do,
They'd never need preach safety any more to me or you.

If every one could stand beside the bed of some close
friend,
And hear the doctor say "no hope" before the fatal end,
And see him there unconscious, never knowing what took
place,
The laws and rules of traffic I am sure we'd soon embrace.

If every one could meet the wife and children left behind
And step into the darkened home where once the sunlight
shined,
And look upon "The Vacant Chair" where Daddy used to
sit,
I'm sure each reckless driver would be forced to think a bit.

If every one who takes the wheel would say a little prayer,
And keep in mind those in the car depending on his care,
And make a vow and pledge himself to never take a chance,
The great crusade for safety then would suddenly advance.

—Selected

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Calif.—Dear saints scattered abroad,—Greetings in Jesus' name, who died on the cross that you and I might have a right to the tree of life. I thank God daily for saving me from sin. I thank God for his healing power, for he is my doctor in every case and I am pleased with his way of doing things.

We were called away Sunday to Berkeley, Calif. to hold meeting. Bro. E. J. Trotter preached a wonderful sermon on sin. The Lord blessed in the meeting. We are still encouraged to press on in the name of the Lord.

Last week I was afflicted, but the Lord blessed me in the trial so until I did not want it to leave me just then. In due time God healed me. I count it all joy concerning my trials, glory to His name! My desire is to please Him above all things. Pray that more souls be added to His church daily, our strength is the Lord. I love all the saints and am looking forward to meeting them all in that last great day, so let us pray for each other.
Yours in the one body, Clarence Hattley

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Hello, Children:

This is a new year. Would you like to do something new this year? I just thought of something to do that may be new to most of you. Let's start reading the New Testament through. Of course, some of you cannot read very well yet, but maybe Mother will help you or read to you. Let's read a chapter a day, or at least a half of a chapter if it is long. I am sure Jesus will bless you and help you to understand what you read.

One little boy's mother was reading to him about where Jesus said, "For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward." When she finished reading, he said, "Mother, do you want a drink?" Mother said she did so he ran quickly to get her a cup of water. He seemed very happy because he was doing what Jesus told him to do. Of course, that means to do all kind deeds for others and Jesus will reward us.

Let us not forget: on January the first we shall start reading the New Testament through.

—Aunt Marie

—oOo—

A Child's Example

Mable was only seven years old when her mother allowed her one evening to go to church services. She was a very earnest little worker in Sunday school, and brought as many new scholars as some of the older children did, but she had not yet been permitted to go regularly to the evening services. She was a dear little Christian, and when she expressed a desire to go to the "grown-up folks" meeting, her mother gave her consent.

The minister often looked down on the blue-eyed child, but did not once catch her napping. She was an example to some older ones.

When the meeting was closed and the walk home completed, Mable was almost too sleepy to dress for her little bed. The room was chilly and her sister said, "Mable, you may say your prayers in bed to-night. You are so tired and the room is so cold."

But Mable replied, "Oh, no! I cannot say lazy prayers. I can stay awake long enough to talk to Jesus." And, so the child knelt and earnestly prayed that she would do everything that Jesus would have her to do to make her life a blessing to others.

As her sister turned to go to her room she thought within herself, "Surely this little sister of mine has taught me a lesson. How often am I likely to let slip the best opportunities for getting spiritual strength? I will take heed and follow little Mable's example. She has taught me a lesson which I shall not soon forget." And so it is throughout the family. Mable was a faithful example to them all, and her father declared she was God's instrument in leading him to become a Christian.

—Sel.

Okla.—Aunt Marie,—I love the Lord. I go to Sunday school every Sunday and sometimes I go to meeting at night. I like my Sunday school teacher, and her name is Mother. We live a little ways from the Sunday school. I am eight years old. And I love the Lord very much.

Barbara Ann Souder

CORRESPONDENCE

Shreveport, La.—Greetings to all the saints and readers of the "Faith and Victory" paper, this another New Year:—May God bless each one is my prayer. Another year has gone down in History, and we are one year nearer eternity. Surely we need to examine our hearts closely and often lest we step off this stage of action and be weighed in the balances and found wanting. If there were ever a time that the saint ministers needed to live close to God and cry out aloud the warnings of the Word of God, it is now.

We are living in perilous times. 2 Tim. 3:1-6, "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy," etc., "having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof. From such turn away."

