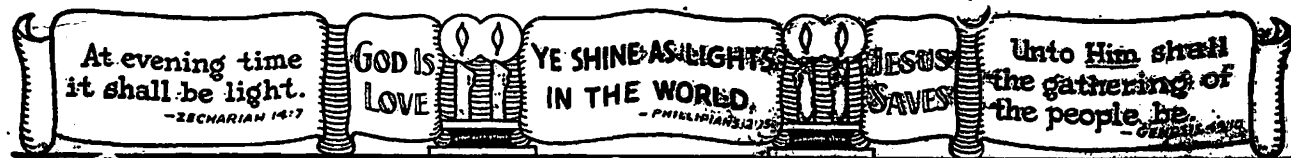


FAITH AND VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



Volume 20, No. 5

Published at

Guthrie, Oklahoma

25c Per Year

February, 1950

Truth

If truth shall be the standard while in the earth we stay,
If we endure the different things we find along life's way,
Our earnest search for more of God will lighten every
load,
And blessed will our travels be upon this heavenly road.

Truth helps our faith to so increase that each day as we
stand,
We have no fear, though fast they come, these tests from
Satan's hand.
Our God has said, I am the way, so let us look to him
To help us while we watch and pray to him and triumph
over sin.

Truth keeps our lives so bright and clear that every day
and hour
The understanding that he gives shows forth his mighty
power.
Our walk while here in this time world will never be dis-
turbed,
If we keep trusting, loving him, keep listening to his word.

Truth shows the straitness of the way to every honest
heart,
The fear of God within our souls forbids from truth de-
part.
Our comfort that our trust in him who is to us so dear
Continues still to weave through us a truth that has no
fear.
—Cozetta Tomlin.

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The New Birth

The new birth is an experience that every child
of God has passed through; and one through which
every one must pass to become a Christian. There is
no other method that has been given by the Father
of light. Jesus said, "Ye must be born again," and
this applies to all who would enter the sweet haven of
rest. The new birth is that experience that brings us
into the new life. The old life has been cast off and

forsaken, and the new life in Christ Jesus has been
put on. Paul expressed it in these words: "Therefore
if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old
things are passed away; behold, all things are become
new." 2 Cor. 5:17. The fleshly and carnal desires
that filled the heart and mind by reason of the natural
birth, have passed away; and because the new birth
is a spiritual operation, it creates within the heart a
longing for spiritual things. So the Word of God
exhorts, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those
things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the
right hand of God. Set your affections on things
above, not on things on the earth, for ye are dead, and
your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ,
who is our life shall appear, then shall ye also appear
with him in glory." Col. 3:1-4. One who is born of
the Spirit has experienced the passing of the old life
and witnessed the dawning of the new. Christ is the
new life. So instead of filling the desires of the old
life, one longs and seeks to do the things that pleases
Christ. They are of those who walk in newness of
life, and follow in the footsteps of their blessed Lord,
because they have been translated by faith from the
kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God.

Peter says, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were
not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and
gold, from your vain conversation received by tradi-
tion from your fathers; but with the precious blood
of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without
spot: . . . Being born again, not of corruptible seed,
but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth
and abideth forever." 1 Pet. 1:18, 19, 23. The new
birth transaction separates one from the world; being
yet in the world, they are not of the world. We read
in 1 John 5:4, "Whatsoever is born of God overcometh
the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the
world, even our faith." Not overcome by the world,
but overcometh the world and its sinful habits and
practices, hatefulness, malice, guile, drinking, smok-
ing, joking, deceitfulness, and such like things. Oh,
how sad it is to behold so many who profess to be
children of God, being overcome by the world and
its follies. Some one has missed the mark. Some
one is deceived.

There is a vast difference between one who is born again, and all who are of the world. "Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God, and him that serveth him not." Mal. 3:18.

Dear reader, if you do not have a born-again experience, your name is not in the Lamb's book of Life, regardless of the fact that it is written on some church register here in this world, it is not written in heaven. "Ye must be born again," born from above. —Ulysses Phillips

"Jesus"

The word Joshua, translated from the Hebrew, is the same as Jesus, translated from the Greek. So "Joshua" and "Jesus" mean the same. This explains the apparent queeriness of Acts 7:45 and Hebrews 4:8 in the Authorized Version.

The word Jesus has a wonderful meaning. It is the combination of two words, one meaning **Jehovah** and the other meaning **Saviour**, as in Judges 2:9, 15 and Isaiah 19:20. So, both Joshua and Jesus mean "**Jehovah is Saviour**." It was the name given our Lord, the Messiah, because it was He, Jehovah, who would save the people from their sin.—Biblical Research Monthly.

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Salvation Without Money

The salvation of God is freely given to all men, for Christ our Lord is the free gift that God the Father has given for our souls. We find in Ezekiel 18:4, these words, "Behold, all souls are mine; . . . the soul that sinneth, it shall die." According to this Scripture, all souls, whether they profess Christ or not, that sin are dead in trespasses and sins and are separated from the true God, and are in need of this free salvation which God has prepared before the face of all people. Titus 2:11.

Isaiah, the gospel prophet, declares in 55:1, that these good things for the soul can be bought without money and without price. In the 3rd verse he says, "Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear and your soul shall live." This harmonizes with the words of Jesus in Matt. 11:28, which reads, "Come unto me, all ye that labor [in your own strength, trying to live free from sin and cannot], 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."

Prov 23:26, "My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways." The first thing to do is to give the Lord your heart. He gave himself for you and now you in turn must give your heart and life to him that he might possess you and you possess him. Jesus says the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant man seeking for goodly pearls, and when he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys the Pearl of great price. Jesus is the Pearl of great price. By selling out and surrendering yourself wholly to God, you can possess him, who is indeed the richest and rarest treasure that any human can possess. This pearl will gladden

all your days upon the earth and bring you into the glory world in the end. The taste of this Pearl will be sweet in your soul; the seeing of him will delight the inner man beyond words to tell; the hearing of his voice will start the cords of love vibrating and reaching out for more of his words; to feel of him will start the joy bells ringing in the soul; and to smell him will bring comfort and solace to the soul now and a longing for the redemption of the body so this mortal will be swallowed up of life eternal. O, glory to God for this rich and eternal Pearl of great price. It cost him his precious blood on the cross to purchase salvation for us. Thus the cost is too great to comprehend, for our souls were not purchased with corruptible things, such as silver and gold, but by the precious blood of Jesus who was as a lamb slain, having no spot or blemish, and thereby brought to us a perfect salvation.

Harken to the words of Isaiah, known as the Gospel Prophet (1:16), "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil. Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land; but if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." The sword is the word of God, which is the sword of the Spirit. Eph. 6:17.

Hear more of the word of God from Ezekiel 18:21, "But if the wicked will turn from his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live [with God] he shall not die [with Satan]. All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done, he shall live"—shall live in eternity with God. Isa. 55:6, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near." When you realize you are lost, he is near then. "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, for my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord."

Hear what he says in the first two verses of the 59th chapter, "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save: neither is his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities [yours] have separated between you and your God, and your sins [yours] have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."

Let us now read in Proverbs 28:13 to learn how to find mercy and get forgiveness of sins, "He that covereth his sins [will not confess them] shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." This scripture is verified in 1 Jno. 1:9, which reads thus, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Dear sinner friend, let us humble our hearts before God, confess our sins to him, receive pardon at his hand and live, have life from above in our souls, so we can live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world and meet him and our loved ones in glory.

—Fred Pruitt.

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A Meditation

"Have faith in God." Mark 11:22.

A few selected Scriptures on Faith for meditation.

How important is it that time be spent in meditation of faith? Without faith it is impossible to please God Heb. 11:6. And whatsoever is not of faith is sin. Rom. 14:23.

What is faith? Heb. 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." The dictionary says, "a belief, the assent of the mind to divine revelation; unshaken adherence, fidelity."

What is God's plan to obtain faith? Rom. 10:13-17, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." Eph. 2:8, 9, "The gift of God."

Is it possible to increase faith? 2 Tim. 1:3; Luke 17:5, 6 as the use of muscle gains more muscle.

Is it possible to be full of faith? Acts 6:5, 8; 11:24; 2 Cor. 10:15.

May our hearts be purified by faith? Acts 15:9.

What are some of the manifestations of faith? Heb. 11:3, "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God." Meditate on the whole 11th chapter and 12:1, 2.

Salvation is obtained by faith. Eph. 2:8, 9; 1 Pet. 1:5; Rom. 3:23-28.

Eph. 3:17, Christ dwells in the heart by faith.

Acts 3:16, Healing is by faith. Meditate on chapter 3.

Matt. 15:21-28, Great faith is commended, Matt. 8:10; Luke 7:9.

Matt. 14:22-33 (especially verse 31) Jesus speaks of little faith. Matt. 16:6-12 (especially verse 8).

Luke 22:32, Prayer will keep faith from failing.

Do the just live by faith? Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11.

Is it possible to have no faith? Deut. 32:20; Mark 4:20; Luke 18:8; 2 Thess. 3:2.

Is it possible to depart from the faith? 1 Tim. 4:1 and Judas fell, Acts 1:25; very serious.

Here are a few references: Rom. 4:5, 13, 19, 16, 20; 5:1, 2; 9:30, 32; 12:3; 1 Cor. 13:13; 16:13; Gal. 2:16, 20; 5:22; 6:10; Eph. 1:15; 4:5, 13; 6:16, 23; Phil. 1:25, 27; 3:9; Col. 1:4, 23; 2:5, 7; 1 Thess. 1:3; 3:2; 5:8; 1 Tim. 1:4, 5, 14, 19; 2:15; 4:6, 12; 5:8, 12; 6:10-12, 21; 2 Tim. 2:22; 3:10; 4:7; Tit. 1:1, 4, 13; 2:2; Ph'm. 5:6; Heb. 4:2; 10:22, 23; 12:2; 13:7; Jas. 1:3, 6; 2:1, 5, 14-26; 1 Pet. 1:5-9, 21; 5:9; 2 Pet. 1:1-11; 1 John 5:4; Jude 3:20; Rev. 2:13, 19; 14:12.

"In the mighty name of Jesus,

Ever lift up the shield of faith;

Wield the sword of truth, my brother,
Heav'n will crown thy fight of faith."

—Selected

The New Song Book

The Lord has so blessed that we have the new song book entitled, "Evening Light Songs" completed. By the time this paper gets in circulation we will have sent out all the books that have been ordered.

