

FAITH^{AND} VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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The Old Year Has Gone

The old year has gone with its sorrows and cares,
The new one is here to begin;
Let us live every hour as we'd like to be found
When we meet the Saviour of men.

Have we made a mistake? Have we lived as we should,
In the year that has just passed away?
If we haven't, there's one thing we surely should do,
That's start living better today.

Have we studied God's Word, or thought on His love
As we should in the year that has gone?
O God, I pray, help us to always look up,
And help us to never do wrong.

The year that has passed, many failures has brought,
Too late for US to recall;
But Jesus' dear blood, that was shed on the cross,
Has power to banish them all.

We know not the hour when Jesus shall come
To gather the pure ones to Him.
Let us resolve, by His help, we will strive every hour
To keep free from the devil and sin.

Let us try to live better in the new year ahead,
To please the Giver of Light.
Then if He should come at midnight or dawn,
He will find our lamps shining bright.

—A. E. Hall

An Appeal to the Unsaved

Dear unsaved friends both far and near, you who may chance to read this, I would like to call your attention to a very important matter; and in reality the most important matter with which you will ever have to deal; and this is the attending to the salvation of your soul. I have been stirred very much by seeing the carelessness and indifference manifested by so many of you for whom Christ died. It may be that you have never given this matter a very serious

thought. Your mind has been so occupied in the pursuit of other things that you have not taken the time to consider the realities of death and the coming judgment. And in the mean time, your precious life is slipping away and your opportunity to get right with God will soon be gone. So many whom I have known have carelessly gone on unheeding the pleas and pleadings of the Spirit, and the saints, also of the ministers, the ambassadors of God, and have gone down to fill a Christless grave. And some of them had expressed their intention to turn from the broad way of sin some day and submit themselves to Christ and be saved; but they waited too long and went down in despair.

Dear friends, God's Word says, "Today if ye will hear his voice harden not your hearts." Heb. 3:15; also Heb. 3:7b, 8a.

Be not deceived, dear ones, with the erroneous idea that you will have another chance after death. There will be no other chance after this life shall have come to a close.

"We then as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." 2 Cor. 6:1, 2.

"Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you." Hosea 10:12.

Dear unsaved friends, Jesus died for your salvation, he gave his life that you might be saved. His loving heart is yearning for thee; it is time right now for you to humble yourself before him and call for mercy while mercy may be found. He has said, "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh." The deceitful pleasures of sin ensnares the soul in the cords of death: brings one under guilt and condemnation; and except the sinner repents he is doomed forever to eternal darkness and despair. It is up to you to choose between life and death, between heaven and hell. You are the one that will have to make the decision, but you are advised by the word of God to choose life.

In Rom. 14:12 we read: "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." And Acts 17:30, 31 reads thus, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: because he hath appointed a day in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; wherefore he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."

In the name of the Lord Jesus I intreat you to give heed to these words of truth. Consider the solemn warning; prepare to stand before the judgment seat of Christ. Be ready to answer in that day. Do not put your trust in a shadow; nor in the fleeting treasures of this time world. God has blessed some of you with skill and wisdom to invent and handle massive and complicated machinery, and some of you have been blessed above others with the power and ability to accumulate capital, and fortunes, and to be the possessors of houses and lands in abundance. But how much of this wealth will be your own in less than five minutes after you have exhaled your last breath? What will a man be profited if he should gain the whole world and then lose his soul? or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? Some of you are less fortunate so far as the material things of this world are concerned; and no doubt feel at times that you can hardly make ends meet, but Jesus offers you a never failing treasure. He offers you peace and joy in this life; a home, a mansion, and a crown in the world to come. He has given his life for you that you should not perish. Dear unsaved friends, will you take a little time to attend to the salvation of your precious soul? —Ulysses Phillips

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Spiritual Advancement

The need of spiritual advancement is seen on every hand. Many are desiring apostolic faith, and this can only be attained to by first having an apostolic consecration, which fully measures to the New Testament standard. Jesus says, "Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: he is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it; for it was founded upon a rock." Luke 6:47, 48. So according to the Word, DEEP digging is absolutely necessary to reach the rock.

When we have the conscious evidence within our souls, that our consecrations have reached the deepest depth until there is no lower depth that we are capable of consecrating to, in compliance with the gospel, when we have done our utmost, how quickly God responds with a faith that reaches up through the mighty Word, into heaven, and back again into our souls. And when we live true to such a consecration moment by moment, and hour by hour, an unwavering faith is INFALLIBLY THE RESULT. And yet how small a thing contrary to the will of

God will destroy the divine union of the soul with God, until the faith cannot cling to the promises recorded in his precious Word. Oh dear ones, when no veil of displeasure hides the smiling face of Jesus from our spiritual view, faith is always the result. Praise the dear name of Jesus! Jesus says, "Be ye perfect even as your Father in heaven is perfect;" and we are commanded to be holy as he is holy. This means much more than many of his professed followers realize. We read in Isaiah, "I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded. I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the Lord of hosts." Isa. 45:12, 13.

So God has pledged himself to direct a man in all his ways. This scripture may not only be applied to our going and coming, but also to every outward action of our lives; for in a wholly sanctified state, every act, thought, and look must be holy. "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." John 16:13.

And the truth teaches perfection in holiness. "Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe: as ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, that ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory." 1 Thess. 2:10-12.

"Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless." 2 Pet. 3:14.

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy." Jude 24.

"Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed." 1 Sam. 2:3.

Evil imaginations and thoughts are forbidden. "And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart." Zech. 7:10.

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." 2 Cor. 10:4, 5.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Phil. 4:7, 8.

"Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established." Prov. 16:3.

We read in God's Word, also, that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Col. 4:5, 6.

"But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes." 2 Tim. 2:23.

"Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God." Psa. 50:23.

"The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid." Zeph. 3:13.

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Eccl. 12:13, 14.

May the dear Lord bless all his dear children and enable them to walk in all the truth. I am happy to report sweet heavenly victory in my soul, and now have a deeper experience into God than I have ever known before. To God be all the glory and praise forevermore. My soul is basking in a heavenly rest and deep unwavering faith in the precious promises. I have learned some precious lessons in the furnace, but count all joy for Christ's sake; for all has proven a glorious benefit. In the advance movement it may seem like an inch-to-inch fight with the enemy; but in God's Word we read, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." 1 Cor. 10:13.

—B. E. F.

The Anointing

"Whoever preaches a gospel to you that contradicts the gospel you have already received, God's curse be on him!" Gal. 1:9. Moffatt Translation.

The gospel of the kingdom is not paying tithes to religious workers, it is not new rules and regulations for the saints to follow independent of what the Word of God says. The gospel of the kingdom is not accomplished by adding man's laws laid down for us and told that we must obey them, or we will be lost or that we are unsaved.

Did Jesus allow His followers to go out proclaiming His gospel message without giving them His power to do the works? If it then, took the power of God, it now surely takes this anointing, seeing that the world is now filled with men and women under the influence of Satan, and many running without the power and grace of God.

No man or woman can do God's will without first becoming imbibed with the Holy Spirit of God. This is why the heart of man must be filled with the Holy Spirit of God. God will not move into a foul, unclean dwelling place.

We are saved by the WATER of the WORD, the FOUNTAIN of LIFE is a cleansing stream. We are saved because we measure up to the WORD. We are saved because we truly REPENT of our sins, and because God had mercy upon us, according to His WORD He gave us His pardon. No man or woman can walk in on God and say that he has done God's will, unless God has given him PARDON, just as Christ did for Paul.

Oh! that man would fear, tremble, and humble his heart before God, before he tries to do exploits for Him here on the earth. If people feared God as they should, there would be less careless living, less careless preaching, less careless acting, and less disobedience to His commandments. Let us remember that God knows our every thought, our every deed, and if we do things without a pure motive, then our hearts lead us to do things that displease our Creator.

God has created us in such a way that whether we live in Him or whether we are "dead in trespasses and sins" He knows our every thought, our every imagination. There is nothing hid from Him; and if we do not have our lives "hid with Christ in God" we are not being used of God, unless we are like Pharaoh, to show His power.