I feel assured that pride is one of the most outstanding evils of the day. Pride keeps many precious souls out of the kingdom of God. They are not willing to go the way of the cross by living a simple Christian life, and will not adorn themselves in a Christ-like manner. So many professed Christians cannot be distinguished from the world because they dress so much like the world, with their curls, diamonds, rings, rouge, lipstick, and other ungodly things which adorn the outward appearance. My Lord and my God, awaken precious souls and help them to see themselves as God sees them.

About four years ago when I came among the saints I was greatly astonished at the way each saint was respected and had the liberty he (or she) needed in the worship.

I had been taught and trained to reach out and get the better class of people, the richer and the better class was our aim. No wonder I lived such an up-and-down life and could not become settled in the Lord. But, praise be to our God, he helped me to see myself in the light of the judgment and I fled from that deceptive state to Christ. I desire that other souls who were once honest and had a great desire to serve the Lord—and perhaps, yet want to serve Him—would humble their hearts and give themselves whole-hearted and unreservedly over into the hands of our great God and Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ so that he could work with them to do his sweet will. I am sure if they could know the joy of a complete surrendered life they would arise and make haste to come to the Lord. So many now have the form of godliness but are denying the power thereof. The Word of God says if the blind lead the blind they will all fall into the ditch together. Many blinded souls are hindering other souls that perhaps would seek God and accept God's holy Word. God pity blind leaders and their followers.

I believe I can say with Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, "Oh, that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people and friends." If we could only get people to taste and see that the Lord is good! "Behold, therefore the goodness and severity of God, on them which fell severely, but toward thee goodness." Rom. 11:22.

Truly the Lord is good to all and extends his mercy to saints, sinners, professors, and all false religions. But because he does not execute judgment speedily, the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. We are fearful that many professed Christians will stand condemned before God. We read in His Word where many of Jesus' disciples went back because of what they termed hard sayings. Are his teachings too hard in this evening time? If all the people that profess to be members of God's church would get back to the Bible and the teaching of the early reformers or quit professing to be members of God's church, many might be saved. Many are watching our lives. I wonder sometimes if those who profess to be Christians are proving the Bible is true? Can others see Jesus in you? Are we preaching one thing and living another? God forbid!

Surely we must be living in the last of the last days and the devil realizes that his time is short and he is working with all his power. He does not care what we profess, just so we do not possess real salvation. Many times emotions are counted as spirituality, and because emotion is manifested it is accounted for holiness. Surely the devil is pleased when he can work among sinners and professors and cause them to shout, cry, laugh, etc., and they are deceived thereby. Truly this is a dangerous and serious condition. Not every one that says, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of God, but he that doeth the will of my Father, which is in heaven. Matt. 7:21.

The Word says that few will be saved, the gate is so strait and the road so narrow. Here I quote from Adam Clark: "Few will be saved; fewer still that will stay saved very long; and fewer still that will endure to the end." Truly we want to be one of the few and realize fully that we must live soberly and godly in this present world and walk in the light as the Lord sheds it on our pathway. We either walk in the light or we go into spiritual darkness—what a sad state! We need to be constantly looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. May God awaken the saints and readers of this article that they may go forward this coming year to deeper depths in the Lord.

Yours in Christ and with a heavy soul burden,
Beulah Sneed Carter

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Oklahoma.—Greetings in Jesus' precious name to all the saints far and near. Dear ones, I am a child of God, saved and satisfied in Jesus. In May 1932 the good Lord saved me and I've been trusting him ever since for soul and body. He is worthy of our trusting Him. I suffered with asthma before I was saved and did use different remedies but with no success. When I put my trust in the Lord, believing that He could and would heal, He wonderfully touched my body and healed me. It has been sixteen years now since I had the asthma. He has also healed me of rheumatism and a sore leg that pained for a long time. One of the saints (Sister C. Robinson) seemed to be very burdened for me and would come often and pray with me. The Lord healed my leg without medicine of any kind, praise his holy name! I cannot find words enough to praise Him. Last year I had dark spots on my arms and face that would itch terribly bad. The dear saints prayed for me and the good Lord healed and cleared up my complexion. To Him I give all the glory. I do thank and praise Him for all that He is to me. I do not intend to let anything separate me from the love of God. Pray for me that I always keep humble at Jesus' feet. Your saved sister,
Ophelia Cornelius

Oklahoma.—Dear saints—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I can say that I am saved and sanctified and have a determination to go on to the end. I have not been in this race as long as some have, but praise God, the young people can enjoy this salvation, too. I have tasted of the goodness of the Lord, and the more one eats of this heavenly food the more he wants, and a person does not have to be old to enjoy it either. "Who but the Christian is happy and free, filled with the glory of God? None in creation so happy as he." We can read many places in the Bible the promises the Lord gives to the righteous; but as for the wicked, their promise is sad. Dear ones, let us not become discouraged; only Satan brings discouragement. We, being the children of God, have access to the promise of God. Let us come boldly to the throne of grace. John 16:24: "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." Do not let the old devil cheat you out of the blessing of the Lord. He will tell you many things to discourage you. Seeing the great promises in His Word, brethren, are they so hard to believe? As we enter a new year let us count more on the promise of the Lord and ignore Satan more and more—just continue to ignore him. When the old devil is madly raging the Lord will keep you in perfect peace while your mind is stayed upon him.

