

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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Who Will Roll Away the Stone?

Long ago when Christ had suffered
Death on Calvary's cruel tree,
Where he cried out, "It is finished!"
Salvation's plan so full and free,
There stood near his cross, awaiting,
Faithful women watching there;
And when they saw where he was buried,
Precious spices did they prepare.

As the next day was the Sabbath
They betook themselves to rest:
Waiting, watching for the dawning,
When they should go to do their best
To preserve and keep that body
Wherein all their hopes had grown;
But one question did confront them:
"Who will roll away the stone?"

Going with determination,
Early, at the break of day,
To the place where Christ was buried,
Lo, the stone was rolled away!
For an angel had descended
From the glory land above,
And rolled the stone from the sepulchre,
Christ arose! for God is love.

Would you follow Christ the Saviour,
His disciple true to be?
Stones of doubt and fear you question,
Who will roll them back for thee?
Unbelief you now can conquer,
Doubts and fears will flee away
If you with true determination
Turn from sin's destructive way.

If you will draw nigh to Jesus
As the women at the tomb,
You will find the way of entrance
Into life as clear as noon.
He'll take away thy stony heart,
And give you a heart of flesh today,
If you will turn by faith to Jesus,
He will roll the stone away.

—Ulysses Phillips

Comments On Colossians, Third Chapter

1st verse, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God."

You will take note that the first thing that we are to know is that we are risen with Christ. When Christ was here and began to preach the gospel, He said (St. John 5:24, 25), "He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." The "IS" in this sentence conveys the meaning of present tense, so just as soon as one will hear or hearken unto the word of Jesus and believe on God who sent Him, he will pass from a dead state of sin unto life in God. In the 25th verse he repeats the same truth, "The hour is coming and now is [present tense] when the dead [those who are dead to God by their sins] shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and they that hear shall live." This coming forth from a dead state of sin unto life in God is termed in Rev. 20:6, a "resurrection" which makes a soul blessed and holy, and will set a soul free from the second death, which is eternal damnation. In John 5:28, 29 he is speaking of the bodily resurrection at the Judgment Day, and says, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the grave shall hear his voice [future tense] and shall come forth; they that have done good [kept in a resurrected state in this life] unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation."

There are three lives spoken of in the Bible, and three deaths. When one is born into the world, he has both spiritual life and physical life. When he becomes old enough to realize what God requires of him, he finds himself doing contrary to God's law for him, and he dies a spiritual death. Unless he repents and looks to God to please Him, He will continue in a dead state of sin. This is why Paul said (Rom. 7:9), "For I was alive without the law once: [before he knew right from wrong] but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died." Then he told about his awful state and condition while he was in sin. But in the eighth chapter he told how he was freed from that awful state of sin through Christ.

As I said before, there are three lives and three deaths spoken of in the Bible. There is physical life, spiritual life, and eternal life. In contrast to this, there is physical death, spiritual death, and eternal death.

In Eph. 2:1, Paul speaks of the first resurrection like this, "And you hath He quickened." And he says that we were dead in trespasses and sins.

Being now resurrected from the dead, or risen with Christ, the first exhortation given us is to set our affections on things above and not on things of the earth. Verse three, "For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God." Since you now have been raised from your spiritual sleep or death, ye are dead to the things of the world. Before you were resurrected to spiritual life, you were dead to God and righteousness, but now, being raised from that state to life in God, you have become dead to the world and sin and alive in God through your belief in Christ and His blood sacrifice. If we do this and keep our earthly life hid with Christ in God, "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory." Col. 3:4.

In order to appear with Him in glory, we must heed the instructions which follow, telling us how to retain that new life of Christ in the soul. In verse five we are exhorted to "mortify, therefore your members which are upon the earth." To mortify means to deaden all carnal affections, such as, fleshly appetites and desires, or destroy them by keeping your affections on things above. In doing this, one will not want in his possession a single thing that he cannot use to God's glory. To want, or have (possess) things that cannot be used to the glory of God would be a weight that would be crushing to the spiritual life in the soul. He names many things which the flesh would lust after, which should be resisted and put to death.