It is very plain that without God in us there is no pleasing Him. Without God in our soul there is only failure and deception. God gives spiritual sight to His redeemed. God gives deliverance from the power of Satan. God gives wisdom to those who ask Him for it. Salvation is the work of God in the soul of man. We read, "Let God be true to His word, though every man be perfidious." Rom. 3:4, Moffatt.

Man without God and yet trying to do God's will is one of the biggest mistakes in existence. No man or woman can do God's will independent of the great "I AM." Surely man is on dangerous ground if he is running without the "ABIDING COMFORTER," and at the end of the race, what a terrible awakening there awaits him without God to defend him or claim him as His own.

Nothing seems worse to me than to live here in this world, trying to live a Christian life and be found wanting and lost at the final judgment. So let God's saints be sure that they are "clothed with God's RIGHTEOUSNESS," "The Holy Spirit of Promise," and then live so close to Him that He will abide in their hearts and lead them in all that they do and say and not have to depend upon what another man or woman says or commands him to do to keep right with God. We read, "They shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest" Heb. 8:11. So we see that the secret of a Christian life is to know our Maker and be led individually by His unerring Holy Spirit. It takes this to do God's will acceptably, nothing short of this will please God.

It took Christ's death to bring us back to God, so then let us fear God and be filled with the Holy Spirit of promise, the Spirit of grace and truth and live to the glory of God. By the grace of God.

—Ivalyn E. Kriebel

"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 his wife, Mary A. Pruitt, and other consecrated workers at FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Okla.

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

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.

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

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THE BEAUTIFUL WAY

"The Beautiful Way" a four-page leaflet for children is published quarterly in thirteen leaflets, one for each week. Marie Miles Editor, assisted by others.

Subscription price: 60¢ per year for single copies. 40¢ per year in quantities of five or more to one address. (Pay by the quarter if you desire.)

1950 "FAITH AND VICTORY" BOOKS

The eleven issues of the "Faith and Victory" papers for 1950 are now in book form. These books will be postpaid to you for 40 cents each or three books for \$1.00. Send your order now while they are in stock.

Editorials

By the time our readers receive the January paper, they will be traveling in the new year of 1951. Time is going fast, and soon the Judgment Day will be upon us, and then every man will meet his deeds done in the body, whether they are bad or good. "For God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing whether it be good or whether it be evil." Eccl. 12:14.

It brings much satisfaction and comfort to our souls to look back over the past years of labor for the Lord. Many battles have been fought and victories won. Old Satan's anger has been stirred up against the Lord's printing work in quite a lively way and he has had agents shooting at it from many directions, but she still stands like a Rock in the billows, and the clear clean gospel of Christ is going forth, bringing comfort and salvation to many.

The prospects for another good year's work for the Lord is greatly encouraging, but conditions in the world throws a shadow and reveals to us that much blood-shed is likely to take place before the year of 1951 is ended. We who have the life of Christ in our souls and a "body guard" of heavenly angels around about us have nothing to fear, for if God allows this body to be destroyed, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

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We are much pleased because of the way which the readers of "Faith and Victory" are responding to the three-month subscription offer. It rejoices us in spirit to know that we shall have an opportunity to send the gospel by the printed page to so many new subscribers this winter. It is an established fact that many souls have found eternal life by reading the contents of the "Faith and Victory" paper, and many others have been made alive by reading the many tracts and books which are printed and circulated out to the people by the "Lord's Print Shop," located at Guthrie, Okla. As people read it, the Lord by his Spirit makes the truth as living words to their souls, which begets faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. And as they confess, repent, and believe, they are saved by His atoning blood, they are quickened by his spirit, made spiritually alive, are born from above and become members of His body, which Paul says "is the church." Eph. 5:30, "For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones." This is close relationship in deed and in truth.

I understand that the Baptist people believe that the soul is saved but the body (the flesh) sins more or less all the time, and it seems that many others believe this doctrine; but the Bible is squarely against such teaching. We read in 1 Thess. 5:23: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of . . . Jesus Christ." This is not only true, but he also continues by saying, "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." Notice that he says plainly that the body as well as the soul and spirit are preserved blameless. Our fleshly bodies are the Lord's just the same as the soul

and spirit are his. 1 Cor. 6:15, "Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ?" And in the 19th and 20th verses we read, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit which are God's." You can see plainly by these Scriptures that our bodies as well as our souls are His.

In Romans 12:1, we read, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

When saved people present their bodies to the Lord as a living sacrifice and keep them there, their fleshly bodies compose a clean house for His spiritual body, that is functioning in the world today, to live in, and he preserves it as a clean vessel free from sin. Paul, writing about the body of Christ, likened it to a building. Eph. 2:21, 22, "In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

Some religious people call the body of Christ, or the church, a "mystical body." But I am persuaded that the true body of Christ is just as visible as natural bodies are visible, for the Scriptures say the members are built and framed together, also that they are compacted together, melted and knit together, are raised up together and will go up together.

No, my dear readers, if your body is really given to God, it is no longer sinful, but is clean through the word which he has spoken unto us. Read the first part of 1 John, fourth chapter down to the 4th verse. In the fourth verse He declares, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." He abides in us and gives us power over any sin that the body would lust after to do. Bless His holy name!!

Nearly all religious people of every type and stripe believe that Jesus came in a fleshly body; but it seems so many are so sickly in spirit that they do not discern that he is come in these fleshly bodies by his Spirit, and that our bodies as well as our spirits are his (1 Cor. 6:20). In this sense, we become his body, which is the church functioning in the world but not of the world. The reason some do not discern this is that they fail to present their bodies to the Lord as a living sacrifice and keep them there. Therefore their spiritual vision is darkened and they try to fix the Scriptures to suit their souls' condition. May God shine light upon the pathway of all his true saints so his body, the true church, will be in evidence more and more as we come up to the end of time.

If we are truly sanctified and His Spirit lives in us, then is our body His as well as our souls, and He living in us makes our bodies His "purchased possession" (Eph. 1:14), and this body which He has purchased by His blood, if we continue to let Him live in it, will be changed at that great Judgment Day from mortality to immortality. We are taught in the Word

if we are his children we are joint heirs with Christ. We shall inherit a glorified body with Him. Romans 8:17, 18.

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During the past three or four months we have been receiving much free advertising from several different sources, cliques, and clans. I am sure that it will all work out to our good and His glory as we keep loving Him and submitting to His precious will. While I was considering some of the works of the many slanderous spirits in the world, the Lord brought the Scripture to me in Lk. 6:26, which reads, "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets." I can truly thank God that the critics have not passed us by, as it intensifies His love in our hearts, and causes us to deepen down into God. We are taught in the Word of God to take it patiently when we suffer for our faults and also when we suffer for well doing, and that the trying of our faith worketh patience, and that we are to let "patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect, and entire, wanting nothing."

Paul says in Col. 1:24, "Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh, for his body's sake, which is the church."

My prayers are offered up to God for the ones who put out the booklets. I pray that God will so deal with them, that they will not be lost when that awful Judgment day comes. Every soul is precious in the sight of the Lord, and I would hate to know of one being lost. These folks claim that I did not deal with them according to Matt. 18:15, 16. I wrote to them last summer and told them plainly that their case would not come under that part of God's Word, but that their case would be more in harmony with Christ's dealings with the Pharisees, for they found fault with Christ and his disciples and held themselves in a "Holier than thou" attitude. I still believe it that way, for their actions and words betray them. Their offense is against the church of God.

I was burdened because of their actions and words, and was fasting and praying that God would show me how to classify such people. As I lingered on in prayer, I said to the Lord, "Lord, you surely have some Scripture to point me to that would classify them." After some length of waiting, the Lord brought to my mind an incident recorded in the Old Testament, where the people came to Joshua wearing old clothes and having mouldy bread. I turned to Josh. 9:4 and read that they "did work wilily, and made as if they had been ambassadors." In verse five, it says, "And all the bread of their provision was dry and mouldy." In the 22nd verse Joshua asked, "Wherefore have ye beguiled us?" I thanked the Lord for this information, as we can see that it fits when spiritually applied, quite cleverly.