I do thank the Lord for the privilege of working for Him in the print shop at Guthrie. Pray for me that I will not become weary in well doing for the Lord.

Your brother in Christ, Kenneth Flynn

o-o-o-o-o-o

N. M.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—It makes me rejoice to think that the good Lord called after me and set my feet on the straight and narrow way. His grace, blessings, peace, and joy make me determined to stay true to him.

Last summer, while riding horse back, my horse almost walked over a rattlesnake. There were a few rocks around. I soon found an old mashed can. The can struck the snake about four inches back of its head. As soon as the can hit him, he struck and bit the ground several times. I found a good sized rock and smashed his head. The snake could not strike, but bit as it did before. I began to think about my continuous fight against the devil or serpent. I thought that if I could smash Satan's head, or the thing he used to hit me hardest, I could have a much easier victory. This incident has helped me a lot in keeping my experience with God.

Many times I think of the trouble, tribulations, and wars of the world today. Wars are not new; they have always happened all through history. I often think about the power of God. He saved the Hebrew children in the fiery furnace, brought Lot out of Sodom, shut the mouths of lions when Daniel was in the lions' den, caused an earthquake to let Paul and Silas out of jail, and many other things. If God be with us, who can stand against us? Pray for me, for I am close to the draft age.

Sincerely Yours, William Weir

o-o-o-o-o-o

Wis.—Dear saints, greetings to all in Jesus' precious name,—Some time ago I sent you a request for prayer. I was afflicted in both limbs and could hardly walk. Oh, how I thank and praise my dear Lord for hearing and answering prayer. I am so very much better I can walk without so much pain.

I want to thank all you dear saints for praying for me, and I have another prayer request. I have kidney and bladder trouble which is very painful at times. I know

the dear Lord has healed me many, many times, so I know I can be healed again. Oh, how wonderful it is to be saved and trusting in the Lord. Our three sons and two daughters-in-law are not saved. Will you please pray for them? It is hard to convince them that they need salvation more than anything else. One son turned Catholic to marry, knowing that I had dropped away from Catholicism as I had found out how far away from the Bible they were leading me. Praise God for leading me out of darkness.

Matilda Klatt.

Livingston, Calif.—To all the saints,—I am praising God that I am still here on this side of the grave. I often have grieved my Lord, and how I regret my old life. Instead of being a light I was a stumbling block. How many souls I could have won! But Paul tells us to forget what is behind and look forward. How God loved the sinner, but He hates sin!

I had a tumor and the doctor told me I had to be operated on. How I dreaded that! I could not stand to think about this. The Lord awakened me at three o'clock in the morning and I said, "Lord, I do not want to be operated on, and you don't want it either." How I prayed that morning! The Lord gave me the assurance that there would be no operation. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. I give God all the honor and glory.

I have the book, "God's Gracious Dealings," from the Lord's Print Shop at Guthrie about Christians' experiences and how God leads them if they are in tune with Him. My wish and prayer is to serve God faithfully in my last days. God says, "Whom I love I chasten." We have experienced that twice. One of our boys was killed riding a motorcycle. This happened on Sunday night about five o'clock. He lived until 12:30 p. m. the next day. Both arms were broken and both legs, one leg in two places, and his skull was fractured. Oh, how he suffered! It was almost unbearable and heart-breaking. At another time in the month of May one of our daughters was killed, running off a bridge into a stream of water. She was dead when she was found. She left six children, the youngest one seven years old and the oldest one about sixteen. She was needed so much in the family but God knows best.

My wife and I are isolated. We ask the saints to stop in when possible. We will rejoice with you. Paul says to rejoice in the Lord, come what may. I had a very sincere mother, filled with God's love. How she prayed for her children! She is in glory and I hope to meet her there with Jesus our Redeemer and Saviour.

—Cornelius J. Unruh

Calif.—To all the dear saints scattered abroad, greetings:—I feel it would be to the glory of God for me to tell some of the things He has done for me.