If we do not mortify (put to death) the deeds of the body and cease from them, he says that the wrath of God will come upon us as the children of disobedience (verse 6).

In verse 7 he says we walked in fleshly lusts in times past when we lived in them before we were resurrected to a new life in Christ. Now he says to put off all these things; such as, anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth, and lie not one to the other, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds. The old man would mean the carnal evil nature that Christ has delivered us from with all of his deeds of evil works. In the tenth verse he says we have put on the new man which is "Christ in you the hope of glory." Col. 1:27. And now let us be renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him. We are now to sow to the Spirit and never any more to the flesh, which would cause death to the spiritual life.

In the 12th verse is a list of things to put on, which would be sowing to the Spirit and keeping spiritual life in the body. Put on bowels of mercies (pity and tenderness) kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering, forbearing one another and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against

any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things, put on charity (Divine love) which is the bond of perfectness. To do these things will bring an assurance in your soul that you are in soul-perfection here in this life, and will cause rejoicing because of the clear hope in your soul of the eternal inheritance, a glorified body with God some day.

When in this state, then (verse 15) continue to "let the peace of God rule in your hearts," and be thankful. Also (verse 16) let the Word of God dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

If you want more soul food on this line, read the 12th chapter of Romans, the 13th chapter of 1 Cor., 2nd chapter of Ephesians, and 5th chapter of 2 Cor.

Your brother in the Lord Jesus Christ.

—Fred Pruitt.

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Honoring The Holy Spirit

Isa. 52:8, "Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice: with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye when the Lord shall bring again Zion."

This prophecy was fulfilled. Acts 2:1-4. When Jesus was here on earth just before his crucifixion, making preparation to return to the Father, he said to his disciples, "If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever. Even the Spirit of truth: whom the world cannot receive because it seeth him not neither knoweth him; for He dwelleth with you and shall be in you." St. John 14:15-17. On the day of Pentecost this same Holy Spirit, or Spirit of Truth, came to take up His abode in the hearts of those who had prepared themselves to receive Him (Rom. 12:1). Jesus told his disciples this: "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things." St. John 14:26. And in St. John 16:12, 13, Jesus said, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now" (not till the Spirit of truth comes to take up His abode in you). "Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth is come, HE will guide you into ALL truth." When the Spirit of truth guides us, we all see eye to eye and all speak the same things (1 Cor. 1:10), because this blessed Holy Spirit will teach all of us the same things. If we don't all speak the same things, then confusion follows, and we know that God is not the author of confusion. This Holy Spirit, or Spirit of Truth, will come into the hearts of all who prepare themselves to receive Him (Rom. 12:1), and He will guide us into ALL truth. Then we are ALL one in Christ. Notice in particular the 26th and 27th verses.

Now turn to the 2nd chapter of 1st John. Begin with verse 24 and read the rest of the chapter. It will give us more light on this all-important Bible teaching. If we would all be ONE in Christ, then we must let the Spirit of truth guide us into ALL truth. When a Spirit-filled congregation is listening to a

Spirit-filled minister, who is doing all the counsel of God, the congregation will find the truth in their hearts just like it is coming from the pulpit. Then we are all one in Christ and see eye to eye, Amen.

Yours for perfect unity in the camp of the saints, with lots of love and very best wishes to all the saints,
—Bro. George W. Stephenson

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The Disobedient Prophet

With a burden on my heart, I feel led to write this message.

Luke 10:2, "Therefore, said he unto them, the harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few. Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." The Lord has given the gifts in the body, such as evangelists, pastors, and teachers (Eph. 4:11), in order that he might get his gospel out to all the world.

Mark 16:15, "And he said unto them, go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Some may think there is no use to try any more, because people will not hear it; but Paul said he cleared himself from the blood of all men. By obeying God, we can clear ourselves and them that hear us.

Ezek. 33: "Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman: If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned: if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand."

Oh, dear preacher friend, are you doing your best to deliver your soul from the blood of all men? I remember a song, which goes like this: "When in another land, Before the bar you stand, How deeply grieved your soul may be, If any lost one there should cry in deep despair, 'You never mentioned Him to me.'"