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The "Lord's Print Shop" here at Guthrie has come up through exceedingly stormy conditions, for the enemy of all righteousness has fought against its existence from the beginning and has tried in every

way possible to kill and destroy it; but God has made it able to stand. Paul said, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Rom. 8:31. I was in a meeting one time where the Sunday school superintendent asked the question, "Whom shall we fear, God or the devil?" Some thought we ought to fear the devil, but my soul just overflowed with the truth that we should fear God. If we fear God he will take care of the devil. The child of God does not have to retaliate or take vengeance on anything or anybody—just leave all that with God, for it belongs to him. Just live a clean life and teach the truth in simple plain manner with kindness and a good-will toward all men, and God will take care of the rest. He never told us to force ourselves on anybody, for he does not accept any one only as they freely give themselves to Him. If you teach the truth with a heart full of love for all souls and obey God in living righteously, soberly, and godly in this present world, the enemy will be stirred against you, even as he was against Jesus; for His life will be reproduced, and he hates the life of Jesus today just as much as he did then.

When God led his people out of Egypt, it is stated that he reproved kings for their sake and destroyed whole nations to give them room. Dear ones, the Lord fights our battles for us.

Some years ago the devil sent some of his agents here. They came in as with sheep's clothing on, and one of them was quite a noted preacher. They stayed a number of days and tried to get us under their influence, but the Lord helped us to discern their crafty works and we could not fellowship them. When the bunch of them filed out of our house to leave, the preacher said, "I pronounce a curse upon you and your work." They then left our city, and I did not know where they went. We prayed for them and committed them into the hands of God. About six months after that, an officer came to our office inquiring about these people. The leader man had committed an awful crime, and the officers were after him. I could not give them any information as to where he was. Three or four years later I received a letter from this leader man. He begged my forgiveness and wanted me to pray for him as he had an awful affliction upon his body and could not rest day or night and so far as I know, he died that way. God will take care of our enemies; we have nothing to do with that. It is God's business, for they are all His created beings.

Another case in which God showed his displeasure upon wrong acts was manifested as follows: A few years after I was saved a man who claimed to be a saint came to me and put up a pitiful story about how a mortgage was to be foreclosed and even his household goods taken unless he could raise some money in a few days. I felt sorry for the man. He said if I could let him have some money he would hand it back to me in a very short time. I wrote him out a check for \$150.00. Weeks went by and he did not pay it back nor mention it any more. I moved away from there, and he also moved away. We were separated for twenty years, and I had lost trace of

him for many years. I had forgiven and committed it to the Lord. I went to Clovis, New Mexico to conduct a revival meeting, and when I arrived there I met this man who had moved back only a few weeks previous to this. When I met him, he began to talk about the money he owed me and said that he would pay it. I told him that I forgave him the debt, but he was not satisfied about it. We soon left there and went on up into the Rocky Mountains above Santa Fe and held some meetings. When we returned to Clovis this man was in the county jail. They said he had lost his mind. We went to visit him. When the officers were informed that we wanted to see this man, they unlocked the jail door and let him out into the room where we were. He made a straight move toward me and threw his arms around me, and said, "I meant to pay you that money." Soon he died in that condition. His wife said that he had the money at certain times and she wanted him to send it to me, but he would not. God favored him so he could have cleared up all of his wrong, but he would not, and it brought the wrath of God upon him. Jesus told the people of Jerusalem that rejected him: "how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate." After much waiting and mercy, God sent judgments upon them and eleven hundred thousand of them literally starved to death and the others were scattered to the four winds.

Dear ones, let us not trifle with God. He says, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay." Live a clean and holy life every day and deal honestly with every soul. Paul teaches us to keep our hearts full of divine love, for it is the "more excellent way."

A REQUEST

Do any of our readers have in their possession a little booklet entitled, "The Change in Smithville"? If you have, I would like to have the use of it for a while with the thought in view of reprinting it. Thank you.

—Fred Pruitt

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Meeting Reports

The good meetings which have been held at different places recently, cause the saints to rejoice in the fact that the Lord is still extending the blessings of salvation to lost humanity, and verifying his promise to His faithful children, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." The winds of hell are blowing, the world its hate is showing, yet they are not overthrowing the church that Jesus built. Praise the Lord!

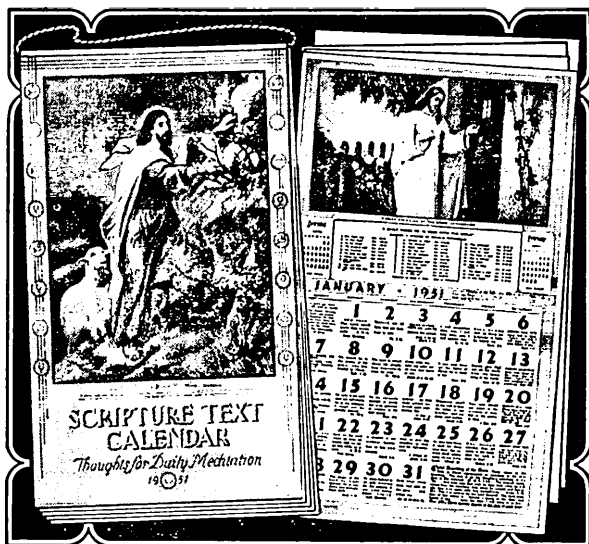
Good reports from several meetings have reached our ears (Mansfield, Mo., Myrtle, Mo., and others), but no written reports have been sent in for publication.

One recent meeting where the Lord gave a special shower of His blessings was at Okeene, Okla. The few faithful saints in that community became much concerned about a meeting there and felt like the field was in good condition for a spiritual harvest. God honored their faith and prayers the middle of November and sent Bro. Isaac Chandler from Bakersfield, Calif. to hold a two-week's

meeting. Other ministers who were present to help part time or full time were: Bros. Lewis Williams, Fred Pruitt, Ulysses Phillips, and Manly Spears; and Sisters Frances Bell and Ada Davis. The meeting was well attended. Some were saved and many received spiritual help. The salvation and baptism of one old couple in their 80's caused much rejoicing among the saints.

When the Okeene meeting closed the Lord sent Bro. Chandler to Guthrie for a week's meeting. The saints truly enjoyed a feast of rich spiritual food. Some altar work was done, but the burden of most of the messages was for the church. Pure minds were stirred for a closer walk with God and lamps were trimmed that they might shine brighter in this sin-benighted world. The saints in general felt that we needed a longer meeting, but Bro. Chandler felt the call of other duties. In view of the fact that the assembly meeting is so near at hand, we felt it was best to close the meeting, hoping that the Lord will bless us with another one soon.

—G. R.



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—oOo—

Obituaries

Billie Jean Pierro, infant son of Everett and Mayetta Pierro was born July 18, 1950 in Bakersfield, Calif. and departed this life October 26, 1950. He leaves to mourn his passing his parents, two sisters, Gwendolyn and Vera Mae; three brothers, Warren, McKinly and Larry all of the home; grandparents, Bro. and Sis. John K. Blackwell of Bakersfield, Calif. and Bro. and Sis. Pierro of Stockton, Calif; several aunts and uncles, many relatives and friends. Services conducted by W. W. Crawley. Burial in Union Cemetery, Bakersfield, California.

—oOo—

Sister Bessie (Bellup) Murdark was born December 24, 1896. She was united in marriage to Lewis Murdark to which union seven children were born, four boys and three girls.

She accepted the truth in her early days and was a great worker in the Church of God at Vernon, Okla. She

was well known at Vernon by all and her life made preaching easy to all lovers of the truth. She is gone but not forgotten. Survivors are her husband, children, ten grandchildren, one great grandson, one brother and a host of friends. Bro. R. Walters conducted services using Psalm 119 as the text.

—oOo—

New Song Book—Evening Light Songs



The new song book entitled Evening Light Songs has been reprinted. You may send your order now. This book contains most of the familiar songs from the "Select Hymns" book, and some choice songs from other sources. It contains 480 pages, shaped notes, cloth bound. These books have stronger bindings than the first ones that were printed, but we offer them to you at a lower price because the printing expense has been less.