A short time ago I was very sick for a few days. I could retain nothing on my stomach and became very weak. Then I took a pain in my side and suffered intensely for a few days. The devil said, "Now you are in for it. You are too sick to pray and there is no one to help you." But God knew my trust was in Him. I asked Him for strength to pray and for faith to trust Him. I just stood on the promises and rebuked the enemy. Praise God! He sent His healing power, and today I am every whit whole.

I thank God for the precious lessons that I learned during my sickness. One thing especially, I had asked God to help me get more under the burden with others

who needed help, and I know God answered my request that way. The question came to my mind, "If I had known that God would have answered that way, would I have made that request?" I said, "Yes, Lord, it's worth it." I am determined by God's grace and help to stand true to Him and trust Him to the end. Mrs. Nora Barker

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Perrysburg, Ohio,—Dear saints,—Greetings in Jesus' precious saving name. Truly He grows sweeter as the days and years go by.

We came out of sectism into this glorious evening light about nine years ago and have truly enjoyed the blessings of God ever since, and the way grows brighter and brighter unto that perfect day when we shall see our blessed Lord face to face. Father and mother, brothers and sisters have gone over there and we are sure they are waiting and looking for us, and by the grace and help of God we expect to see them some day. The cares and burdens of life press very heavy at times, but, thank God, He sees us through and gives us the peace that passeth understanding, praise His name forever!

We also wish to thank Him for healing our bodies and those of our dear loved ones.

Truly we are blessed in reading the wonderful articles and testimonies of our brethren in "Faith and Victory," and know that the name for this little paper was inspired of God; for when we are sorely burdened and receive the paper, truly God does give us faith and victory and lifts us up to new heights and we can sing praises to God. May God ever bless and keep the writers and printers of this little paper is our prayer. Pray for our needs.

We would be glad to receive letters from any of the saints who will write to us; and we will answer.

Earle and Anna Yantis, R. 3, Perrysburg, Ohio.

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Tulsa, Okla.—To all the saints scattered abroad,—We are still living for our dear Saviour and decided to go all the way. Sometimes the devil would crush us out, but the Bible says let no man take your crown; so we are pleased to wear our own crowns of thorns, for we know we shall trade them for starry crowns at the end. Pray for us to stay in the heated furnace till we shall come forth as gold.

I have wanted to tell you how wonderfully the Lord took care of the campmeeting at Monark Springs, Mo. All expenses were met and some left over to care for the year-around expenses. God answers before we ask. Truly He is one of the most wonderful friends I have ever met. He means more to me than my daily food.

Remember the dear saints of Tulsa. Sister Parker has been a shut-in for over two years. Let us give her a shower of letters for the Christmas holidays. Her address is Jane Parker, 1013 East Queen, Tulsa, Okla.

Remember us in prayer, as we are not well.

—The Sam Bartons

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Calif.—Dear readers of "Faith and Victory,"—I greet you all with a testimony of the saving grace of our God. Salvation is the sweetest thing that mortal ever knew.

God is still my "refuge and strength," Psalm 46:1. Please read Psalm 46:1-5 inclusive.

He cares for me so graciously night and day. I am alone most of the time, yet not alone. I am so very conscious of His precious presence with me. The Holy Spirit guides me in the truth from day to day. I love to serve the dear love giver who set the example, Matt. 20:28, and by so doing I acknowledge Him, Prov. 3:6. He does direct

my way and keep me walking—1 John 1:7. While walking thus, I have the fellowship of the Holy Spirit with all those who are walking in the Light, and by the faith of God, I am conscious the Blood cleanseth. Praise His holy name!

When God brings me to your memory, pray that I continue to walk in the light, always keeping an eye single to the glory of God (Matt. 6:22) and by so doing keep in the full light.

At this writing, Dec. 12th, I am 87 yrs. and 9 months of age, praising God for reasonably good health, good eyesight, and good hearing. My healer all the time if I get sick, is the Lord. Sadie E. Harmon, 334½ W. Arden Ave. Glendale 3, Calif.

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Oklahoma.—Dear saints scattered abroad,—Greetings in our Saviour's dear name,—Praise His holy name forever. I want to thank all the saints everywhere who remembered me in prayer. My baby came Oct. 19th and both of us are doing fine. The Lord helped me through in spite of the fact that my physical condition was bad. I dedicated my daughter to the Lord and want to raise her according to His will. I want her to grow up and be a Christian girl.