If there is any one who has failed to get their book or books which you have ordered, please let us know, giving us the correct street numbers and address in full. We have tried to be very careful to fill every order, but mistakes will be made sometimes.

This song book contains 480 pages with shaped notes. The songs are mostly selected from the book entitled, "Select Hymns." It is well made, cloth bound. Single copy, \$1.50 plus 15 cents for postage and wrapping. Orders of 12 or more books will be sent post paid. Order from, Faith Pub House, 920 W. Mansur Ave.

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Going Through With Jesus

I'm going thru with Jesus
What ever may befall;
Dangers will surround me
Since I've given Christ my all.

I'll follow Jesus all the way,
I'll go where he says go;
He leads me by still waters
Where heavenly breezes blow.

I know the enemy will assail
And try to hinder me;
But when he sees the shield of faith,
I know he'll quickly flee.

"Be thou faithful unto death,"
In holy writ we see,
Then a shining crown of life
My Lord will give to me.

All the way I'll follow him,
As he leads me day by day;
Each day the way grows brighter,
In God's bright and holy way.

"My sheep," said the good Shepherd,
"Will always follow me;"
For Jesus said, "I know them,
They are always mine to be."

Jesus, our good Shepherd,
Is always kind and true:
His rich blessings, he hath said,
He will pour out unto you.

And when my journey's ended,
I'll lay my burden down,
And his unworthy servant,
He'll give a shining crown.

—George W. Stephenson.

"FAITH AND VICTORY" 16-Page Holiness Monthly

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

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

—SUBSCRIPTION PRICES—

Single copy, one year	\$.25
Single copy, five years	1.00
Five copies to any address, one year	1.00
Twelve copies to any address, one year	2.00

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

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

This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21 and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the same gospel which Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced; including the divine healing of the body. James 5:14, 15.

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 1479

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W. Va.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt,—Christian greetings in Jesus' dear name. I wrote you in July for prayer for my sister. She is much better but not well. I know it is in answer to prayer that she is here. I thank God for help and for all prayers.

I want you to pray for my healing, to get stronger and closer to God, stronger in faith. Please pray for God to send us a minister for a revival as we need it. We have one service a month, Bro. George Peek in charge.

A sister in Christ,

Maud Clifton.

Editorials

The days of this new year of 1950 are going by like unto the ticking of a clock. Soon the first month will be gone. Every day brings us nearer to that coveted goal of meeting the Lord in the glory world. John wrote: "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: . . . Beloved now are we the sons of God [born of his Spirit] and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him: [in a glorified state] for we shall see him as he is." Now listen—"And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." As the days of this new year come and go, let us not forget to yield to his will and to be exercised in a godly way when the chastening and purging of the Lord is upon us in trials and tests of life that we may in this way purify ourselves even as he is pure. Brethren, we who are possessors of Christ in our souls, who is the hope of glory, should keep on the whole armour of God that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil and exercise ourselves in a godly manner under all the fiery trials of life, thereby retaining the life of Christ in the soul, which is the seed that will cause us to be changed from a mortal to a glorified body in that great judgment day.

In the 6th chapter of Ephesians Paul plainly tells us what the "whole armour" consists of. Let us begin reading at the 10th verse, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." You notice he said to be strong in the Lord, not in our selves, but in the power of his might. Paul said in another place, "When I am weak, then am I strong." The devil has power to furnish you to be strong in yourself, and the stronger you are in yourself, the more he will puff you up. Let us be sure that our strength is from the Lord. The religious strength that comes from the devil will glory in making a big show in the flesh, doing great things, honoring others and receiving honor of men. Those who are thus strengthened do loud and strong law preaching, and love those who honor and love them, and often call themselves "the church of God." They do not hesitate to stoop low enough to surmise evil of the righteous and exaggerate on the faults of others until it becomes a lie in their mouth. If any of those things be found in us, let us yield to God for purging, and keep so dead to selfish interests until we can truly say "amen" to the Scripture which reads: "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." Phil. 2:13.

In Eph. 6:14-17, we read: (1st) "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth." Keep full of his truth and make truth your strength as the truth of his word is part of your armour. Love truth and abide in it. (2nd) "Having on the breastplate of righteousness." Face people with the righteousness of God in deed and act. Let your conversation be as cometh those professing godliness. Return good for evil. Keep in mind that all revenge belongs to God and that a soft answer turneth away wrath.

(3rd) "And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." Prepare to endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ and bear the persecutions with patience, which will make you able to travel over rough places, over thorny places, and stony ground, always saying from the heart, "Thy will be done." As much as lieth within you, live peaceably with all men. Sanctify the Lord God in your heart. (4th) "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." Keep your faith grounded and settled in God. The three Hebrew children held up the shield of faith when they told the King that they would not bow down and worship the image set up. They said, "Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us, but if not, let it be known unto thee, O King, that we will not serve thy gods nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." Job held up the shield of faith when he said, "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." The shield of faith could include every promise in the Bible; just hold them up against the devil and all of his accusers and when ye have done all, STAND.

(5th) "And take the helmet of salvation." A soldier's helmet is a steel hat, a covering and protection for his head. Keep your soul, body, and mind covered under the Blood, which preserves from all sin. We are taught in the word of God to, "Gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end."

(6th) "And the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." The Word of God is truly the sword of the Spirit. With it the works of the devil are destroyed, and his deceiving lies are uncovered. Jesus used the sword of the Spirit on the devil when tempted in the wilderness. The devil wanted him to turn stones into bread to prove that he was the Son of God, but the Lord said, "It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Then he offered him all the kingdoms of the world if he would fall down and worship him. But Jesus used the sword of the Spirit again and said, "Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." He then quoted Scripture to him and told him to cast himself down from the pinnacle of the temple, but Jesus answered, "It is said, thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." Any soul that will keep on the whole armor of God will be safe from all harm and danger and will be a conqueror over all the powers of evil.

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Sister Ruthe Byers, who has been a worker here in the "Lord's Print Shop" for more than a year, has returned to Shreveport, La. She has been a faithful servant in the Lord's work, and we all pray that God's blessings will be richly bestowed upon her in all of her new fields of labor.

Sister Lois Whipple of Forest City, Mo. has taken her place in the print shop and is adapting herself to the work nicely. She has had some experience in type setting, so has been operating the Intertype machine here. We are thankful to God for the office force, the young people that give their time and talent

to the Lord in this way. They will never lose their reward. In a work like this they have freedom to expand and grow in the Lord.

It is marvelous how God supplies good help for his printing work. We promise them no salary of any kind. They come trusting the Lord for all their needs, as they realize this is a faith work. As God supplies for the work, they are included as they become a part of the work. The tracts and papers are supplied free to all who are poor and not able to pay, and much more of them are sent out free than otherwise. It is blessed to serve the Lord in the beauty of holiness. The subscription price put on the "Faith and Victory" paper is so small that almost any one can spare the 25 cents per year, and thus we reach needy souls everywhere with the saving gospel of Christ.

We do not feel the Lord is pleased for us to continually be asking the readers for means, but talk to God alone about the matter. We do not feel that God will accept any money except it be given freely as unto the Lord. In fact, unless folks give freely as unto the Lord, we would rather they would not give, as I do not believe there would be any reward when they give from being urged to give. Giving is to the soul like breathing is to the body. It keeps life, but it must be freely done. Give because of love for God and needy souls.

MY HEART WAS MADE SAD

Last summer I went out to the cemetery here at Guthrie to look for Bro. and Sister George Winn's graves, better known among the saints as Father and Mother Winn. I went to the place where they were buried, but found no marker or head stone, and I was not certain which were their graves, so I had to get the keeper to locate them for me. As I meditated upon the matter, my heart was made sad to think that these two dear saints who had been pillars in the church for years should be thus treated. The Lord put it in my heart to do something about it. We asked the saints in the recent assembly meeting for a free-will offering to pay for a stone for their graves, and the offering was \$40.00. I have learned from the company here that handles tombstones that a suitable head stone to answer for both of them will cost \$148.00 properly placed at the head of the graves. We want to have these words engraved upon the stone: "They have fought a good fight, they have kept the faith." We expect to have a stone erected, and are now giving an opportunity to those who wish to help.

For we brought nothing in this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out (I Tim. 6:7).

REVIVAL NEEDED

We feel that the Lord would be pleased for us to have a real revival meeting here in the near future, and desire the saints to pray for it, also pray that God will send whatever ministerial help he pleases, and whenever he pleases. Anyone interested may contact us.—Bro. and Sis. O. B. Wilson, 4254½ Perlita Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

Obituaries

Purley Blanche, daughter of Richard J. and Mary Brassfield Peters, was born January 26, 1879 in Sullivan county Missouri, near Humphreys. She departed this life December 2, 1949 at the age of 70 years, 10 months and 6 days, at the home of her son Richard Scott near Milan.

On January 19, 1896 she was united in marriage to Roy Scott of Osgood. To this union were born six children, Richard E. of Milan, Mrs. Veda Savely of Chillicothe; Lonnie R. of Milan; Mrs. Neva Richey of Kirksville; Mrs. Bertha Michael of Milan and Mrs. Lula Pearl Head of Cora.

She leaves to mourn their loss, besides the children, two sisters, Mrs. Bertha Ralls of Osgood and Mrs. Odessa Waller of Emporia, Kansas; one brother, Robert Joel Peters of Osgood; fifteen grandchildren, two having preceded her in death; nieces, nephews, and a host of other friends.

She was converted at an early age in the Church of God and lived a devoted Christian life to the end. The last twenty years she had been an invalid, confined to her bed nearly all the time. She stood her afflictions with great patience and a Christian spirit to all who met her. She was a loving and devoted mother always considering others before herself. Our loss is heaven's gain.

Services were held at 1 p.m. at the Camp Ground Church, conducted by O. O. Hunsaker. Burial in Camp Ground Cemetery. —Sent in by Richard Scott.

Sis. Pearl Rice Hicks was born in Jackson, Tennessee December 6, 1880. She departed this life December 26, 1949 at home in Sandusky, Ohio.

She was united in holy matrimony to Joseph Hicks who preceded her in death eight years ago. Sister Hicks was a faithful sister. She had been ill for several months but was able to get about and be in service. She was in meeting the day before she passed. In her testimony she said if she never came back here again, don't doubt me. She will be missed by the saints and all who knew her. She was a friend to all.

Bereaved are: two sons, one daughter, two grand sons, two sisters, one brother and many other relatives and friends.