Price: from one to ten books \$1.40; ten books or more \$1.30 each post paid. Faith Pub. House, Guthrie, Ok.

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A NEW BOOK PRINTED

The message entitled, "The Great Sacrifice," which was preached at the National Campmeeting at Monark Springs, Mo., July, 1950, is now made into a 32-page book. Anyone may have this book for the asking. It is free to any who want it. Send for some books to pass to your friends.

—oOo—

THE BUILDING PROJECT AT WICHITA, KANSAS

We the saints of Wichita are very thankful how the Lord has been supplying for the building. We have enough money to get it started and feel sure the Lord is going to help us the rest of the way. We thank all who have communicated to this affair. We plan to start building in the near future as we have no place to worship. We feel the Lord has a ripe field in this place and desire your prayers. Bro. Lewis Williams, 1750 N. Madison, Wichita.

—oOo—

Prayer Helpers

"Helping together by prayer."—2 Cor. 1:11.

I like to feel that though on earth we never meet,
Yet we may hold heart-fellowship at God's dear feet.

I like to feel in all the work thou hast to do,
That I, by lifting hands of prayer may help thee, too.

I like to think that in the path His love prepares,
Thy steps may sometimes stronger prove through secret prayers.

I like to think that when on high results we see,
Perchance thou wilt rejoice that I thus prayed for thee!

—Sel.

Perilous Times

"In the last days perilous times shall come" 2 Tim. 3:1. The Apocrypha Bible quotes, "Behold, the days shall come when they which dwell upon earth shall be taken in a great number, and the way of truth [Bible] shall be hidden, and the land shall be barren of faith. But iniquity shall be increased above that which now thou seest or that thou hast heard long ago." "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, . . . lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." 2 Tim. 3.

"The beginning of pride is when one departeth from God, and his heart is turned away from his Maker. For pride is the beginning of sin, . . . therefore the Lord brought upon them strange calamities." "For many great miseries shall be done to them that in the latter times shall dwell in the world, because they have walked in great pride." Apo. Eccl. 10:12. "Be ye afraid of the sword [war]: for wrath bringeth the punishments of the sword, that ye may know there is a judgment." Job 19:29.

A group have set their minds on the construction of bomb-shelters in the Ozarks as an underground safety. Today there is a hiding place. "A man [Christ] shall be as an hiding place from the wind: . . . as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land." Isa. 32:2. "Fear thou not: for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God . . . I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." Isa. 41:10.

—Roberta Reese

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The Lord Giveth and the Lord Taketh

In Psalm 118:23, we read this text: "This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes." Truly, the workings of the Lord are marvellous in our eyes, as he deals with His consecrated children, placing one here and one there as it pleases him, to keep his work moving forward.

Five years ago, He burdened the heart of a very precious young saint to come to Guthrie and help in the "Lord's Print Shop." In obedience to His leadings this saint, Sister Dora Lela Sorrell, left her home in Myrtle, Mo. and became a very useful worker here. Not only did she work with her hands for the Lord, but she also obeyed the Scripture: "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." 1 Tim. 4:12.

After consecrating her service to the Lord's work here for five years, she felt the Lord was pleased to make a change in her life. Sunday, December 3rd, at the saints' chapel at Guthrie, Okla. she was united in marriage to Ralph Eugene Beisly, a young saint of Coffeyville, Kansas. Bro. Fred Pruitt officiated at the ceremony and a large number of saints witnessed it. They plan to make their home in Coffeyville. "We feel sure she will fit into the congregation there and be useful in the Lord's work there, and we pray God's blessings upon her and her husband."

She will be greatly missed here, but even in this we can see the marvellous works of the Lord. Even before definite plans were made for the wedding, the Lord began to talk to another of his consecrated saints, Virginia Blais of Eugene, Ore., about coming here. She obeyed His leadings and arrived here Nov. 18, 1950. She is very competent and a willing worker, and we thank the Lord for sending her. "Oh, that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!"—G. R.

o0o

The Stormy Sea of Life

As I was listening to the Word of God from Acts 27th chapter where Paul was shipwrecked, my thots went out to the world of sinners, and I could see a great resemblance. Paul warned the captain not to go on this voyage because there was danger ahead for their lives; but they did not heed his warning, and were in a storm for fourteen days and nights. This must have been terrible, for they had all lost hope of being saved. But after being tossed in the stormy sea for fourteen days, they were ready to listen to Paul and obey his instructions.

If we do not hear and heed God's warnings when we are young, the Lord just lets us go on our way out into the stormy sea of sin to the danger of losing our souls until we will heed God's warning and give our lives to him. We can surely see it would have been far better for the captain to have taken Paul's advice and warning. Then how much better it would be to take God's warnings and be saved and escape this awful danger of being shipwrecked in the sea of sin and be lost forever and have to spend an eternity in hell. Take time to consider what this will mean, for the time is growing short and there will be no other time to get saved when Jesus comes. It will be terrible to hear those words "TOO LATE."

Do not risk your lives with the devil on this awful sea of sin, but give your hearts to the Lord while you have time and opportunity.

—Flossie Atha

Mo.—To the dear saints scattered abroad,—Greetings in the dear Lord. I feel it would be pleasing to the dear Lord for me to give my testimony through the paper as I have been very sick for over a week. I was feeling very bad last night, my lungs seemed to be getting tighter and an awful pain was in my left lung. I was discouraged and I told the Lord if he healed me I would give my testimony through the "Faith and Victory" paper. I wrote to the print shop for prayer as I was getting so bad and alone. I said, "Lord, your way be done." After I had written for prayer the dear Lord wonderfully healed me for which I give him all the praise and glory. There are some folks that will shout and make a high profession but if they get sick they will see the doctor or take medicine. The reason for that is they are afraid they will die and go to the place for such people. When I stepped out of the devil's boat and stepped in the Lord's ship I knew he would take care of me and I am not afraid to trust him. It has been 49 years since I stepped into the Lord's ship and I haven't taken a dose of medicine because I am his and I know he cares for me. I never think of using remedies or medicine because I belong to the Lord. One for the whole truth,

Emma Ritchie.

Young People's Section

My Lord And My Saviour

My Lord and my Saviour is a wonderful guide,
I long for Him to always be by my side.
He's able to guide me on this straight narrow way,
I want to be faithful and not go astray.

My Lord and my Saviour is a wonderful Master,
I want to live so I can stay in His pasture.
He wants us to put our trust in Him,
So that our lights will never grow dim.

My Lord and my Saviour is a wonderful friend,
I want to be truthful and be with Him in the end.
He is so kind and compassionate, too,
His precious love will guide us through.

My Lord and my Saviour is a wonderful King,
I want to keep growing and never get lean.
I want to be ready to go when He comes,
So I can be listening for those words "well done."
Mary Lee Marler

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Dear Saints Scattered Abroad: —I am thankful to greet you in Jesus' dear name. The Lord has been wonderful to me in the years that I have trod the sands of time, more precious than words could ever express. His saving and keeping power is our present stay. I am glad that I can say even today that I am saved, a victor over sin and Satan. The Lord has promised to make us to be more than conquerors, and I claim that by faith and confidence in the holy name Jesus.

This morning I was awakened with a burdened heart for souls whom the enemy is in his cunning way discouraging in one way or another, he cares not how. Just a short time ago a soul who had been discouraged told me, "I've never tasted real deep sin, or any pleasures of this world," and expressed a desire to find out what it was like. My heart ached within me, as I thought what the enemy was doing to that soul. I remembered back a few years when he confronted me with the same suggestion. I remembered one night a young man gave a wonderful testimony how God had saved him from deep depths of sin, and he seemed to love the Lord so much. The enemy came to me and said, "You don't love the Lord like he does." Now the Scripture even bears that out. When the woman washed Jesus' feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair, Jesus said, "whom much is forgiven loveth much." Not knowing how to defeat the enemy, I let that hinder me in serving the Lord. I had been carefully guarded against the sins and evils of this world and had been spared of deep sin outwardly. The enemy so blinded my eyes that it was not plain to me that keeping saved would still be his sav-

ing grace, and would spare us of that grief and sorrow that only sin does bring, and I could love the Lord just as much for keeping me from them. Tonight I love the Lord for saving me from sin and keeping me out of many many others.