Oh, there are so few Christians today, only because there are not true Christian mothers. My prayers go up for the lost mothers. America needs more old-fashioned, bread-baking, home-staying mothers. A judge once told a grand jury that if the American women would spend more time at home with their boys and girls there would not be so many young girls on the road to maternity while yet single and not so many boys vomiting their way out the back door of saloons. Of course it is hard for some mothers to save their children because they are handicapped by the open indifference and willful opposition of ungodly Christ-rejecting husbands, yet some mothers are too busy with committees and parties in their denomination to live with their children. No wonder the world is so full of hate.

I thank God for my Christian mother and I want my girls to say the same about me. Pray for me and my husband, that we will do all in our power to bring our children up right. My husband is not saved but keep praying that God will save him.

God bless each of you there and everywhere.

With Christian love, Mrs. Robert Fleshman

o-o-o-o-o-o

Calif.—Dear ones in Christ Jesus our Lord,—I feel impressed to write a few lines regarding our prayer day here in Pomona, Calif. Some months ago we felt it would please the Lord for us to set aside Wed. of each week and come together in fasting and prayer, and the Lord has met us in a precious and a marvelous way ever since the first blessed day.

The saints start gathering into our little chapel soon after nine o'clock a. m. and we truly sit together in heavenly places, singing the beautiful songs of Zion, reading the precious Word, praying the prayer of faith, fellowshiping together and encouraging each other's heart and life until about 1 p. m., at which time a car is sent out to bring in the aged saints, also some Mexican sisters and brother who meet with us nearly every Wednesday. The good Lord is faithful each time with His blessings. Oh, how sweetly the blessed Lord has been working among us! He healed one of these dear Mexican sisters of a bad tumor the first time she was prayed for. Bless His dear name! She was to be operated on the next day, but

when the same doctor examined her the day after she was prayed for, he said all she needed was a light diet. Praise the good Lord forever! He doesn't need anything but the prayer of faith to do the work. Then after a few weeks she came back with hay fever and after the blessed prayer of faith our precious Lord healed that too. Her brother came down from the north so weak and sick he could hardly stand or walk, and after prayer he stretched his hands above his head and said, "I feel good!" He has been in good health ever since. Praise our dear Saviour forever!

Oh! how sweet the way that leads ever gently upward and on to glory! It truly grows sweeter, fresher, and brighter each day and becomes more priceless to the blessed ones who possess it. Glory be to God!

He has also been faithful to many others here by bestowing on them His wonderful healing touch. From reports we have received, He is blessing in other places as well, on our prayer day. Oh, how faithful we should be to our precious living merciful God who is faithful to bless and honor us with His presence and healing and saving virtue when we lay aside a few mouths full of temporal food and meet in his dear name! We truly should praise his blessed name day and night. We ask the prayers of the dear saints that our faith fail not, and that we all be just what the good Lord would have us to be. If you have prayer requests to send in, please send them to 750 So. Eleanor St., Pomona, Calif. in care of Bonnie Wells. May God's richest blessings rest upon his dear saints throughout the earth is our earnest prayer.

Bro. Wesley Trimble.

o-o-o-o-o-o

Mo.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints at the Lord's print shop, greetings in the precious name of Jesus,—It has been some time since we have sent in our testimony. We feel led to write about the meetings we have had in the past few months.

Bros. D. A. Gibson and Murphy Allen came down the first of September and held a week's meeting. We are much encouraged. Some said that they got a lot of light on things that they had not seen before. We tried to notify people whom we thought would be interested in the truth, about the meeting, but those that we thought would be most interested would not come because they were interested in sectism more than the truth. But now we can see as it says in Isaiah 60:2, "The darkness shall cover the earth and gross darkness the people."

Bro. Murphey Allen has been back three times since then for one night service each time. He has given out an appointment for the second Saturday night and Sunday of each month, if the Lord wills. Bro. D. A. Manze from West Plains came with Bro. Allen on one trip. We were surely glad to have him with us. Bro. and Sister Arthur Gentry and family from Senath, Mo. who have recently heard the truth, were up for the November service. They seem to be much encouraged.

If any of the saints are passing by and can stop and be with us in service, we shall be glad to have them. We ask all the saints to remember us in prayer.

With Christian love, The Atnip family, Shook, Mo.

o-o-o-o-o-o

Mo.—To the dear saints everywhere, greetings of holy love in Jesus' name,—Today finds me still on the winning side with victory in my soul. I have been much burdened for souls; not for sinners alone, but for the saints. There are too many Israelites among us today always murmuring and complaining. I have been studying how Moses

led the children of Israel out of Egypt's bondage. It makes me to see how people of today are following in the same path.