A man said he was called in the gospel work and was running a mission in Sioux City, Iowa. A man came one night to the mission and sought the Lord for salvation, but did not pray through. He told this preacher to meet him in a certain room at a certain time the next day. But the preacher was so busy with the cares of life that he forgot his appointment. The next day he got word that the man had killed himself in the room where he was to meet him. He said, "I don't know how it will be with me in the day of Judgment." The man's soul may be required at

his hand. Oh, how easy it is to let the cares of life come between us and precious souls.

Oh, souls, let us be up and doing, for time is short. I know it is easier on the flesh to stay at home and enjoy the comforts of life, but Jesus denied himself and took up the cross and followed him.

No doubt, some think that when they get better fixed financially, they will go out into the gospel work. But think of the poor souls who are dying and going to hell every day. It may be you could be instrumental in leading some of them to the Lord and helping them go to heaven.

The Scripture says, "Woe unto them that are at ease in Zion." Jesus left his home and went about his Father's business.

God had to send persecutions in the earlier day to scatter his people out into new fields.

Ezek. 34: "Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks? Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them." Are you in this number that Ezekiel 34 speaks about? If you are, it is time you were waking up to the fact that the Judgment day is drawing nigh.

"He that denieth not himself and taketh up the cross and followeth me, is not worthy of me." Jonah tried to take the easiest way for the flesh, but God prepared a big fish to swallow him. Dear ones, God is keeping close tab on you and me. He knows whether we are doing our duty or pleasing the flesh. God has given each one a talent to use. If we bury our talent, we will be cast into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

In 1 Kings 13 we read about a disobedient prophet. God had assigned him a duty, but he listened to another man and failed God. A lion met him on the way and slew him.

Oh, dear ones, it is a lot easier to listen to the flesh and the self life and neglect to do our duty toward God and our fellowmen.

Heb. 10:38, "The just shall live by faith, but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." The apostle Paul said that he had fought a good fight and had kept the faith. The gift of the ministry is a big job in itself. May God help us to so live that we can have the testimony that Paul did, that we have fought a good fight and kept the faith. The Lord is going to return some day to take account of his servants. Can we say we have done our duty and cleared ourselves from the blood of all men?

Yours for the one true way, Murphy Allen

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God seldom speaks to a man while man himself is talking.

If God has called you, do not spend time looking over your shoulder to see who is following.

"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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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.

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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" 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¢ each subscription in quantities of five or more to one address for a yr. (Pay quarterly if you desire).

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Courage and Faith

If we spend today in the right manner, it will give courage for tomorrow. We only live one day at a time, so why should we worry? God has promised to supply our needs, so we should refuse to look at the troubles which seem to be coming. It will give us courage and faith if we look on the good things and count our blessings, "name them one by one."

Mrs. H. R. Grauke

Editorials

The Faith Publishing House, which is termed, "The Lord's Print Shop" is being preciousely used of the Lord to get the vital truths of the Bible to men by the printed page.

In response to the "three month subscription offer" which we put out last fall, more than three thousand subscriptions came in on the three month lists. In the March issue they expired, and blanks were inserted inviting them to subscribe for a year. These blanks are now coming back with addresses for yearly subscriptions. We are very pleased and thankful to God for those who have been blessed in reading the contents of the "Faith and Victory" paper, and are now subscribing for a year. Quite a number of those who renewed for a year expressed their thanks to the one who had sent their name in for the three months, for their souls had been fed and they rejoiced in God.

When the Lord first impressed us to print and send out the "Faith and Victory" paper, it seemed a work too great for us to do and we hesitated and called upon God in prayer with much fasting for nearly a month. While in this prolonged waiting, He assured us that he would be with us, and He gave us the scripture found in 2 Corinthians 9:8, "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." The Lord has fulfilled his promises in this, but not without many trials and tests of faith. We have had to wrestle, not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of darkness and spiritual wickedness in high places. The devil and his agents have worked hard to overthrow this work and bring it to naught; but the Lord's grace has sustained and brought to naught their wicked devices and the work is moving on and is now more settled and established than ever. Our faith is mounting up as on eagles' wings and our confidence is greater in God and in his true saints than it ever was. Our physical health is very good, and it would seem that the Lord may give us twenty years more to print and send out this gospel.