Funeral conducted by Henry Chaney. Text, Matt. 24:44, Heb. 9:27, II Cor. 5:10.

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Sister Anna Spears was born January 27, 1866 in McKinney, Texas, to Mr. and Mrs. S. Wilson. Here she spent her childhood days.

At an early age Sister Spears professed a hope in Christ and united with the C. M. E. Church.

She married at an early age to Harvey King and to this union two girls were born, Birdie and Mittie. This father died when Mittie was a small baby. Four years later she was married to Jake Spears. To this union seven children were born.

They lived at McKinney, Texas for several years. Later they decided to move to the Indian Territory. In 1902 they came to Boley and made their home.

Here she met the saints and embraced the faith of the Church of God. She gave untiring service until her health failed her. After getting too feeble to go she would ask the saints to come and sing and pray with her, which she enjoyed so much.

Very often she would ask her daughter, Mittie to sing for her and pray. Her favorite song was, "Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone." Every day near the end of her life she would sing, "When the Battle is over We shall wear a Crown."

Her husband, Jake Spears, three boys and girl preceded her in death.

She was a devoted wife, a loving mother and a friend to man.

She departed this life in the home of her daughter, Mittie Tolis, December 27, 1949 at the age of 83 years, 11 months.

She leaves to mourn their loss, five children, two daughters and three sons; thirty grandchildren, sixty great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral conducted by W. W. Crawley and others. Text, Revelation 14:12-13.

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STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT

The State Assembly meeting at Guthrie, Oklahoma has closed and is now a matter of history, but the influence and the good that was done will live on in the hearts and minds of many. The seed of Christ (his children) will be increased and multiplied as time moves on. In the 60th chapter of Isaiah, the 22nd verse we read, "A little one shall become a thousand and a small one a strong nation: I the Lord will hasten it in his time." The souls that were saved, the young ministers and others that were encouraged to be steadfast and unmovable will increase. Their life in Christ will beget life in others, thus in time "A little one will become a thousand," righteousness will be increased in the hearts of men.

Before the date set for the meeting to begin some of the saints began to arrive for the meeting, there was a steady increase until the building would hardly hold the crowd. The straight-forward preaching was with love and in the power of the Spirit to the extent that souls began to come to the altar of prayer. Many were saved, some sanctified, a good many testified that God had healed their bodies. On New Year's Eve much conviction was upon the unsaved in the building. The altar was full of seekers. When it seemed that the Lord was through and stillness settled down, some one spoke up, felt that some more singing and calling for sinners should be done. As this wish was carried out the altar was filled again with seekers. The meeting did not close until near midnight for soon after we arrived home the whistles began to blow telling us that the New Year of 1950 had been born.

There was a sweet heavenly spirit prevailing throughout the meeting as God chose and put his ministers in the pulpit. The devil was so weakened that he was afraid to show himself openly very much in the meeting. Outside of whispering around and trying to kill the influence of some of the Lord's anointed he did very little damage to the meeting.

Some who had been separated from the saints into some "Offbrand" movement were cleared up in the meeting. Others who had been but little with the saints received a lot of help and understanding which was hid from them before, thus the good work goes on. The gospel is still, "The power of God unto salvation to all that believe."

The Lord made the last night of the meeting very precious by the working power of his Spirit. The word went forth on the subject of giving yourself to the Lord forever as his servant or being sanctified. The Spirit touched many hearts and thirteen were at the altar, praying and seeking God. All testified to what God had done for them. It was a glorious ending up of the much blessed Assembly meeting. No doubt the Devil was mad

and stirred up his agents against the meeting but what could he do? for God had the meeting in hand and the glory filled the camp. We, the saints at Guthrie welcome all and others back to the Camp meeting in August.

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Characteristics of the Church of God BY WHICH IT IS DESIGNATED FROM SECTARIAN CHURCHES OR MAN ORGANIZED CHURCHES

By Edward E. Mitchener

The true Church of God, comprising all Christians, has, in its normal state, under its divine Head, certain essential characteristics which make it **EXCLUSIVELY** the CHURCH OF GOD—the whole, and not just a part. These might be expressed as follows:

(1) Possession of divine spiritual life. If the church does not possess this, she is not the church of God. She must know and possess the Spirit of God.

(2) She must possess a disposition to accept and obey **ALL** the Word of God and to let the Spirit have His way and rule in things that pertain to God's cause. This constitutes her safety in matters of doctrine and government.

(3) She must have a disposition to accept truth from whatever source it may come. This safeguards against dogmatism and a spirit of assuming infallibility and intolerance; against interpreting Christianity in the light of, or by the traditions of, man, or preconceived ideas **without scriptural foundation**.

(4) She must possess a disposition to acknowledge good wherever it is found and the placing of **NO** barrier that would exclude any who might be a Christian, even though they might not have a clear understanding of some of the teaching of God's Word. This makes salvation the only test of fellowship.

The disposition to accept **ALL** of God's Word will inevitably manifest itself in the willingness to discard and reject any and every thing that is **NOT** tolerated nor approved by the Word of God.

Therefore any religious body failing of any, or either, of these characteristics is **NOT** the body of Christ, the Church of God, but at the most is only a sect—a part cut off from the main body.

Now show me **ONE** of the multiplicity of man organized churches that accepts **ALL** of the Word of God; and show me **ONE** that does not **REJECT** some part of it. Then show me **ONE** fundamental doctrine in the New Testament that is **NOT** rejected among all the man organized churches, or by sectism. There is not **ONE** essential doctrine in the New Testament but what is discarded and rejected by sectism.

Sectism constitutes Babylon (spiritual Babylon) and God calls his people out of Babylon—Jeremiah 51:6 and Rev. 18:1-4. Why come out of Babylon? Because of her sins, Rev. 18:4, 5.

I wonder how any one, after hearing the doctrine of the Church of God taught, can contend that all the different so-called churches go to make up the Church of God, when God is calling his people out of them?

It is true that the Church of God is made up of **ALL** saved people even though they may be scattered among the many sectarian churches, but the organizations, the divisional spirit, the man-made rules and by-laws are foreign and antagonistic to God. They cause God's people to be divided and God is against division. "But," says someone, "there is division among those that are in the Church of God." I am ready to concede to that statement. There are some in the Church of God that are divided as individuals, but the Church of God as a whole, as a body, does not teach anything that is not sustained by the Word of God; therefore if some of its members become divided against one another, they are not required to be tried by some man rule, or discipline, but by the **Word of God**. Now point me to one sectarian, or man organized church that in case of division among its members does not require them to be tried by a set of rules that man, and not God, has made. The one may be holding to some purely Bible doctrine and the other holding to a doctrine of their church. Can they be tried by the Bible? The Church of God has no man rules to be tried by; but if it becomes necessary to have a church trial, the parties to be tried are tried by the Word of God. Then if one is found guilty of an offence and refuses to make his wrongs right, his name is not erased by man, but God is allowed to care for that. See Exodus 32:33.

My dear reader, God is against divisional churches. They are no part of the Church of God. God denounces them and calls his people out of them, which undoubtedly, is proof that God does not recognize them as a part of the Church of God; for if He so recognized them, He would not be calling his people out of them. Read Rev. 18:1-4 and notice who, or what is being referred to. It is Babylon. God says, "Come out of her, my people." Why does he call his people out of Babylon if the Church of God is composed of babylonian churches? God tells us why he calls his people out of Babylon. See Rev. 18:1-5. Surely no one can help knowing, nor deny, that the multiplicity of denominationalism constitutes division. And Paul advised us to mark them that cause division and **AVOID** them, Rom. 16:17, 18. The word "heresies" means sects or factions; an opinion or doctrine at variance with fundamental **TRUTHS**. Heresy is classed among the works of the flesh. Gal. 5:20.

There is not a single truth inside the New Testament that the Church of God is at variance with, but on the other hand, the Church of God accepts every fundamental truth taught in the New Testament. But point out **ONE** sect that is not at variance with some fundamental truth of the New Testament.

To say that the Church of God is composed of all the different religious bodies called churches is blasphemy. It casts reflection upon the infinite wisdom of God. If all these so-called churches are recognized by God as composing the Church of God, undoubtedly God in his wisdom would have given to each respective church a discipline suitable for, or to, its peculiar belief. Such teaching is a reflection upon the wisdom of God and an exhibition of the ignorance of those who teach such. If God had meant to tolerate or re-

cognize all those churches, Jesus never would have said, "Upon this rock I will build my church." But he would have said, "Upon this rock" (or upon these rocks) "I will build my churches." See Mat. 16:18, 19.

How can people, in the face of the solemn statement in Rev. 22:18, 19, endorse, or hold up for divisions? For to have a division it is absolutely necessary to either add or take from the Word of God else there could be no division.

Brethren, let us as the ministers of God, stand fixed on the Word of God without compromise, regardless of the results. If preaching the whole Word of God keeps some people from coming among us, it will only be the better, for God certainly does not want any one who is not willing to accept all the Word of God and live by it. Such would be a hindrance to the cause of God. Why anyone who upholds or endorses sectism will assume or accept a place of leadership among the saints of God—in the Church of God—is more than I can understand. It seems to me that I would JOIN some of those sects that believe that the Church of God is composed of all christendom instead of imposing myself upon those who do not endorse such. Such is nothing short of imposition.

The Church of God is exclusive: It excludes any and all religious man-organizations and man-rule. It is inclusive: It includes every saved person in the world, but not the SYSTEM of sectism. How beautiful is Zion, the Church of God. There is not enough beauty in the whole system of sectism to even beautify one little stone in the Church of God.

The Church of God is represented as a family. Now let us take the Jones family to represent the family (church) of God. We shall say that there are fifteen children born into the Jones family, and every one of them belong to the Jones family. But along comes someone and asks Johnnie if he has ever joined any family since he was born. Johnnie informs him that he has never joined any family and the gentleman tells him that he should belong to some family in order to have a home and to have family influence as a protection from the influence of immoral boys. Johnnie thinks it over and finally decides he would like the rules of Mr. Johnston's family, so he applies to become a member of the Johnston family. They tell him what their family discipline is and the Johnston family takes a vote and votes him into their family. Now he is a member of the Johnston family by virtue of a vote, but he is a member, still, of the Jones family by virtue of a birth. Though he is a member of the Jones family, the Johnston family constitutes NO part of the Jones family. Just so it is with regard to the Church of God. Any one who is born of God is a member of the family (church) of God, and though he may join some other family (church) yet he is a member of the Church of God. Joining the Johnston family did not render Johnnie not a member of the Jones family although it did not make the Johnston family any part of the Jones family, except Johnnie, and he did not really belong to the Johnston family. Now, do you suppose that Mr. Jones was pleased for Johnnie to join Mr. Johnston's family? Surely not; and I

fancy I hear Mr. Jones asking Johnnie to "Come out of the Johnston family and be separate from them." And if Johnnie refuses to come out after he has been told to, how it grieves the father's heart for him to bring such a reproach on his family. Probably Mr. Jones will disinherit Johnnie, thereby rendering him no longer a member of the Jones family.