Now it grieves my heart when I hear an individual say, "I never was a bad person," and yet always making remarks about others. To me it appears their state is worse than the former, for if we justify ourselves and think within ourselves that we never have been so bad a creature, the Lord will only mean very little to us. But when we see ourselves at heart as he sees us, and cry, "Save me, a sinner or I perish," then we can say he means all the world to us, and love him much for saving us from the committed sins and saving us from committing greater. If we could just comprehend the goodness of God!

We very often hear someone say, "I never robbed." Yet at heart every soul is a robber who rejects God's love. You are robbing Him of your soul and the time you are wasting living in sin. The Scripture says, "All souls are mine." The time is His also. "Another says, "I've never committed fornication or adultery. I have been a good moral person." How is the heart? The Scripture says he that looketh on a woman to lust after her has committed it in his heart.

There are many other evils that only God discerns, because man can hide from man, and only as the Lord gives discernment to his trusting children can they be able to know. Envy—how many souls in sin do not envy in one way or another. Hatred—which is murder at heart. Strife, etc.

We all have a right to love the Lord as much as the woman at his feet for sparing us of the disgrace of prison bars, drunkenness, and low moral living, as it surely was the goodness of God and his love, and nothing within you or me. Some say, "Oh, but my mother and father taught me straight." That is good. I would we had more. But God was good and gave good parents, you and I had nothing to do with that. We should be thankful and love the Lord for looking ahead in our behalf. Just think of the millions of children who have not been blessed even as we. Yet Jesus came for them. I am so glad that Jesus came to redeem sinners and make them white-robed saints, purer than an innocent babe with a pure conscience to love God. When God forgives and never remembers it against us and is for us, who then can be against us and bring again a consciousness of sin and rob us of the promises and blessings that are unto the blood-washed, born-again souls? Let us be watchful, prayerful, and careful, and have forgiving hearts, even as Christ.

As one of the "Faith and Victory" readers, I must say I enjoy reading the testimonies of each, and the articles that are written are an inspiration and help to me. I covet your prayers, that I be a vessel that

may at all times be fit for the Master's use.

Your blood-washed sister, Miss Inez Eck.

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Pa.—Dear ones in Christ,—Greetings in Jesus' precious name. I thought I would write my testimony of what God has done for me. I had two red lumps inside of my left eye which were very painful to me. One went away and the second is almost gone. God has healed it. Pray that God will completely heal my eyes and that they will get stronger.

Praise God for victory in my soul, for his healing, saving, and sanctifying power. He is so precious to me and helps me in time of trouble. I expect by his help to keep faithful to him and make heaven my home. I hope this will be an encouragement to someone to trust the Lord.

In Christian love, Twila Campbell.

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Calif.—Dear saints,—The Lord gave us a wonderful all day young people's meeting on Sunday, Nov. 26 here at Bakersfield. Quite a number of young people were present both saved and unsaved. Bros. Clarence Hatley, Felix Francisco, and W. Crawley delivered the messages. Bro. and Sis. Crawley had been with us for six weeks but left Monday morning for home. Several children were saved and others received help in the meeting. All the saints were greatly encouraged both young and old.

We hope to have all day young people's meeting again soon the Lord willing. Pray that the Lord will continue to stir the young saints in this place and to save others here especially those that meet with us from time to time. The young saints of Bakersfield, California.

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La.—Dear Saints,—I want to thank the dear Lord for what he means to me. He has surely wonderfully blessed me in so many ways. Before school was out last year I wrote in requests for prayer and the Lord undertook for me about these unspoken requests and worked things out wonderfully. I surely thank and praise him for it and also thank the saints for their prayers in my behalf. I desire to always be found doing and saying those things that are pleasing to the Lord that I might gain a home in heaven when this life is over and also be of encouragement or help in some way to others that they might gain that home. Pray for me for I do want the Lord to clearly lead me in his paths.

Yours for the whole truth, Aquila Green.

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Mo.—Dear ones in Christ,—Greetings of love in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I want to tell how the Lord healed me this morning. I had an abscessed tooth that sent poison through my body and I was almost paralyzed. I could hardly move my hands so I sent for Bro. Murphey Allen, Bro. and Sis. Gibson to pray for me. They prayed before leaving home and by the time they got here the Lord had completely healed me. I can't thank him enough for his saving and healing power. Pray for me that I'll ever be found doing the Lord's will.

Your sister in Christ, Mary Allen

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CORRESPONDENCE

Okla.—Dear saints,—The Lord has been impressing me for some time to send in my testimony to the "Faith and Victory" as it might be an encouragement to those suffering with affliction on their bodies. I had been down with arthritis for several years, up and down, but never without pain. It came upon me two years ago. I

couldn't walk alone, lie down, sit down or get up. I suffered greatly. They sent me to the hospital November 15, 1948 and I went through the clinic. They sent me home to return January 12 and kept me there five days. They had me billed for an operation the day they turned me loose. Another doctor examined my heart again and told me I had an enlarged heart and couldn't undergo an operation. I was sent home with a hand full of perscriptions to have filled but the Lord seemed to say to me "Those perscriptions will do you no good." Man can do nothing without God's help but God can do anything without man's help so I didn't have them filled. I haven't taken any medicine since.

I sent several times to different prayer bands without receiving any help from the Lord yet I never took any medicine. I was determined to trust my Lord and not man. Praise the Lord. My faith was being tried and I knew my faith was not as strong as it had been years ago. The Lord had healed me and my family many times in the past 60 years. I held on to my loving Savior for healing of my body. After I learned about Bro. Pruitt and got in touch with them at Guthrie I sent for an anointed handkerchief. I was alone, (two sisters had gone to camp meeting at Oklahoma City) so I applied the handkerchief the best I could with no one to pray with me. I seemed to get some better. I applied it several times and would feel some better in many ways but couldn't say I was well. I kept holding on to my precious Savior I knew he would heal me in his own good time. Glory to God in the highest! the first of October the blessed Lord took all pain away. I will trust him as long as I live and go home to Glory trusting my Lord for there is nothing between my soul and the Savior, so that his blessed face may be seen. Nothing preventing the least of his favor, keep the way clear let nothing between. I know he cares for me.

My precious Friend he'll always be

His love I feel, his smiles I see,

I know my Savior cares for me.

A sister in Christ,

Matilda Lee.

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

Ohio.—Dear Sis. Pruitt and all the saints,—Greetings in Jesus' name. I'm glad I can say the Lord has touched my body. The misery was gone before the handkerchief came. I know the Lord healed me when you anointed the handkerchief and prayed for me. The Lord is so good to his children.

Iva Evans.

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

Mo.—Dear readers of "Faith and Victory" paper—Greetings in the blessed Holy name. Today finds me saved with my trust in the Lord. The Lord has done wonderful things for me. He saved my soul and healed my body. I was healed of an inward growth I had for 15 years, heart trouble, and not long ago the Lord healed a cold that was on my lungs. I could tell of many more times the Lord has healed me. I'm looking to the Lord to heal me of neuritis rheumatism. I get better some days and some days feel worse but I still have my trust in the one that can answer prayer. The Lord has heard and answered many prayers in my behalf. Praise his holy name. Many, many thanks to the dear saints that have offered up prayer for me, also for the encouraging letters, cards, and for every needed help I have received. May the Lord bless each and every one.

I hope you will accept this way of my answering your cards and letters as my arms and hands hurt a lot because of neuritis rheumatism. In answer to some of the questions to the ones that wrote to me: I don't own a home. We

sold it and my husband took all the money. I don't have any income only what the Lord sees best to give me. I'm not able to do much work and couldn't get a job at my age (61). I wouldn't be able to hold a job.

I ask the prayers of all God's praying children that I keep true to the Lord and do his will and pray for me to be completely healed. May the Lord's rich blessings rest upon each one is my prayer.