When God saves out of the bondage of sin, many people get along well till they come to a trial, or as it were, the Red Sea, then they look back and begin to murmur and long to go back into the bondage of sin again. When the children of Israel came to the Red Sea they said to Moses, "Why did you bring us out here to perish?"

But Moses said, "Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord."

Every time the children of Israel came to a trial they began to want to go back into bondage again. If one who has left all to follow Jesus looks back at the world he left behind and longs to return, he will lose the Lord. Read the account and see what happened to the Israelites. Dear saints, the same thing will happen to us if we murmur and complain. Let us not look back after the things we left behind, but look to Jesus who will always help us in every time of need.

As I was going through a severe trial it seemed I had gone just as far as I could. I was so burdened I did not know what to do. As I was praying, I said, "Oh, Lord, why—" But that was as far as I got. I heard those words, "Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord."

Then when I said, "Yes, Lord, I am just waiting on you. Everything is in your hands," oh! what a blessing it brought to my soul. And I saw why the trial came to me.

I thank the Lord for the trials and burdens he permits. They are only stepping stones to heaven. Each one will be a blessing if we just keep in His will. May God's blessings rest upon each one of his children.

Yours under the blood, Mrs. Cordelia Stroud

o-o-o-o-o-o

Louisiana—Dear saints of God,—I want to tell to the glory of God how He healed me of the dread disease, erysipelas. Praises be to our God!

On Monday the eighth of Nov. 1948, I became very ill. The saints with Sister Key came from Hammond and prayed. It seemed the fever left me, but I was still very sick. Tuesday the left leg broke out red, terribly red, and it hurt severely. I was determined to trust God and did not even care what it was. In the meantime several ladies here were good to me and were helping my girls with the work; but they kept insisting I get the doctor. Finally I promised them I would, to see what I had. I still believed I had diabetes, as I was unable to wear shoes and suffered with infected toes. When the doctor came and said what it was, they all thought surely I would be afraid and would take medicine—and they offered to pay for it. But I promised God I would trust Him no matter what I had. They said I would lie here and die; but thanks be to God, I'm different. Saints came several times; and today, a week after I took this disease, it is healing. I hope to walk in a few days. I am so happy, I had to testify through the paper. Now I am trusting in God to be healed completely so I can attend the fall assembly meeting at Hammond, which starts on the 26th.

The people of the town are hurt and will not come to help me now because I wanted to trust God. But my girls, ages 10, 12, and 13 years, are doing my work; so God really helps widows. I am so glad He gave me this trial so I could prove true to Him. All you saints pray for me when you read this, that I stay real close to God and be able in some way to help this town. Praise be to our God forever and ever. Amen. Ruby Quave.

OH, LORD, PLEASE HELP ME TO KEEP MY NOSE OUT OF OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS.

—Amen.

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THE WORLD IN WHICH JESUS LIVED

Sunday, January 2, 1949

Printed PortionGal. 4:4a; Luke 2:1-7; Matthew 22:15, 16, 23a.

Gal. 4:4a. But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son.

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.

Matt. 22:15. Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk.

16. And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men.

23a. The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say there is no resurrection.

Memory Verse: When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son. Gal. 4:4a.

Practical Truth: We can always count on God to do what He has promised.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The Scriptures for today's lesson were chosen to help acquaint us with political and religious conditions in the world when Christ came. By reading the Scriptures we learn that God had plans by which he worked to bring about that which pleased him and glorified his great name.

He had promised a Saviour to redeem a world which had sunk in sin and shame. Men had long waited and expected the fulfillment of that promise and some may wonder why God waited so long. The verse in Gal. explains it, "When the fulness of the time was come," God sent His Son with the greatest task that anyone ever undertook. This Scripture teaches us that the time was not ripe for the coming of Christ until He came. Other Old Testament Scriptures had to be fulfilled, and it thrills the hearts of believers to see how they were fulfilled in every detail. No doubt many were scoffing then concerning his first coming as people are today concerning his second coming, saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?" But God is not slack concerning His promises as some men count slackness.

The passages from Matthew were chosen to show the condition of the religious world when Christ came. They were divided up into sects with different creeds and beliefs even as they are now.

In one sense of the word, the world in which we live now is the same in which Jesus lived. The habits of the people have changed, but the nature of people in our day is quite the same as it was then when God sent his Son to seek and to save that which was lost. For all had sinned and come short of the glory of God. When Christ came into the world, it was in gross darkness as it is today. Light is in the world now, but men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil and will not come to the light, hence the gross darkness.