God is calling those that have been born into his family (Church of God) and have joined other families (other churches) to come out of them. And if they refuse to obey after they have been shown the sin of division and how it disgraces the name of God's family, God will certainly disinherit them—blot their names out of the family record. Exodus 32:33.

Let us take another view of Johnnie Jones in regard to his becoming a member of the Johnston family. Johnnie was born into the Jones family, which made him a member of the Jones family. But he is young and does not know that he became a member of the Jones family when he was born. Mr. Johnston, seeing Johnnie is a desirable child, kidnaps him and keeps him in ignorance of the fact that he is a Jones, but teaches him that he is a Johnston. Johnnie wears the Johnston name, but he is not a legal member of the Johnston family, neither is any of the Johnston family a member of the Jones family. To be members of the Jones family, they would have to be born into it. Although the Johnstons may have kidnapped a great many others of the Jones family, and they may be called Johnstons, yet there is not one of them a legal member of the Johnston family. Neither is there one of the Johnston family a member of the Jones family who were not born into the Jones family.

Now the Church of God (family of God) is made up of those who have been born of God; and every one who has been born of God is a member of the Church of God (family of God) even though some sectarian has kidnapped some of God's children, yet they are members of God's church and are not really and rightly a member of the sect to which they have been joined by the kidnapper. There is not one member of a sect denomination who is a member of the Church of God (family of God) who have not been born of God.

One becomes a member of the Church of God, or family of God, by virtue of a spiritual birth—born again, John 3:1-7; Acts 2:47.

Sectism, man-organized churches, constitute a perfect state of imbroglio, and there is **nothing** more foreign to God and more emphatically condemned by the Word of God. Please renounce sectism and take a stand on the Word of God for the Church of God.

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THREE WITHOUTS

WITHOUT the shedding of blood is no remission.
Heb. 9:22.
WITHOUT faith it is imposible to please God. Heb.
11:6.
WITHOUT holiness no man shall see the Lord. Heb.
12:14.

A Great Deception

The definition of deception is: Act of deceiving; state of being deceived; fraud; double-dealing; etc. Much of this is being done among the worldly or sinful people in business dealings and otherwise. But the most dangerous and greatest deception that the devil invented to deceive people was sending out his preachers and teachers disguised or transformed into the apostles of Christ. "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." 2 Cor. 11:13, 14. "Therefore it is no great thing if his [Satan's] ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. Verse 15. To transform means to change the form of or to be changed in form.

We find this brought out plainer in 2 Tim. 3:1-8: Speaking of the last days when perilous times shall come, Paul said, "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy [carnality in the flesh], without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good [and boldly say, "None good, no not one."] traitors, heady [know-alls] highminded [adherents to so-called high society], lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; having a FORM of godliness but denying the power thereof; from such turn away. For of THIS SORT are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts. Ever learning [D. D., LL. D., PH. D., etc.] and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth [the Bible truth that makes men free from sin]. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth [preach against it, contending for the old man, carnal nature that is in them]; men of corrupt minds, [think evil things, especially toward the women], reprobate concerning the faith."

Now let us drop down to the 12th on to the 17th verses and hear what Paul said would be done: "Yea and all that will live godly [righteously and holy] in Christ Jesus SHALL suffer persecution. But evil men [holiness fighters] and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned, and hast been assured of, knowing that from a child [his mother taught him] thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction [telling how to live] in righteousness." For what purpose? That the man of God may be perfect, [not, can't be], thoroughly furnished unto ALL good works."

There are many more good scriptures which teach this same kind of pure holiness doctrine that false and deceived preachers hate, and turn away from, teaching for doctrine (They don't teach doctrine, but "for doctrine") the commandments of men (their church creed).

The first false teacher was the devil who crept snake-like into the confidence of Eve (he does that yet) and started his anti-holiness doctrine, by persuading Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit, causing her to disobey God's command and bring sin and death upon the whole human race. Satan was (is yet) a slick, seducing talker. He started the subject by saying; "Hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" He knew what God had said, but he asked Eve the question in a way that made it appear that he did not know—pretense. His ministers now will use the same ruse in trying to lead people to believe their no-harm, non-essential, fleshly, carnal-led, sin-you-must doctrine that deceives people who desire to be saved and causes them to be lost.

Like the serpent (Satan) false teachers will preach some truth in order to make people believe their lies. Oh, yes, they harp strongly on FAITH; "saved by grace through faith, not of works lest any man should boast;" put much emphasis on the new birth and the blood of Christ as a sacrifice for sin. Now all of this is Bible doctrine and will save any sinner that will believe and accept (act) it in accordance with all other essential doctrine found in God's Word, but they ignore and condemn sanctification and holiness for Christians in this life except in the inward man. The outer, fleshly, body man, they say, is sinful, full of sin and sins more or less every day; the heart is deceitful, and desperately wicked, who can know it—still they claim to have a change of heart, born again. The wicked heart is unregenerated.

I have two books written by two leading ministers, setting forth their church doctrine regarding sanctification. They say that Christians are not sanctified until, or in, death. That is, they are bound by the carnal sinful nature that is in them, to obey its bidding more or less until they die; then I suppose they think they will serve God in righteousness and holiness; but we are commanded to do that here all the days of our life, and not after death. I wonder if the saints at Corinth, with all that in every place, that Paul said were sanctified, were dead people?

I want to expose this dangerous deceptive doctrine of devils that is sealing the doom of millions of souls by converting them to their sin-in-the-flesh-until-death doctrine. They urge people to come as they are, just trust God, believe that Christ is their substitute. They take them into their church (denomination) by the right hand of fellowship and teach them they are safe forever throughout eternity—once in grace, always in grace. The truth is, all such believers are not in grace, but are in sin. You can believe a lie and be damned.

In Matt. 7:15 Christ said, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly [This is the inner man they claim is cleansed from sin] they are ravening wolves; ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so, every good tree bringeth forth GOOD FRUIT; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth EVIL FRUIT, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth GOOD FRUIT. Every tree that bringeth not forth GOOD

FRUIT is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their FRUITS ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied [PREACHED] in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matt. 7:15-23. Read the rest of this chapter. It is Christ talking, not I.

Dear eternity bound souls, may you take warning from God's word and not believe false prophets that come to you in sheep's clothing (church profession), but inwardly they are ravaging wolves. Read Matt. 7:15-27.

—C. S. Wyatt.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Okla.—Dear Saints in the Church of God,—Greetings. I wrote to you to pray for June, my daughter. You said you were praying and that you would request prayer in the Assembly meeting, and since that writing, she has not had another spasm. She would have had many in that time if she was not healed of them.

I am praising God that He is letting the signs follow them that believe his Word and do His Will.

Oh such rest and peace I have not enjoyed for thirty-six years. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Your sister in the one body, Saved and sanctified,
Rena Armstrong.

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Ind.—Greetings to all the dear saints scattered abroad,—I feel like it would be to God's glory to tell of the wonderful healings wrought by His hand to those that do not know about it. We feel like it might encourage the weak to utterly cast their care upon Jesus.

For the past three years I have been failing in health gradually, until up to three months before I was healed I could hardly go. Work which I usually liked to do became burdensome and at times I would get to the place I would have to lie down several times in one morning. When climbing steps I would be exhausted, my heart would pound until I would have to sit or lie a few minutes before going further. I didn't seem to have any definite pain but just weakness and lack of ambition. My appetite left me also. It just seemed when I tried to eat it would grow bigger and bigger in my mouth. I prayed and asked the saints to pray but for over two weeks I didn't feel any improvement.

About this time the Lord led me to go to Dayton, Ohio for Sunday meeting. I went only in the strength of my God. After the afternoon message, I could hardly stand and had around 80 miles to drive home.

I believe from that Sunday the saints here and there got under the burden for me. I soon regained my normal appetite and began to grow stronger in body, but the devil wasn't satisfied as I began to have an attack of sinus. For over two weeks I couldn't rest nights for miserable pain in my left ear, left side of my head and throat. In the day time I felt better, that is, able to do the housework, I'd feel I had gained victory but toward evening it would hurt worse.

Dear ones, I want to say I surely began to examine myself to see why I wasn't healed. When we open our

hearts for inspection and humble ourselves if there is any wrong we can find it. I saw where I had been expecting others to have faith to receive healing and would wonder why they didn't receive it, and here I couldn't grasp it myself. I had the saints lay hands on me and rebuke the unbelief on a Sunday night but still I suffered that same night. As I lay still and meditated upon His word I decided I would arise and stay before God until I did receive what He has promised to all that obey Him, Healing Divine!

I hadn't any more than knelt to pray until I felt virtue surge through my painful head and erase the misery. My head felt so clear and still does. I know it is a definite work. Praise his name! I feel better in body than I have for over two years. The sinus I have endured for years is gone so why shouldn't I give God the praise.

Our boy who has been afflicted with cerebral hemorrhages was very low during this same time when I was so weak. He had attacks night and day. At times his legs, feet, arms and hands would feel cold and clammy. I had him committed to God and felt whatever came would be to my good and his glory. One time when I was bathing him when he had an attack I could just feel the angels hovering over him and began shouting the praises of God. I felt like the whole bedroom was ablaze with the glory of God. He was spared and began to recover. Any of the saints could tell you it was none other than God that raised him up. On December 10, I went to him and said, "By faith you are going to walk to the bathroom." Praise our God, he did for the first time in over two months.

My heart is overwhelmed with gratitude toward God and every saint who prayed for us. Only God knows the sorrow of my heart toward this dear innocent boy who has been in bonds of affliction since birth nineteen years ago.

My faith has increased by leaps and bounds. I know through his grace I can go through anything to gain souls.

Be encouraged souls every where to put your trust in God who has never lost a battle. I've trusted him completely for thirteen years, no medicine, no rub-ons or remedies of any sort and have been healed of many infirmities besides these. When we come to Him by faith believing and obedient to His word He will hear and answer our prayers and heal.