Sister Fannie Williams
R. 1, Stoutland, Mo.

o-o-o-o-o

Ohio—Dear saints in Christ,—Greetings in the name of our precious Lord and Savior for without him there is nothing but grief and sorrow. He has done so much for me and helped me when there was no other but the dear Lord to go to. He also healed my body. I had a stroke and the doctor said I couldn't live and that if they would touch my body a blood clot would go to my heart but I pleaded with God as a little child to please be so kind to come touch my body and he did. He made my body free and whole. You can't ever tell that I had a stroke. Oh, dear saints, it is so wonderful what he can do for us if we only have faith in God and his word is proven in Mark 11:22. Have faith in God. Oh it is so easy to love and trust him. I want to write my testimony and I am so willing for the dear Lord to have his way. I am so thankful that I have given myself to God to take care and guide me the way for there is no other way than the Lord's way. Your sister in Christ, Mary Weitendorf.

o-o-o-o-o

Ore.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt,—May God's richest blessings rest on you and the work God has called you to. I am so happy to tell you tonight I am saved and still on my way to heaven. I passed through a severe trial this summer. I had another nervous break down but God in his mercy delivered me and brought me out with a clear mind more decided to go through for God. I believe God has a work here in Union for me and the devil is enraged. He has tried to defeat me in every way but God is more than a match for the devil. Praise God. I am here alone, that is, the only one that has light on the church and quite a number of other things and the devil don't want me to help people. God is defeating the devil's plans.

When I came home from the hospital I said, "Now Lord, what can I do? They will say I am crazy and can't do much." The Lord said to me, "You can pray" and then I thought of the many instances in the Bible where God heard and answered the prayers of the righteous. I said, "Yes, Lord I can pray and the prayer of a righteous man availeth much." I am encouraged tonight to do what my hands find to do. My work has always been more personal work so I can visit the sick and discouraged and encourage and point them to the One who can really lift them up and save. I want your prayers that God will use me here in this wicked little town that I might help some poor soul to Christ.

When they sent me to the hospital here at Pendleton the doctor (a personal friend of ours) wept and said "She will die, she will never come home." Praise God, I came home with a clear mind and I really believe God was in my trip to that hospital. I gained the confidence of so many sick people there, even the nurses. So many asked me to pray for them. One woman that orders groceries for that part of the hospital and fixes the trays became a close friend and writes to me. She said, "Pray for me, I know God will answer your prayers." I testified among the sick and told them how God healed. The doctors and nurses marveled how I came out of sickness quickly when young women were there long before I came

and I left them there. I told them God's children were praying for me. God took care of me and brought me out. I think about Joseph when he was sold and took to Egypt and put in prison. God took care of him and used him to save his father's family. The Lord says, "think it not strange concerning the fiery trial." If we would live with him we must also suffer with him. Pray for me for I want to be one of that number up there. O. K. Myers.

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Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and family,—Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus our Redeemer and keeper. Surely it is my sweetest delight and utmost pleasure to love and serve such a precious Savior. I love and cherish him more and more each day of my life as I see and feel more of his great love and power in my life. When I meditate on his wonderful goodness and mercy to me through all those terrible, awful years out there in that beastly blind world, it just causes my heart to swell with love and gratitude to him for following after me and keeping his gracious and holy hand over me in tender mercy. Bless his great and holy name forever! I just want to walk perfectly before him and do his slightest command in just the way he wants it done, and to have no will of my own whatsoever. Pray for me that I keep growing as he would have me grow. He has given me such precious spiritual discernment that I keep praying nearly constantly that I use it only as he directs.

I pray God he will impress his Holy Ghost filled ministers to depend more on earnest, fervent prayer concerning those poor deluded souls who attack God's church and his ministers. There is nothing they can do to destroy God's church or ministers for the gates of hell itself cannot do that so long as we hold true to God and trust him. God's church has been opposed and blasphemed and wrote against and his prophets and ministers persecuted all down through the centuries but still she stands, a glorious sun crowned creation of the Almighty God who promises to defend and keep her forever. Glory be to our great and Almighty God forever and forever more! Oh! that men would learn to trust God completely and let him have complete control of all things at all times and not to get panicky when the wolf appears and start running one to another instead of looking calmly and serenely to our great and almighty God who has given us his infallible word to take care of his church and all things pertaining thereto. Yours in Christian love and fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Bro. Wesley Trimble.

o-o

INVITATION

Jesus said, "Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out."

If you are weary and tired of your sin,
Then come to the Saviour, he'll take you in.
Hear Jesus calling, "Oh come unto me,
I'll give you sweet rest and make you so free."

Why in the darkness and gloom will you roam?
While Jesus is calling, "Oh, sinner, come home."
Whosoever calls on the name of the Lord
Will surely be saved as we read in His Word.

Oh, come then to Jesus, his promise is true;
Just as he promised, so that will he do.
Come just as you are and you'll be made new;
Choose Christ as your Saviour, he'll take you thru.

Why will you linger, why tarry so long?
Come quickly and join the great blood-washed throng.
Come, wash your robes in the blood of the Lamb;
Then you'll be singing, "Oh, how happy I am!"

With our robes washed white and palms in our hand,
We'll go home to glory, that bright promised land
Where there is no sickness, nor sorrow or pain,
With the great heavenly host, forever we'll reign.

—G. W. Stephenson

Did Constantine Change the Sabbath?

**What do Seventh-Day Adventists and other Sab-
batarians claim about Constantine?**

They claim that in 321 A. D. he issued an edict that set apart Sunday, the day of the sun, to be the day of Christian worship instead of the Sabbath which they claim had been up to that time the day of Christian worship.

Who was Constantine?

He was Emperor of Rome A. D. 306 to 337. He was the first Christian emperor of Rome.

What did Constantine do?

Here is a copy of the edict as it relates to Sunday: "On the solemn day of the sun let all the magistrates and people living in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed. In the country, however, people may freely attend to the cultivation of the fields, because it often happens that another day is not so suitable for planting the grain in furrows or the vines in trenches."

There is not one word about a change of days or about worship. It is simply a political edict establishing the day of the sun or Sunday as a public holiday in the cities. This would be favorable to the Christians, especially slaves who were forced to work on Sunday. Sunday, however, was also the day of two heathen gods; Mithras, god of light and defender of truth, and Apollo, god of beauty, music, and poetry, and also the god of healing. He is often identified with Helios, the sun god. Mithras was one of the principal deities worshiped by the Roman legions. Making Sunday a holiday, therefore, would be popular with the heathen as with the Christians. We must remember in this connection that every day of the week was sacred to some god and that all of the days are named for gods. "The policy of Constantine's edict is that of a day of rest for all religious uses."—Prof. Nichols.

Did Christians keep Sunday before Constantine?

Justin Martyr, one of the greatest and most revered Christians of his day, wrote about A. D. 150, or about 171 years before Constantine's edict: "On the day called Sunday is an assembly of all who live either in the cities or in the rural districts." He then describes the manner of worship in such assemblies. Later he gives the reason for this custom of assembling on Sunday. "Because it is the first day, on which God dispelled the darkness and the original state of things, and formed the world, and because Jesus Christ our Saviour rose from the dead upon it."

The Epistle of Barnabas, written about A. D. 120, says, "Wherefore, also, we keep the eighth day with joyfulness, the day, also, on which Jesus arose again from the dead" (chapter 15).

Let us hear Justin Martyr again. "And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together into one place, and memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read as long as time permits—Sunday is the day on which we all hold our common assembly."

Origen, another great leader of the early church, writing about A. D. 225, a hundred years before Constantine's edict, said, "We ourselves are accustomed to observe certain days, as, for example, the Lord's day." In the Apostolic Constitutions dated about A. D. 250 we have the following exhortation: "And on the day of our Lord's resurrection, which is the Lord's day, meet more diligently, sending praise to God." "Otherwise what apology will he make to God who does not assemble on that day to hear the saving word concerning the resurrection" (sec. 7, par. 59). Again we read, "On the day of the resurrection of the Lord, that is the Lord's day, assemble yourselves together without fail giving thanks to God" (Book VII, section 2, par. 30).