When Christ came, the people were sadly in need of a Redeemer and the only way He could be a redeemer was to come according to God's plan, born of a woman. Thus we have the wonderful event recorded in the 2nd chapter of Luke. Notice here how everything worked out exactly according to God's plan. In Heb. 2:17 we read these beautiful words, "Wherefore in all things it behooved Him to be made like unto his brethren that he might be a merciful High Priest in all things pertaining to God to make reconciliation for the sins of the people."

SOURCES OF OUR KNOWLEDGE

Sunday, January 9, 1949

Printed Portion Luke 1:1-4; John 20:30, 31; 21:25; 1 Cor. 15:3-5; 1 John 1:1-4.

Luke 1:1. Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

2. Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word;

3. It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,

4. That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.

John 20:30. And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

31. But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

21:25. And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they would be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

1 Cor. 15:3. For I delivered unto you first of all that

which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

4. And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures;

5. And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve. 1 John 1:1. That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

2. (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

3. That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

4. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

Memory Verse: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this ministry among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you the hope of glory.

Practical Truth: By the knowledge of Jesus we gain through the Bible, and by admitting it into our hearts and lives, He becomes our personal Saviour.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

When we think of the knowledge we have of Jesus, our minds go to John 5:39, which reads, "Search the Scriptures: for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." And then going back to the beginning, after our foreparents had sinned and lost out with God and God in pity for them promised a Redeemer, He said that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head. Thus the Redeemer was ised. Again we read in Gen. 49:10, "The sceptre shall depart from Juda nor a law giver from between his feet until Shiloh (Jesus) come. And unto Him shall the gathering of the people be." The Bible is our source of information by which we have knowledge of Jesus Christ.

History gives some account of the coming of Jesus and material changes at that time and since then, but our souls would be poor and miserable indeed if we had to depend upon that as our source of knowledge. History makes known only the outward man, but what we need to see is "God manifest in the flesh." Truly, the world by wisdom knows not God.

The Bible would be a worthless piece of literature if there were no Saviour mentioned in it. These Scriptures mentioned in our lesson today are just a few of the many, many Scriptures in the precious old Book that give us knowledge of Jesus. After we have made a careful study of the Bible and we are convinced that Jesus is the Christ, the anointed One of God to be our Saviour and Redeemer, and we accept Him as our personal Saviour, then Jesus manifests Himself to us or makes Himself known to us. (John 14:21).

After Paul (Saul) was so wonderfully converted, we hear him say, "Wherefore the law was our school master to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith is come we are no longer under a school master, for ye are the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ." Gal. 3:24-26.

Through the Bible we have knowledge of Jesus, and we learn that He lived and died and He lives again that we might die and live. We are made alive unto God by believing the gospel, and Jesus said, "He that liveth and believeth in me shall never die," St. John 13:14. Without

the Bible we would be in heathen darkness and without hope.

THE BOYHOOD AND YOUTH OF JESUS

Sunday, January 16, 1949

Printed Portion Luke 2:39-52; Mark 6:3ab.

Luke 2:39. And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

40. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

41. Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.

42. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

43. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem: and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.

44. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.

45. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

46. And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

47. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

48. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

49. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

50. And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

51. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

52. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Mark 6:3. Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us?

Memory Verse: And the child grew and waxed strong in spirit filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him. Luke 2:40.

Practical Truth: We cannot be Jesus, but we can let him live in us, then we shall be like him.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

After the birth of Jesus and the visit of the shepherds and the wise men from the east, the Lord warned Joseph to take the young child and his mother and flee into Egypt and stay there till he brought him word. Because of jealousy in his heart, Herod planned to destroy Jesus. There seems to be nothing in the Bible about their stay in Egypt only that they were there till the death of Herod, then God brought Joseph word that the one who sought to destroy the baby Jesus was dead and that he should return to the land of Israel. God foreknew all this, for He said, "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet" (Hosea 11:1) "Out of Egypt have I called

my Son." When Joseph returned to the land of Israel he learned that Archelaus, Herod's son, reigned instead of his father so he was afraid to go farther and he turned aside and dwelt in the city of Nazareth. This also was a fulfillment of prophecy in the 2nd chapter of Matthew.

The next we hear of Jesus was when he was twelve years old. He went with Joseph and Mary, his mother, to Jerusalem to the feast. When they started their homeward journey Jesus tarried behind. They did not miss him until they had traveled a whole day, then when they looked for him and failed to find him, they returned to Jerusalem where they sought for him three days before they found him. What a surprise it was for them when they found the twelve-year-old son sitting with the doctors listening to them and asking them questions. When his mother reprimanded him he answered her with a question. Why did you seek me, did not you not know that I must be about my Father's business? The answer was too deep for Mary and Joseph, but no doubt there came to Mary's mind other strange things concerning her child, which she had "pondered in her heart."