Sis. Minnie Brown.

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La.—Bro. and Sis. Pruitt,—Holy Greetings to all. I am so glad I can say I am encouraged as never before to press on in this new year. The Lord has wonderfully blessed me in the past year through so many tests.

My eyes have been bad for a long time but in the past year they got where seems like all hope was gone for sight, but through all the faithful prayers that were requested I have victory. I can see pretty good which I praise the dear Lord for. I haven't had any treatment, just prayer. Felt like the dear Lord's way was the surest, and he would have all the glory. To all who have trouble with their eyes, hold on to the promise, his way is best.

Some time ago my niece's health became poor, she lost her mind. She was terribly vexed with that sickness. We requested prayer from you all and the Lord surely did help her. She is normal as ever. I am encouraged to ever live for him, for he is all we need in this life. A willing worker for the Lord, I am, Sidonia Benjamin.

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Ohio—Greetings to all the dear saints,—I have enjoyed reading the testimonies in the "Faith and Victory"

how God has been so good to his people. Truly it is wonderful what our God can do for us all if we put our trust in him. Thank God for the faithful few who are doing that.

I am a gospel worker, I really desire your prayers. About nineteen months ago I was taken ill, was on my bed for several weeks with leakage of the heart, low blood and other things. We called for the saints to come pray for us, they did. We received help and am able to be up and about and do some work for the Lord. We are so glad for this but we long to be made perfectly whole so that we might work more for him, who did so much for me and all mankind. There is still a weakness in my body. I tire so easily, in other words I don't have strength enough to do much. Will you dear saints all agree for my healing?

I was calling on a sick lady, a shut in. Please remember her also, she gave me my first "Faith and Victory." I certainly enjoyed reading it. I pray God will bless all you dear saints and supply your needs.

Please remember my husband, he needs a closer walk with God, also that he might find some work. He has not worked for three years and over. A sister in Christ, Virginia Greer.

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Wyo.—We live nine miles from Shawnee. One Sunday as we were coming home from afternoon services, a strong wind came up.

As we left the Superintendent at her house I felt as if I should have her pray for us. We had gone only about a mile, a ground blizzard had begun to whip up the old snow and fill the tracks, that were already partly filled. We began to pray harder and scoop. With great difficulty we would get the road cleared the length of the car. Finally the car would go no farther.

It looked as though we would freeze to death, but we were "walking by faith and not by sight." We put on all the mittens we could find, etc., a car blanket around Anna who was a baby and walked one half mile to a neighbors. Charlie carried Anna and I stayed with Charles. We couldn't walk as fast, or stay up with them, but we prayed. Charles began to cry when we were about half the distance. The enemy tried to discourage me when I noticed I was getting stiff on the north side of face and legs. (I had two pairs cotton stockings and underwear on too.) It was a terrible cold wind and blinding snow, but the Lord delivered us out of all our distresses. Pray for us. Sis. Reese

PRAYER REQUEST

Ala.—Dear Christian friends,—I believe in Divine Healing with all my heart and I know the Lord does heal. I have a coughing spell and trying to get something to come out of my throat every morning when I get out of bed. It is very annoying to me and anyone around me. I believe the Lord will heal me and take away all my troubles. I ask all the Christian people to pray for me that I will be healed. Yours in prayer, Mrs. C. L. McBride.

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Kans.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the Saints,—Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

As I sit and look out the window this morning there is ice and snow on the ground and the skies threaten more. I am very thankful this morning that I have food, clothing and shelter for myself and my family. I am caused to remember what Jesus said once, "the foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head," Matt. 8:20. People today don't seem to be thankful for anything. They go

about, striving against one another, trying to accumulate worldly goods when Jesus said, "Rather lay ye up treasures in heaven." Paul once told Timothy, "Having food and raiment let us be therewith content," and still professing Christians will lay up great stores of wealth to their own hurt.

A short time ago the Lord awakened me early in the morning to bring Psalms 23:1 to my mind. He showed me some things that were to me a good lesson. Since that time he has truly proved himself to be my Shepherd. For a long time I had needed a Bible and not long ago I was given a new one. I also received a new suit of clothes from the Saints not long ago. The Lord led me directly to my billfold that was lost, containing all the money we had and other papers a few days before Christmas in answer to prayer. I also received twenty-one dollars during the Christmas holidays from some of the Saints.

Just recently the Lord healed my wife of a number of afflictions which were rather serious, had bothered her for some time. Some of them she had borne all of her life that I have known her. I truly praise God for all these things and many more.

As I look back through the past year I see many victories gained, but I also see mistakes that I have made that grieved the dear Lord. I desire the prayers of the Saints that I might gain more victories this year with less mistakes. I also would like for you to pray that we might have a meeting here in Chetopa. It seems that this town is as wicked as Sodom and Gomorrah, with only a few souls concerned at all. We have not as yet completely won even one soul out of the town itself, but we are not discouraged.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the saints who helped buy my suit and gave me money since I do not know who some of them were. Do pray for me that I will always live where I can say the Lord is my Shepherd. Yours in Christian love, Bro. Ben Goldsberry.

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Kans.—Dear saints everywhere,—Holy greetings and love to each of you. This finds me yet saved and pressing my way to glory. Truly this is a pressing way. I can only say I love the Lord with all my heart.

I've been impressed to write my testimony for some time. I sought the dear Lord about it and at that time I had been anointed and prayed for, for an affliction that was on my body. The Lord made me to know to wait until I had overcome all temptation of the devil, then I could tell of his wonderful blessings to me.

When the ministers anointed me, laid on hands and prayed, I knew I was healed then because the Lord said I was. By his grace I held it, although the enemy came against me many a time to discourage, to make me give up but dear ones, I stood on the word of God. We know God cannot lie, we also know that the devil was a liar from the beginning.

I was anointed and prayed for in September, the devil tempted me three months, with the affliction. I said, "Lord I'm yours I know that you know best, if I'm tempted three more months, by thy grace I mean to stand and not doubt your word. I'll be like Job, Though you slay me, yet I'm going to trust you. Dear ones, when we commit the keeping of both soul and body unto the Lord, He surely will undertake.

About two weeks ago I was singing the song, No. 419, "I'm Healed," I had sung it many times before, through the test but this time as I sang the Lord just sent showers of blessings in my soul. I could sing it with great assurance. Oh, dear ones, I just felt like shouting

all over the room. To know the Lord had given me complete victory over the temptation of Satan.

I'm just truly praising the Lord for the wonderful lesson he taught me on healing. How to stand on his precious word, which can not fail.

We have a precious promise in St. Matthew 24:35 when he said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away." Dear ones, if the Lord speaks healing to our bodies or peace to our soul, there is no way for the devil to take it. After he says the work is done, it's done. It is up to us to not let the enemy cheat us out of it. Which he is going to try to do.

In James 1:12 it says, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation for when he is tried he shall receive the crown of life which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." It is a wonderful thought to know we can prove our love for the Saviour by enduring the temptation for him.

I am thankful to the Lord for the hardships as well as the blessings for we know through our suffering for the Lord there are great blessings. They keep us near the Lord, also help us to pray without ceasing.

The scripture in I Peter 4:1 says, "For as much as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind. For he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin." It is wonderful to know we have ceased from sin.

My husband and I have gone through many things during the year of 1949. They have proved a blessing in our lives, we feel that we are closer to the Lord than ever before. We have learned and are still learning to submit our ways unto his will, to say, "Yes, Lord thy will be done." We know by his faithful promises our labor for him is not in vain.

I'm very much persuaded that there is nothing that can separate me from the love of God. I need your prayers,
Nina M. Gordon.

o-o-o-o-o-o

La.—To all the dear Saints,—May God richly bless your precious souls is my humble prayer.

Since I came back from Guthrie I have felt such a deep seated love in my heart for all the dear children of God, a deeper love than I have ever had before. I felt like writing these few lines to each of you, knowing our time is so short on earth. I want to do all I can to keep the dear saints encouraged and to say words, if possible, to help them to see the cunning works of the Devil. May God help each of us to ever yield to the dear Lord no matter what our trial or temptation may be. May God in his mighty power keep us from that awful foe called sin.

No matter what form of sin the devil may tempt us on, oh, how needful it is that we, being delivered from its bondage, keep free and never be entangled therein again. The devil is so mean. If all could realize how deceitful he is and how he works in order to get dear saints to give way for just a few of the little things he calls no harm. It's true many times he succeeds in getting those that are so precious, those that are so pure and clean to take up just such a little at first. Little by little he ensnares the precious soul, that part of man and woman that will live on and on. Oh, dear ones, let us be watchful lest it be I or you. I do love the souls of men and women and oh I want everyone to escape a devil's hell.

We have but one life to live here in this world. We have but one heaven to gain or lose; there is just one hell to shun or go to. We have one, only one way to eternal bliss, that is the way of the Cross, the way of humility.

The way down will never mix. Dear ones we must keep separated from this vain world of sin and woe. If we would stay in the beautiful church of Jesus we cannot be like the world in any way. Oh, for souls that will stand by the cross.

It grieves my heart when we know of dear ones that have been washed in the blood of the lamb, have endured many hardships for the Lord, then just before they get to the end of life's journey they go down in despair. Oh, dear saints, let us endure unto the end. Jesus says, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Thank God! Some glad day if we have with all our hearts said yes to God and his way we can go where Jesus is, where all the redeemed will be. Praise the Lord, there'll be no sin, no devil, or trouble over there, but everything that's good.

Dear saints, it will cost something for us to get there. We must give up our ways, our thoughts, yea, we must lose our life if we should gain eternal life. It is worth while, the glory that shall be revealed in that day will repay us for all our sacrifice.

I thank the dear Lord for the good meeting at Guthrie and for all the dear children of God that attended, also for those that weren't saved that were there. We trust they gathered crumbs of truth that will bring fruit for God in their lives in days to come.

We remember so many of the saints put in requests for prayer. We have felt such a concern for you and your burdens. We trust God will grant you your desires according to his sweet will in due time.

We want you to know we love you all and we earnestly desire your prayers that we ever do the will of the Lord. We feel the need of your prayers. I am yours in the Lord,
Lottie Joiner.