Eusebius, around 324 A. D., says of the Lord's Day, "All nations redeemed by him throughout the world, after an interval of six days, assemble on this day" (Sabbath Manual, page 127).

What did Christians mean by the Lord's Day?

Tertullian, about 200 A. D., "Sunday, . . . the Lord's Day." Clement of Alexandria, A. D. 194, "He . . . keeps the Lord's Day when he abandons an evil disposition and assumes that of the Gnostic, glorifying the Lord's resurrection in himself" (Book 7, chapter 12).

Again Tertullian, "We solemnize the day after Saturday in contradistinction to those who call this day their Sabbath." Again I quote the Apostolic Constitutions above referred to, "On the day of the resurrection of the Lord, that is the Lord's Day." "We . . . celebrate the feast of the resurrection on the Lord's Day." Peter, Bishop of Alexandria, A. D. 306, says, "But the Lord's Day we celebrate as a day of joy, because on it he arose again." These and many other quotations that might be given show that Sunday, the first day of the week, was called the Lord's Day and was the day of Christian worship long before the days of Constantine.

Did Christians before Constantine keep the Sabbath?

The Jewish Christians did. Many of them also kept Sunday, the Lord's Day. The Gentiles that were under Jewish influence at first kept the Sabbath, but after the destruction of Jerusalem Sabbath keeping soon came to an end in the Gentile churches. Neither Jewish nor Gentile Christians failed to distinguish between the Sabbath and the Lord's Day, Sunday. We have space for but a few quotations on this point. Justin Martyr in his Dialog with Trypho, the Jew, says, "We are not circumcised in the flesh as your fathers were, and do not observe the Sabbaths as ye

do." Trypho admits this saying, "You observe no festivals or Sabbaths" (chapter 10). Again Justin Martyr says to Trypho, "If there was no need of circumcision before Abraham, or the observance of Sabbaths, or feasts and sacrifices before Moses, no more need is there of them now."

The Epistle of Barnabas, already quoted, says, "Incense is a vain abomination unto me, and your new moon and Sabbath I cannot endure. He has, therefore, abolished these things" (chapter 2). Again quoting Justin Martyr to Trypho, "As, then, circumcision began with Abraham and the Sabbath and sacrifices and feasts and offerings with Moses, . . . so it was necessary in accordance with the Father's will, that they should have an end in him who was born of a virgin" (chapter 43). Tertullian, about 200 A. D., says, "We neither accord with the Jews in their peculiarities in regard to food, nor in their sacred days" (Tertullian on Prayer, chapter 23).

Anatolius, Bishop of Laodicea, A. D. 270, says, "The solemn festival of the resurrection of the Lord can be celebrated only on the Lord's Day" (Tenth Canon).

How did Christians before Constantine look upon the Sabbath?

Tertullian, about 200 A. D., said, "To us sabbaths are foreign. Our solemnities are the Lord's Day and Pentecost." Cyril, Bishop of Jerusalem about A. D. 350, said, "Turn thou not out of the way unto Samaritanism or Judaism . . . Reject all observance of sabbaths." This is a sample of the general attitude of Christians in those days. Victorinus, Bishop of Petua, about A. D. 300, wrote, "On the Lord's Day we go forth to our bread with giving of thanks, and let the parasceve become a rigorous fast lest we appear to observe any sabbath with the Jews, which Christ himself, the Lord of Sabbath, says by his prophets that his soul hateth, which Sabbath he in his body abolished."

It is the universal testimony of the early writers of the church in all sections—Africa, Asia, and Europe—that Christians did not keep the Sabbath but that they did keep Sunday, the first day of the week, the Lord's day, as their day of weekly worship. It is thoroughly unhistorical, then, to say that Constantine or anybody else changed the Sabbath from the seventh day to the first day of the week. Constantine made no change of any sort except to declare Sunday a legal holiday. His act had no direct religious significance. No early writer for centuries following Constantine charges him or credits him with changing the day of worship.

To whom was the Sabbath given? and what did it signify?

It was given only to the Jews, and no other nation was ever under obligation to keep it. It was to Israel a memorial of God's rest at the creation (Exod. 31:17), and a sign of the sanctification of Israel (Ex. 31:12-13) and a memorial of their deliverance from bondage (Deut. 5:15).

Was Sunday commanded to be kept as a holy day by the Lord?

No, it was kept as a memorial of the resurrection of Christ. It was a day of gladness and worship, the general day of assembly throughout Christendom, but it was not based upon divine command because it was not a sabbath.

When and why did the fourth commandment come to be applied to Sunday instead of to the Sabbath?

On this point Professor Nichols, referred to above, says, "With the sixth century we begin to enter medieval church history. Here we begin to notice a decided change in the observance of the Lord's day. Sabbatarianism, the fashioning of this observance on the Jewish law, makes its appearance." Again he says, "The Lord's day and other holy days were ill observed. Hence stronger authority for their observance was sought. In the case of the Lord's day it was natural to call on the Old Testament law of the Sabbath. Here was a body of definite enactments ready to hand, which by some ingenuity could be made to apply to the Lord's day and used to fortify its observance." Again he says, "Thus in the middle ages there was built up by the church, supported by the civil power, the structure of law for Sunday observance based on the Old Testament Sabbath law."

It is interesting to note the different attitudes expressed by writers of different ages concerning the Sabbath and the Lord's day. The earlier writers declare the Sabbath was abolished. At the end of the eighth century, Alcuin says of the Jewish Sabbath, "The observance of which has been very fitly transferred to the Lord's day by the custom of the people." It is not until the thirteenth century that writers come out boldly and say with Thomas Aquinas, "The Sabbath is changed into the Lord's day."

Here we see the early church rejecting the Sabbath and keeping the Lord's day without any reference to the fourth commandment. It is not until the sixth century that the Jewish law begins to be made the foundation for Sunday keeping. It is at the end of the eighth century that the Sabbath is said to have been transferred to the Lord's day; then it is not claimed that it was done by edict of Constantine or of the pope or by any council or by anybody. But it was "transferred to the Lord's day by the custom of the Christian people." Strange indeed, that if Sabbath were changed to Sunday by some political or ecclesiastical power the church should not have found it out for so long a time!

Was not the Sabbath changed by the Council of Laodicea?

The so-called Council of Laodicea was not a general council. It was only a local Greek synod of about thirty-two bishops. It was in no sense a Roman Catholic council. It had no authority to change anything nor did it change anything. It expressed its opinions on how the Lord's day should be kept. It did command that Christians should not Judaize and keep the Sabbath, but of course its jurisdiction was only over Laodicea, or that section of the country represented by the assembled bishops.

Did not the pope change the Sabbath to Sunday?
The pope never took any such action as Sunday

was kept by the Christians long before there was a pope, as shown by the numerous quotations given.

What do modern historians say concerning the early church and the Sabbath?

A volume might be filled with such quotations. I quote briefly a few. Theodore Zahn, a high authority, says, "It never occurred to any Christian of the first three centuries to regard Sunday as a continuation of the Sabbath, and even in the fourth and fifth centuries there are only uncertain beginnings of such a thought."

Professor Nichols says, "For us it is almost impossible to think of Sunday without some reference to the Sabbath. But for the early church the two days were distinct and different." Again he says, "Except in the periods of medieval and Puritan Sabbatarianism, the church's teaching concerning Sunday has been grounded on Christian custom and reason, not on Old Testament law."

Again Professor Nichols, speaking of the end of the fourth century, says, "The Lord's day was still sharply distinct from the Jewish Sabbath, and the rest of the former did not get authority from the Old Testament law of the Sabbath."

"The universal and uncontradicted Sunday observance in the second century can only be explained by the fact that it had its roots in the apostolic practice"—Schaff (History of the Christian Church, vol. 1, page 478).

"For a time the Jewish converts observed both the seventh day, to which the name Sabbath continued to be given exclusively, and the first day, which came to be called the Lord's day . . . Within a century after the death of the last apostles we find the observance of the first day of the week, under the name of the Lord's day, established as a universal custom of the church. It was regarded, not as a continuation of Jewish Sabbath" (Johnson's New Universal Cyclopaedia).