Jesus was obedient and went with his parents to Nazareth and was subject to them. Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man. The next we read of him he was about thirty years old and came to John the Baptist to be baptized of him in Jordan.

JESUS AND THE PREPARATORY MINISTRY OF JOHN

Sunday, January 23, 1949

Printed Portion Matthew 3:4-17.

Matt. 3:4. And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

5. Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judea, and all the region round about Jordan,

6. And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

7. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

8. Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

9. And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

10. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

11. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.

12. Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

13. Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

14. But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

15. And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

16. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened

unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

17. And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Memory Verse: Behold, I will send my messenger and he shall prepare the way before me.

Practical Truth: It pays to be true to our calling even though it costs us our head.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

God, through his prophet Malachi, foretold the coming of John the Baptist and told what his mission would be. He was to prepare the people for the coming of the Saviour. God said he would send him to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers lest he should come and smite the earth with a curse. John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Ghost from the day of his birth, and he lived in the wilderness until the day of his appearing before the people. His food consisted of locusts and wild honey. When he appeared on the scene, according to the first verses of the 3rd chapter of Matthew, we read, "In those days came John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness of Judaea and saying, Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." He came as the Voice of one crying in the wilderness, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." His preaching caused the fear of God to come upon the people and they repented and were baptized and were ready to accept Christ when he came.

John the Baptist was a fearless preacher and he had good discernment, for when many of the Pharisees and Sadducees came to be baptized he told them they were a generation of vipers. He demanded them to bring forth fruit meet for repentance.

John felt that he was unworthy to baptize Jesus and drew back from doing it until Jesus persuaded him that it was necessary in order to fulfill all righteousness.

John finished his ministry by declaring to Herod that it was not lawful for him to have his brother's wife, and later Herod had John beheaded in prison, and so ended the life on earth of one of the greatest prophets that was ever on earth.

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

Sunday, January 30, 1949

Printed Portion Luke 4:1-13.

Luke 4:1. And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

2. Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.

3. And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.

4. And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

5. And the devil, taking him up into a high mountain, showed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

6. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will, I give it.

7. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

8. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee

behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

9. And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence:

10. For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee:

11. And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

12. And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

13. And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

Memory Verse: Jesus said unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me and to finish his work. St. John 4:34.

Practical Truth: Jesus will give his followers power to overcome the tempter even as he overcame.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

When we think of the temptation of Jesus we are likely to associate it with his experience in the wilderness when he fasted forty days. But I am persuaded that his temptation lasted as long as he was in his fleshly body. Jesus had the power to do all that the devil asked him to do. It would have been a little thing for him to have turned a stone into bread, but he flatly refused to do it at the devil's suggestion. He could have leaped from the pinnacle of the temple without harm to himself, but he refused to do so at the suggestion of the devil. Jesus could have become king and ruler of this whole world, for the people tried to take him by force and make him king (St. John 6:15). Jesus at that time was a king and he is still a king, but He said, "My kingdom is not of this world. Jesus defeated Satan in every attempt he made to upset God's plan for the salvation of a lost world.

In the last few days of Jesus' life on earth, just before he was crucified, when the blood-thirsty mob found him in the garden, he said, "I could now ask my Father and he would send me more than twelve legion of angels." This was a real temptation, but he said, "How then should the scriptures be fulfilled?" Jesus came to this sinful world to do the will of the Father and to finish the work God gave him to do, and no temptation was strong enough to turn him from that which he determined to do in fulfilling his Father's will.

Our loving Lord's bitter enemies mocked him when he was dying on the cross and told him that if he were the Son of God to come down from the cross and they would believe. Jesus could have come down from the cross but he knew that was not his Father's will. For God so loved the world that he gave His Son to make the supreme sacrifice. Jesus came to this world to die for sinners, and just before his breath left him, he cried, "It is finished."

Let us study the temptations of Jesus for our souls' profit. All who receive Jesus, to them he gives power to become the sons of God. Many become children of God, but when Satan comes to tempt them they yield to some of his temptations and lose out with God. From observation it would seem that more yield when he tempts them as he tempted Jesus the second time than any other way. Satan has more sense than to offer most common people the kingdoms of the world, but he offers them small portions of them, such as, a good job, honor and praise of men, etc.