Calif.—Dear friends of Faith Pub. House,—This morning I woke up and got up real early. I believe it was a little after 4 o'clock. I prayed as I worked, "Now dear Lord thou who hast so lovingly given me that sweet rest and sleep, protection and care, make it count and my blessings without number. Thank thee Lord for every blessing and opportunity, and use me now to do much for people just Thy way." As I was meditating the thought came to me that I had promised a lady one of those tracts called, "An Angel Visit". I took the box of tracts that I have and picked out some that I wanted to take along. I had given the woman two tracts and she said she liked tracts so I tried to find one of "An Angel Visit" in my purse, but didn't have any of them. I mentioned the name, she seemed to be interested so I want to go over and take her some, also give her a few to give to friends and relatives. She is not a strict Christian I believe from what she said about dances, but I believe she is hungry for something. I told her that dances were no good. She looked at me curiously and I told her that dances caused much trouble, all kinds of people mingling together, and getting acquainted, women and men dancing together often causes much jealousy sometimes for life.

Sincerely yours, Alvina Hons.

Ind.—It is for the glory of God and for the encouragement of suffering humanity that I write this testimony of the healing of our daughter, Lorene Hardy, in October 1943, at the age of eighteen years.

In September of 1943, she started to school in the State Teachers College at Normal, Illinois; had attended about four weeks when she suddenly became very ill. She was taken to the hospital. We were notified of her illness and went to her at once, praying and calling upon

God to help in this time of need. Upon arriving at the hospital on Saturday night, we found her in a critical condition. Her eyes were crossed, causing double vision. She had lost partial control of her legs, had a high fever, and could keep nothing on her stomach.

After an examination by a physician Sunday morning, he diagnosed her case as symptoms of encephalitis (sleeping sickness). Arrangements were being made for a consultation to tap her spine to determine the seriousness of her case.

Realizing the seriousness of her illness, and calling mightily upon God to undertake, we asked to take her home, and was at first refused. With our constant insisting we were finally granted permission to do so, under conditions that upon arriving home we would immediately notify a local physician, giving him the statement sent by the doctor of the hospital. We did this and were referred to the local State Health Doctor, but since he was out of town, we were unable to get him for several days.

Immediately at Lorene's request, we sent for J. R. Krost of St. Elmo, Illinois to pray for her, who came at once. In the meantime some of the neighboring saints came in to pray for her. Her condition remained critical. She was almost constantly delirious, and much of the time had to be held in bed from Monday until Friday when she showed signs of improvement.

It was through prayer of faith and steadfastly holding on to God that healing was granted to her. It was about six weeks before she had complete use of her legs, feet and hands. She was also delivered of a spinal disorder. Thank God, Lorene is well and strong today, January, 1950; completely healed of all symptoms, and has been able to hold an office position, teach school, and is now married.

To us it is a wonderful privilege to trust God for both soul and body. I find him able and willing to heal all who come to Him obeying His Word. Let us do as David tells us in Psalms 50:15, "Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me."

We have been trusting God for our whole family for twenty-two years and find that Jesus never fails. Praise His holy name.

W. M. Hardy.

Okla.—To all the saints scattered abroad,— I send greetings. I am glad I can say that I am yet saved and on my way to glory. Praise God forever. I am encouraged more than ever before to go all the way with Jesus. Praise his name! I have left all the world to follow Jesus.

I want to testify to the glory of God of the healing of my body. I was in a car accident on the seventh day of September, was very badly bruised and broken up. He came to my rescue. I was taken to a hospital, where He did what they could for me. God's power was great. I went to God for help in soul and body. He looked down upon me in tender mercy. He took me in, washed me in the blood of the Lamb, made me whiter than the snow. After the Lord saved my soul I wanted my body healed.

I measured my life to His Word, met all the conditions. He said to me, "If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ask what you will and it shall be done unto you." Praise God for victory. He told me that I was healed. He gave me more power in laying on hands in healing the sick and casting out unclean spirits.

Praise God for victory over the enemy. I am standing on his promises. A living witness for God. Praise His name! Your sister in Christ, Dora Love.

Mo.—Greetings to all the saints,— I am thanking and praising the Lord for his mercy and goodness to me and my family. Sometimes when I feel weak and discouraged I look up to a motto on the wall of my home that says, "Jesus Never Fails," then I realize it is I that is failing and I draw closer to Him. In one of his scriptures the word says draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to us.

Here are a few lines to the ones without Jesus:

You need not do without Him,
For He is passing by; Matt.20:30
He is waiting to be gracious,
Only waiting for your cry.

He is waiting to receive you—
To make you all his own. Hos. 11:8
Why will you do without Him,
And wander on alone?

You could not do without Him
If once He made you see, Rom. 7:24
The fetters that enchain you
Till He hath set you free; Rom. 6:22

If once you saw the fearful load
Of sin upon your soul—Ezek. 33:10
The hidden plague that ends in death
Unless He makes you whole. II Kings 5

Why should you do without Him?
It is not yet too late; Isa. 55:6-7
He has not closed the day of grace,
He has not shut the gate. II Cor. 6:2

He calls you! hush! He calls you!
He would not have you go Mark 10:49
Another step without Him,
Because He loves you so. Isa. 55:2-3.

Yours in Christ, Mrs. Audie Sorrell.

—oOo—

All Day Meeting on Fifth Sunday

The saints at Tulsa, Okla. invite others to attend their fifth-Sunday all-day meeting at 1401 N. Rosedale St.

— NOTICE —

We carry in stock boxes of "Everyday Assortment" folders. There are 25 folders with envelopes to match in each box, consisting of folders for cheering a sick friend, sympathy, get-well, greetings to a shut-in, welcome to a new baby, and birthday all beautifully colored designs with suitable verses. You will like these folders. \$1.00 per box, post paid anywhere in the U. S. Assortment No. G3549. Order by number.

"Correspondence Folders," No. 69 consists of 12 folders with envelopes to match. These folders are also attractive in different colors and an appropriate Scripture verse for occasions. They are of the "Sunshine Line." One box of twelve assorted folders with envelopes to match sent anywhere in the U. S. for 50 cents post paid.

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

The Millennial Reign

(Continued from the January Issue)

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years." Rev. 20:1, 2. This is the same old red dragon about which we have been talking in the 12th chapter of Revelation. This angel that came down from heaven represented Christ and his angels, or ministers, and the church during the war that took place in the ecclesiastical heavens, and this dragon power was cast out. The chain was the gospel of Christ, which they believed and preached, and loved not their lives unto death. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and their testimony; and this anti-Christ and anti-God, infidel and athiest, idol-worshipping power was cast out and bound for a thousand years, for he is called the Devil and Satan. But we see old Beelzebub, the archfiend of the infernal regions, scheme up a deception to gradually decoy and deceive the children of men into a false religion under a cloak of it being God's work. You will notice in the 3rd verse that this dragon power was cast into a bottomless pit and was shut up and a seal put upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more until the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. Now this thousand years is none less than the long period of darkness, the time when this dragon power, which is called the devil and Satan, was bound (or shut up) and a seal upon him that he should not deceive the nations until that thousand years was fulfilled. But Beelzebub, the archfiend of hell, was working under another power, the beast, which is Catholicism. And he feigned to be a very religious fellow, even claiming himself to be God, or in God's place. In the 4th verse we see some of the slaughter of saints that took place at the beginning and during the dark reign of the beast power. It is written, "I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God," then continuing with this thought, he said, "and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." Their souls were alive, for they had been resurrected from a dead state of sin to life in Christ. "This is the first resurrection." In other words, to make it plain he might have said, "I am talking about the first resurrection." The first resurrection is a spiritual resurrection. The souls that he saw reigning with Christ were those who had been killed and caught up to God, and reigned with Christ all through the thousand years. This mentions no millennial reign on earth. People, who have not understood the truth have put literal interpretations upon these Scriptures and have promulgated absurd ideas concerning a thousand years literal reign of Christ on earth when the flesh will revel in its lusts and Satan will be bound and they will have no tempter then. They believe a lie and become exceedingly happy, dancing around the many "golden calves" which they have set up. When Christ

appears in the clouds with ten thousands of his angels and the judgment is set and the wicked are resurrected to damnation and the righteous put on glorified bodies to live with God, they will have no need or desire for any earthly thing that this fleshly body has need of now. Glory be to God, for Christ in us is our hope of glory. There is no need or place for a thousand years literal reign of Christ on this earth.

When he says that the dead lived not again until the thousand years were up, he had reference to the spiritual resurrection of the soul; for during the dark ages when the Mystery Babylon the Great was persecuting the children of God and had taken the Bible away from the rank and file of men, the Woman was given two wings as a great eagle that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. In the sixth verse of the 12th chapter of Revelation, it is made plainer and easier to understand. For the woman, the church, fled into the wilderness where she was fed a thousand, two hundred and three score days, which, according to Biblical counting one day for a year would be twelve hundred and sixty years. While she was in this state, very few were being resurrected to spiritual life. Thus it is written, "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished." Rev. 20:5. There were no spiritual resurrections to speak of during the long period of darkness when the dragon power was bound and Catholicism was ruling under a cloak of religion. As soon as the power of Catholicism was broken and Luther came out preaching justification by faith, souls began to be resurrected again and it could be said the rest of those that were dead in trespasses and sin began to live again, began to be resurrected to spiritual life in Christ.

It is plain to see by the Scriptures that the reign which many without true light believe to be a literal thousand years reign of the Lord on this doomed earth (2 Peter 3:10; Rev. 20:11), is nothing more nor less than the souls that John saw under the altar in heaven, that had been slain, reigning with Christ during the thousand years that papal darkness was upon the earth. The Scriptures refer to this as the "Sun going down at noon." The above truth is made plain in Revelation 6, beginning at verse 9: "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: and they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" You can see by this that those killed for the word of God, spoken of as "souls under the altar," were reigning with Christ during the long thousand years when the woman (the church, or remnant) was driven into the wilderness and the beast power (Catholicism) was ruling in the world under a cloak of religion.

Rev. 20:7, "And when the thousand years is expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison." Satan here mentioned has reference to the old dragon spirit, which is called the Devil and Satan (Rev. 12:9). And again he is mentioned in Rev. 20:2, and it says

he, this dragon power and spirit which is atheism, anti-Christ, and anti-God, was bound for a thousand years. But since that thousand years has now expired, we see the same old atheistic, anti-Christ and anti-God spirit coming on the scene under a cloak of Communism, for Satan, this dragon power, is loosed out of his prison. The 8th verse tells us what he will do when he is loose, for it reads thus, "And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea." This dragon power and spirit under the cloak of Communism is doing this very thing now.