"In the second century Sunday observance was universal. The Jewish Christians ceased to observe the Sabbath after the destruction of Jerusalem" (Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia).

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Jezebel Parlors

Text: "And she painted her face."

In my travels while giving out tracts and papers I have noticed many so-called beauty parlors. They are found in obscure places as well as prominent places. Each of them seems to serve an urgent need for what they call beauty. People spend much time and money for that purpose. Every time I see one of them I am reminded of Jezebel (2 Kings 9:30; Rev. 2:20) who "painted her face and tired her head." But she could not cover up her wickedness with all of her paint and powder, even if she painted her toenails and fingernails too. In order to be served at one of these beauty parlors, one must make an appointment and then take time and money too.

God has made an appointment with all the world

to come to his beauty parlor located at the cross. One must come confessing and forsaking all his sins, then God will accept him and "beautify the meek with salvation." That is the kind of beauty that will pass the inspection of the great Judge of all the earth, who will always do right. Gen. 18:25. He will give "beauty for ashes" Isa. 61:3, and the kind of clothing that is durable, which is "Garments of salvation." "He hath covered me with a robe of righteousness (10th verse). This clothing lasts forever. We are instructed to be "clothed with humility" (1 Pet. 5:5). which is very becoming. Then besides the beauty and clothing, God will give a "crown of life" (Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10) a "crown of righteousness" (2 Tim. 4:8) and a "crown of glory that fadeth not away" (1 Peter 5:4); and certainly that will be a "crown of rejoicing" (1 Thess. 2:19), and we will want to put on the "garment of praise" (Isa. 61:3).

The point I am trying to make is: instead of trying to fix the outside with an artificial make-up, (two or three hours) it would be much better to spend that time with the Bible and prayer and let God work in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, and the GLORY OF GOD will shine out in your face and you will be a pattern of good works. Look in the Bible and see how much God has to say about real beauty. He is the only one that can give us grace and beauty that will satisfy the longing of the soul. You can make an appointment with God at any time.

When we go to God for salvation and lay aside the worthless things of this world to obtain His beauty, we need to be on guard and not take up with seemingly little things that lead in the wrong direction. The Bible words it: "Abstain from all appearance of evil." 1 Thess. 5:22. I heard of one who laid aside the tie because it was an article of outward adornment and he felt it was wrong to wear it. But someone prevailed upon him to wear it. That opened the way for more compromises with the enemy of all righteousness. He went from bad to worse until he died a horrible death in sin and went from this world without hope and without God. Beware of things which the enemy has labeled "no harm" things. Keep seeking God day by day. (Jer. 29:13).—C. H. Weir

Thank God for the troubles that drive me to God. Jesus is the only one that can satisfy the longing of my soul.—C. H. W.

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JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY

January 7, 1951

Printed Portion.....Mark 1:9-20.

Mark 1:9. And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.

10. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

11. And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

12. And immediately the spirit driveth him into the wilderness.

13. And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.

14. Now after that John was cast in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

15. And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

16. Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

17. And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.

18. And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.

19. And when he had gone a little farther thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets.

20. And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him.

Memory Verse: The officers answered, never man spake like this man. John 7:46.

Practical Truth: Without Christ's ministry the whole world would be in spiritual darkness.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Jesus begins his ministry. What did this mean to the world? John the Baptist went before Jesus and prepared the way for him or before him. John was heard to say, "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Jesus also began his ministry with "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" and it is said that the people who sat in darkness saw great light. The coming of John the Baptist and Jesus caused all who heard them to wonder just what this new doctrine would mean. He taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. His message was plain and simple so even the unclean could understand him. He performed many wonderful miracles while he was preaching.

At the beginning of Christ's ministry when John baptized him the Father spoke from heaven and said, "Thou

art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." When Jesus began his preaching and performed miracles people would remark, we have never heard or seen such wonderful thing before and it was said of him, "never man spake like this man." All the people bore witness and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. His sermon on the mount, the beautiful beatitudes are still causing the world to wonder at his gracious words.

A DAY OF ACTIVITY

January 14, 1951

Printed Portion.....Mark 1:21-22, 29-35.

Mark 1:21. And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught.

22. And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.

29. And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

30. But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her.

31. And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them.

32. And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils.

33. And all the city was gathered together at the door.

34. And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.

35. And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

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

Practical Truth: Jesus set us an example that we should follow in his steps.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

No doubt when the time had arrived for Jesus to begin his ministry he was very anxious to get started. From the very beginning to the end of his ministry Jesus was very active and busy. However tired and worn he was he never failed to minister to the needs of all he came in contact with. We notice that Mark so often used the expression as he spoke of Jesus "and straightway" meaning that Jesus was very active and he lost no time. Jesus never forgot what his mission was. He came to seek and to save that which was lost and this was to be done in three short years. As we read his word we hear him say, I must work the works of him that sent me while it is day. From the precious old Bible we learn that he did most of his praying at night thus saving time. Sometimes he prayed all night. It seemed to be his custom to arise early in the morning and go out where he could be alone with the Father and pray. We see how earnest he was about his work in the fourth chapter of John when he met the woman at the well. When he started out that morning it seemed an absolute necessity for him to go through Samaria where he preached to so many of the Samaritans. Jesus didn't let any grass grow under his feet while he was seeking the lost.

JESUS MEETS GROWING HOSTILITY

January 21, 1951

Printed Portion.....Mark 2:1-12.

Mark 2:1. And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house.

2. And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them.

3. And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.

4. And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed where-in the sick of the palsy lay.

5. When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

6. But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts,

7. Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?

8. And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?

9. Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?

10. But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of palsy,)

11. I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.

12. And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.

Memory Verse: He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. John 1:10.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

As Jesus began his ministry he ran into a hostile crowd of pharisaical hypocrites because his preaching uncovered their crooked lives and they became very hostile when Jesus declared himself to be the Christ. The first time he preached in Nazareth where he was brought up he took his text from the prophecies of the Old Testament as it is recorded in Luke 4:18. The Father had anointed him to preach the gospel to the poor and to bind up the broken hearted, preach deliverance to the captives, recovering of sight to the blind, set at liberty them that are bruised, and to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. Then Jesus said, "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." He explained this scripture to them so they might understand that he was the Christ and then all of them in the synagogue became very hostile and they were filled with wrath and thrust him out of the city and would have cast him head long down the hill whereon their city was built but Jesus passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

It was the people who professed to be the followers of God that persecuted him. They worshiped God with their lips and crucified his Son with their hearts and hands. This blood thirsty mob of pharisaical hypocrites followed Jesus all through the three years of his ministry and then they lied on him and crucified him. But Jesus triumphed over his enemies when he came forth from the tomb the mightiest conqueror the world ever heard of.

THE GREAT TEACHER

January 28, 1951

Printed Portion.....Mark 4:1-2a, 26-34.

Mark 4:1. And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.

2. And he taught them many things by parables.

26. And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground;

27. And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.

28. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.

29. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.

30. And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?

31. It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth:

32. But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.

33. And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it.

34. But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.

Memory Verse: Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. John 3:2.

Practical Truth: We will all do well to give more earnest heed to this Great Teacher.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Without contradiction Jesus was and still is the greatest teacher the world has ever known. When he was only twelve years old we read of him in Luke 2:47, "And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers." Jesus was the only teacher that ever came to this earth who didn't need to be taught for he was with the Father before the world was. This great teacher was and is now no respecter of persons. He showed the same interest in the poorest of the poor as he did in the rich. They are all the same to him. One of the outstanding facts about Jesus is that he came to preach the gospel to the poor. In James 2:5 we read these assuring words concerning the poor, "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?"

It is marvellous how Jesus used his wisdom to get his message or his teachings to people of every class. We read in Matt. 7:28-29 "the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes." In the sixth chapter of John we read these weighty words that Jesus spoke, "the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." When this great teacher spoke, his words brought life to dead souls and also dead bodies. Lazarus had been dead and buried four days when Jesus came to his grave and said three words, "Lazarus come forth" and we all know what happened. John 11:43.

G. S.