We see that it has deceived and captured Russia, and thousands in that country who have resisted its power have been slain or held in misery in prison camps, and this atheistic, anti-Christ and anti-God octopus dragon spirit is reaching out practically to all the known world and instilling its anti-Christ doctrines into the hearts of the people. It is spreading and becoming stronger all the time. It is so slimy and deceitful that nearly all the people in our country are under its influence, and in different ways are aiding its prestige and spread, while at the same time claiming to be against it. Our law makers are formulating rules and passing laws in its favor and the people in general love to have it so.

To prove our assertion, we insert here an editorial taken from the "Oklahoma City Times," which makes the claim of having the greatest paid circulation of any paper in the State of Oklahoma:

"Historians of a century hence will review with amazed incredulity the attitude of the present administration. This administration demands that American taxpayers spend billions upon billions in the effort to 'check communism abroad,' but views the spread of communism within our own nation with smug and uncomprehending complacency, and even brands the efforts made to check this spread as 'witch hunts' or 'dragging red herrings across the trail.'"

"Some of the highest placed officials in this administration, strange and incomprehensible as this seems, have admitted that official Washington is honey-combed with communists and fellow travelers. Proof is now a matter of government record. For the most part these Reds and pinks are products of American universities where 'academic freedom' has been so prostituted that treasonable doctrines have gone unchallenged, and have finally penetrated government itself."

You notice that this 8th verse says he went out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth. Four quarters includes it all. Adam Clarke, commenting on the terms "Gog and Magog," writes, "Under these names the enemies of God's truth are generally intended." There is no body of people greater enemies to God's truth than those who make a profession of being the Lord's children (or followers of Christ) and at the same time hold up for sin and self righteousness, and while professing to be the Lord's cater to the world in spirit, in fashions and fads, and worldly conformity in different ways and manners. James makes the statement: "Who-

soever therefore will be a friend to the world is the enemy of God." And John says, "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." 1 John 2:15. Any religious people that claim to follow the Lord and hold up for sin in any form are the enemies of God's truth. The bodies of religious people in the world today that claim to be set free from sin and preach holiness and a lot of truth, and yet practice their religion with the world, being full of its ways, holding up for carnal warfare, being partakers of the same, having an earthly human organization—these I say, are the most clever and deceitful enemies of God's truth in existence today. When Jesus was here, the sects of his day, the religious bodies that made the highest professions, were his worst enemies. They were the instigators of the crucifixion and of all the slander and shame that was heaped upon him. It is a sad picture today to see and know of the different holiness factions claiming to follow Christ and practicing religion with a different spirit, having a worldly religious spirit and calling it the Holy Spirit, or Holy Ghost.

Realizing all this to be truth, we cannot help but place "Mystery Babylon the Great" and her "Harlot daughters" in the group spoken of in the Word of God as Gog and Magog. These two enemies of God's truth are known in the world today by the names of Catholicism and Protestantism; and since the Euphrates (Rev. 16:12, 13, 14) is now dried up—practically all real salvation is gone from their souls—they are all open for many kinds of deceptions.

Notice in the eighth verse it says this dragon power, called Satan, would go out to deceive the nations in the four quarters of the earth. These spiritual nations are Gog and Magog and are in practically all the world in one form or another. This dragon spirit, under the cloak of communism, Gog and Magog and their followers are all over the world. Catholicism is a hot bed, hatching out believers in communism, and Protestantism is not far behind her, as nearly all of them are partakers of it in one form or another, and many of them lean strongly toward it. This gathering together of the forces of evil is secretly and cunningly going on all about us today. This old serpent or dragon which is called the Devil and Satan is now loose, gathering his forces together from Gog and Magog to battle against the remnant of God's people who are not of the world, and will not bow to his cunning and deceitful ways. They are closing in on the beloved City all the time, and the number of them is as the sand of the sea. Verse nine is speaking of the winding up days, "They went up on the breadth of the earth and compassed the camp of the saints about [God's true family, who are not of this world], and the beloved City [the New Jerusalem which has come down from above, Rev. 21:2, 9.]" When they do this and it looks as if all of God's true witnesses are going to be taken and slain, then God intervenes and fire comes down from God out of heaven and devours them (2 Peter 3:7, 10). The last day has come and the Judgment is set. The wicked religious enemies of God's truth are burned up with the world and their souls will meet the true God in

Judgment. The 10th verse reads, "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast [Catholicism] and the false prophet [Protestantism] are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever. And I saw a great white throne [white denotes purity and righteousness, and the throne represents the Judgment] and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heavens fled away; and there was found no place for them." This is the last day spoken of by Jesus in the sixth chapter of John; and there will be no more day after this, for the righteous and the wicked will be judged, as it states below, out of the records in the books. This is when the end comes, and according to Paul in 1 Cor. 15:24, the Lord will deliver up the kingdom to God, even the Father. The kingdom of God is none else but the blood-washed, redeemed children of God which constitute the true vine, the church, in the world today. This kingdom will be delivered up to God the Father, and he will be all and in all. Read 1 Cor. 15:28. In the 26th verse it is written, "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. In the 14th verse of the 20th chapter of Rev. we read, "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."

As Beelzebub, Satan, is the author of death, no doubt this death includes him and hell, the souls he has deceived. It is called the second death because there is no escape from it. While we have life in our bodies and can choose for ourselves and be saved and escape this eternal death, we can be resurrected to life and be blessed and holy so that this second eternal death will have no power to cast us into the lake of fire and brimstone. In other words, the great Judge of the universe will find our record clear on his book, for the next verse reads thus, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Dear reader, there will be no literal thousand-year reign of Christ upon this earth; neither will there be any chance for you to get right with God after you pass from this life. Now is the day of salvation. If you neglect the cleansing stream in this life, sad will be your doom. We beg you in Jesus name, make your peace, calling, and election sure with God now, and enjoy the comfort of his Spirit in this life and the assurance of bliss in the world to come.

His servant,

Fred Pruitt.

— oOo —

Early Harvest

Say not ye, There are yet four months
And then the harvest be;
Behold, lift up your eyes:
The fields are white, you see.
He that goeth forth
Bearing precious seed
Shall doubtless rejoice
When the crown of life he receives.
He that soweth the good seed
Is the Son of Man!
But the tares are the children

From the wicked land (Matt. 13:38).
Therefore, the tares are gathered
And in the fire are burned.
So shall it be in the end of the world,
We have learned.
If any man's work shall abide,
He shall receive a reward.
Enter into the joy of thy Lord.

—Mrs. Chas. Reese

— oOo —

A Wife

A wife is a blessing God hath given to man
To help and to cheer him through life's short span.
She is queen of the home, whether wealthy or poor;
God hath given her realm that none can ignore.

Although to her husband she bows as her head,
She is ever alert to prepare him his bread.
Her hands are not idle from morning till night,
She girdeth her loins and setteth things right.

Her husband returns from the field or the wood,
He beholdeth his wife and says she is good.
As a blessing from God she shareth his care
As they bow in reverence to the Father in prayer.

As bone of his bones she lies near his heart,
And God hath decreed that they never should part,
Until He in His wise and infinite plan
Calls one or the other to that far distant land.

As flesh of his flesh their hearts are entwined,
As Christ to his church in her beauty sublime.
A symbol of heaven so graciously pure,
Her lovely sweet song doth gently allure.

All others forsaken, a man loves his wife
And cherisheth her dearly as his own precious life.
A charm of all charms as before him she stands—
She is truly a blessing God hath given to man.

A wife that is honest, and faithful and just,
Is such a great woman her husband can trust.
She clotheth herself with honor and strength,
And trusts in the Lord for wisdom at length.

When a wife is a mother by heavenly grant,
Her children doth flourish like a green olive plant;
They call her blessed as she looks to their ways;
Her husband ariseth and giveth her praise.

Now a wife is of far more value I am told
Than rubies and diamonds, or silver and gold.
Truly God was good, and wise in his plan,
By giving a wife as a help meet to man.

—Ulysses Phillips.

— oOo —

PRAYER REQUEST

All the saints who read this, please have special earnest prayer for Mrs. Erma Warner of Hammond, La. who is suffering from a bad nervous condition.—K. Key

Young People's Section

The Way

Old Enoch, who walked with his God,
Was perfect in spirit and love;
And when the last mile he had trod,
God took him to heaven above.

And Noah found grace in the Lord;
God told him to make him an ark,
And Noah went forth at His word--
He knew that he soon would embark.

Young Joseph to Egypt was sent,
A country where evil was rife.
God blessed him wherever he went,
And made him a savior of life.

And Moses, a type of the Lord,
The children of Israel led;
And though they lost faith in His word,
God sent them abundance of bread.

Twelve preachers the Savior did call,
And gave them the solemn command:
Go tell the glad tidings to all,
At home and in every land.

—Harvey Johnson

—oOo—

Talents

We find in the Word of God that everyone does not have the same gift. In 1 Cor. 12:28-31 we read that God has different members in the church as we have in our natural bodies. "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way."

We find out in this reading that some have more responsibility than others. The apostles and prophets can be classified as preachers. An apostle is a planter, an evangelist we might say; one who plants the truth in a new field. A prophet is one who foretells future events (Also read 1 Cor. 14:3). Both are ministers. But remember, each is a gift; when a person has both, he has two gifts instead of one.

The Lord has given a command for each preacher to obey. In 1 Cor. 9:14, "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel." When we are sure the Lord has called us to the ministry, ordained, and qualified us, then we must obey God's eternal word and not listen to men.

We also find in the body of Christ the gift of healing. God may bestow upon you the gift of healing and you still not be a minister. Each one of these gifts is a separate gift. One person may have one or several gifts. We find in Matt. 25:14-30, a parable about three servants. One servant had five talents, one servant had two talents, and one servant had one talent. The one that had five talents traded and got five more talents; the one that had two talents did likewise; but this servant that had one talent did not even try to get any more. Now some one may say, I'm not a preacher, I don't have the gift of healing, I can't teach, so I'll just go home, sit down, fold my hands and do nothing. Listen, dear one, if you are a member in the spiritual body of Christ, God has given you at least one talent, and if you don't exercise it GOD will take away that one talent and give it to some one else. May the dear Lord help us to understand what he wants us to do. We find that Paul tells us to "covet earnestly the best gifts." Because the Lord hasn't given you some big job to do, don't fret; be satisfied; be content to do the little job. In building a house, the floor joists are very important, yet they are under the floor and are hidden from view. Some one might say, I can't pray in public, I can't even testify like others. The Lord doesn't want you to do it like others, and you are doing wrong if you try. Be your natural self and God will bless and give you victory over all the opposing powers of the enemy.

I trust that these few words will be some encouragement to some dear one. Pray for me, for I mean to do what God wants me to do, regardless of what men might say.

Your saved brother in Christ, T. Gus Poulos, jr.

—oOo—

A Vision

Real happiness is the joy we get from God. Today I have been very happy in my soul because I obeyed the Lord at his call and did that which formerly seemed very hard. On Nov. 30th the Lord gave me a vision in the night and told me to get up and write it on paper. When I did, the Lord said, "That is enough now, you may go back to bed." Then during the next few days I was burdened for souls and wished I could help someone get out of sin, for once I was one of the worst of sinners. The Lord gave me light on some Scriptures and at night I lay awake in the still hours of the night as he brought them to me and impressed me to tell my vision to the saints on Sunday. I have always been timid about talking in front of a group of people, so I thought perhaps I could just stand by my seat in meeting and testify; but the Lord impressed me I should tell it from the pulpit and read some of the scriptures he gave me.

Brother Harris from Bakersfield selected the song, "I'm Flying Higher," and as they sang, I felt surely it was the time for me to obey God, so I arose and walked to the pulpit. As soon as I arose to my feet and went forward the burden became lighter and I knew the Lord was helping me and leading me.

I would like for others to read of this vision, and hope it will be as encouraging to you as it has been to me:

It was night; the stars in the sky were scattered. Some people realized the Lord was coming. I saw a lot of dross and ashes lying in heaps upon the ground, and men were picking it over with shovels and rakes, trying to get out the gold. I saw one man with a pipe of tobacco in his mouth. He was taking his time, smoking at ease. I wished I could go and tell those men that they ought to hurry and get out of there, but it seemed it didn't matter now. I was among some young folk, girls, boys, and people whom I had never seen before. It seemed they were washing their hands and cleaning up.

One girl said, "Oh, that Christ that was upon earth—I just don't believe he was so good."

I cried out, "How can you say that? How can you say that? I know He was the true Christ. Look at the beautiful day that is dawning!" Rays of the brightest light I have ever seen were streaming from heaven. The earth was beginning to pass away. I was on a road riding in a vehicle which seemed to be made of tar paper and lath, as the walls and top were so flimsy. I was rejoicing because of that beautiful, strong, brilliant light that was coming down. I was with a number of people in the moving vehicle whom I did not know. No relatives were there. There were mostly young folk beside me then, and they were screaming and crying and making fun of Christ, and saying all manner of evil against him with indignation. Finally the top of the flimsy moving vehicle burst open and another young boy (perhaps 15 years of age) and I began to ascend through the top of the roof. Upward and upward we went. As we ascended higher and higher the new day began to beam brighter and brighter and the light was very bright and beautiful. The people who were with me before gradually disappeared like the darkness vanishes when the new day breaks forth. Heaven was looming in sight, and I knew it would only be a short instant till I would see the Lord and the new day.

I want to always follow Jesus and obey the Word so I will be able to help people, both young and old, to prepare for heaven and an indescribable new day.

—Lucille Elliott.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

La.—Dear Bro. Pruitt, and all the Saints,—I have been burdened about the young people for some time. It seems as though, we, the young people professing Christianity, allow too much foolishness among us. At least I feel that way about myself. A few weeks ago while in young people's meeting I made a decision to put all foolishness aside and let God be seen in my life. I wrote my decision in the back of my testament where it reminds me of my vow to God every time I open the book.

I feel encouraged in the Lord even though I have

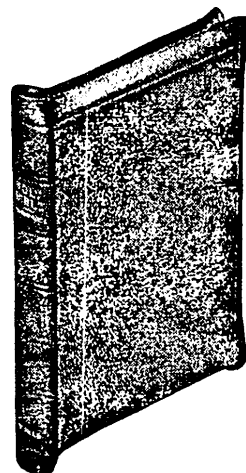
made mistakes along the way. When we make mistakes the enemy tries to get us to give up, but thank God prayer changes things. Dear young people the best thing to do when we make mistakes is to pray. I know by my own experience it is hard to live right, but our Saviour is always near to help us. I received encouragement from what one friend wrote in a letter to me. He said, "It means a lot to serve the Lord but it means more to die unprepared."

I want to give my testimony that all may know I am going to make heaven my home. There are many small things that we have to watch. I had been listening to things over the radio that I wouldn't want to be listening to when Jesus comes. When I put all foolishness aside that went too. Now I have more time to think about God.

I desire the prayers of all who know God. If we never meet on earth I pray that we will meet in Heaven some sweet day. Your brother in Christ, Howell B. Joiner.

—oOo—

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THE FIRST GENTILE CHURCH

February 5, 1950

Printed portion.....Acts 11:19-26; 13:1-3.

Acts 11:19. Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen traveled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

20. And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus.

21. And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

22. Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.

23. Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

24. For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

25. Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:

26. And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

13:1. Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

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

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

Memory Verse: When they heard these things they held their peace, and glorified God saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life. Acts 11:18.

Practical Truth: It was one of God's great accomplishments when he brought the Jews and Gentiles together and made them all one. Amen.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We will get our first thoughts for our lesson today from the devotional reading, Isa. 42:5-9. We see here in these scriptures that God included the Gentiles when he considered his great redemption plan for it was for all people. (Gentiles are all the people except the Jews). First to the Jews and afterward to the Gentiles. Jesus sets this forth clearly in the tenth chapter of St. John. He said, tenth verse, "And other sheep I have which are not of this fold (the Jews) them also I must bring and they shall hear my voice and there shall be one fold and one shepherd."

It was a big job that Jesus undertook but he finally broke down the middle wall of partition by sending the same gospel to both Jew and Gentile. Finally whole congregations of Gentiles were raised up as we see in the written portion of the lesson today. This continued until many Gentile churches were established but the Jews were not excluded from their congregations, for the gospel of Christ made them all one.

Paul said, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth to the Jew first and also the Greek (or Gentile)."

In today's lesson we have record of the first church

raised up or established wholly of Gentiles. God has just one way for all, both Jew and Gentile. We will all have to come the same way if we get into the church that Jesus said he would build on this rock (the fact that I am the Christ) and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Jesus made the way so simple and plain when he said, "I am the way." G. S.

THE GOSPEL MOVES WESTWARD

February 12, 1950

Printed portion.....Acts 13:4-5; 14:1-3, 19-23.

Acts 13:4. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

5. And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews and they had also John to their minister.

14:1. And it came too pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed.

2. But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren.

3. Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

19. And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

20. Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

21. And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,

22. Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

23. And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

Memory Verse: For the promise is unto you and to your children and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. Acts 2:39.

Practical Truth: It pays big to be busy for the Lord all the time.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The gospel of good news had a very small beginning. It was first preached at Jerusalem but from there it spread to the west and east, to the north and south.

In the beginning of the gospel age the converts seemed to want to stay around Jerusalem, but this wasn't God's plan. He wanted the glad tidings of salvation to be carried all over the world so God permitted persecutions to come by which these new converts were scattered and as they went they preached this wonderful gospel of salvation. Every where they found listening ears and God directed his ministers and gospel workers to different towns and cities, also to the wayside wherever human beings were found. God wanted every one to hear the gospel.

On the day of Pentecost when this wonderful gospel was first preached in its fulness we are told in the

second chapter of Acts that three thousand souls were saved in this one meeting. The Lord added them to the church which Jesus said he would build and from this church in Jerusalem the gospel went forth.

These new converts were on fire for God and lost souls. On account of the severe persecutions they were scattered as we read in Acts 8:4, "Therefore they that were scattered, went everywhere preaching the word." G. S.

THE FIGHT FOR CHRISTIAN FREEDOM

February 19, 1950

Printed portion.....Acts 15:1-6, 22:29, Gal. 2:16.

Acts 15:1. And certain men which came down from Judea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.

2. When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

3. And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren.

4. And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them.

5. But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.

6. And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter.

22:29. Then straightway they departed from him which should have examined him: and the chief captain also was afraid, after he knew that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him.

Gal. 2:16. Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Memory Verse: Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called. I Timothy 6:12.

Practical Truth: We must fight battles if we would win victories.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our fight for Christian freedom means that we have to go against much opposition. Jesus said, "strive to enter in at the strait gate," and again he said, "The kingdom of God is preached and every man presseth into it."

We will have to be alive and wide awake if we would live a successful Christian life. There will be many trials, some persecutions and disappointments, but our loving Lord has promised grace for every trial. He will not allow us to be tempted above that we are able to stand but he will make a way of escape for us.

The Lord needs brave soldiers who will take a firm stand for the right and dare to be true. God has no place in his kingdom for cowards nor lazy people. God has lots of work for us to do. Just willing workers is all he wants.

According to the Bible accounts the early Christians really fought for their freedom. They pressed their way through much opposition and suffered many persecutions but they kept right on pressing their way through the tide that was against them. They were faithful unto death after which they were promised a crown of life.

Dear saints of God, will we let down

In this our glorious day

And take a chance of missing heaven

And receive the devils pay?

G. S.

PLANTING A CHURCH IN A PAGAN CITY

February 26, 1950

Printed portion.....Acts 18:1, 8-11; II Cor. 6:14, 7:1.

Acts 18:1 After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;

8. And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.

9. Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:

10. For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.

11. And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

II Cor. 6:14. Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Memory Verse: See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms to root out and to pull down and to destroy and to throw down to build and to plant. Jeremiah 1:10.

Practical Truth: God wants us to plant his truth in honest hearts who will hear.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Planting a church in a pagan city would look almost impossible, nevertheless Paul and some of his co-workers went into this pagan city and with courage preached unto them Jesus. Many of the Corinthians hearing them believed and were baptized.

God is always with his ministers who will fearlessly press their way into where he directs them. We see how that the Lord spoke to Paul in a night vision and said, "Be not afraid, speak and hold not thy peace." God told him that no man should set on him to hurt him and he assured Paul that he had much people in that place. Paul spent a year and six months at this one place, a congregation of saints was raised up there and became an established church there in that pagan city and thus it was fulfilled as God said, "My word shall not return unto me void but shall accomplish that which I please."

Paul was a God fearing man, he was also strong and very courageous, one that God could trust to do things for him. We never hear of God calling people who are idle, to do things for him. He always calls the busiest men he has when he wants something special done.

When God appointed Joshua to take up the work where Moses left off he told him to be strong and very courageous for God had a big job for him leading his people into the promised land.

G. S.