At present, we are burdened to be out in meetings, as His love in our hearts is prompting us to get the gospel to men not only by the printed page, but also by preaching the gospel publicly and coming into personal contact with needy souls. We certainly do desire your prayers and cooperation in this work for the Lord in behalf of precious souls.

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I have been informed that in the Russian Encyclopedia they have God listed as a myth, something imaginary. In Webster's Dictionary He is listed as, "The Supreme Being, The Creator and Sovereign of the universe." The latter is the true and right definition. I understand that in many of our universities they are teaching the Russian idea of God, which makes infidels and atheists. This kind of teaching to the oncoming generation surely marks the decaying and corrupted state of our nation. They think themselves wise and filled with advanced wisdom, when in reality they have become fools.

It is written in the Word of God that some glorified Him not as God and their foolish heart was darkened and they became vain in their imaginations, and professing themselves to be wise, they became fools (Rom. 1:22). It is written that for this cause He gave them up to vile affections and they were given over to a reprobate mind and they were filled with unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, envy, murder, haters of God, proud, and boastful. "The fool has said in his heart, There is no God." Any nation, state, city, or individual who leaves God, the Creator of the universe, out of his life and heart is a fool in the sight of God, also in the sight of men who know God.

The rich man (Luke 16) who fared sumptuously every day with the things of this world, which God had allowed him to have, and cared not for the needy souls about him, found out after he got in hell and lifted up his eyes being in torment that he had been a fool all his earthly life. He lived a selfish life, tried to satisfy and to gratify his fleshly lusts and denied God the right to rule and govern him in this life. He left God out and is now reaping torment and misery through all ages to come. Just think what an enormous cost he is paying now for his folly and foolish deeds he committed in the sight of his Creator.

The rich man whose fields brought forth plentifully left God out and decided within himself that he would pull down his barns and build greater and there bestow all his goods. And he said to his soul, "Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry." God, the Creator and Ruler of the universe, looked upon the poor man and said, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be which thou hast provided?" Luke 12:20.

I repeat it: every nation, state, city, or individual that leaves God, the Creator and Ruler of the universe, out of his thoughts and life is a dunce and a fool and will reap in time to come the folly of his sowing.

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In Psalm 66:18, is this Scripture, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." One definition for "regard" is to hold in high esteem, and another definition is to "give heed to." In Proverbs 4:23 we read, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Those who wish to be workers together with God have a job on their hands of keeping their hearts clean in His sight so He will hear their prayers and continue to live in their souls, working in them both to will and to do of his good pleasures. If there were no devil around trying to rob one of the life of Christ, it would be an easy matter, but since there is a personal devil spirit which is antagonistic to the clean life of Christ, there is a fight on hands for the child of God. He must watch and pray with resisting power of God to be an overcomer in this world. In Eph. 6:11 we are instructed by the apostle Paul to put on the whole armour of God, "that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." When

Paul was getting ready to depart this life, he said, "I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith." If one has no fight of resistance to the devil or against spiritual wickedness, the devil has either got him, or else has him going his way and is working easy with him so as not to awaken him to his cunning and deceitful working. If you are not arrayed very strongly against the devil, he will not be stirred against you much and that is the reason why we often hear souls testify that they are putting forth effort, watching and praying, and doing all they know to live close to the Lord. "But," they say, "the more I try to live for God, the harder the tests and trials." The very fact that they are putting forth this effort stirs the devil to be active against them. Every saint should often read over the 6th chapter of Ephesians and see that they have on the whole armour of God. It is said of Paul that when he went into a city, he either had a revival or a riot, and sometimes he had both. The reason for this was that he was bold and outspoken against the devil and his works of darkness and his imps were stirred against him to slay him and to stop his mouth. They would find fault with him and what he said. In Acts 17:18 some of the great men of earth encountered him, saying, "What will this babbler say?" And others said, "He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods." In the city of Philippi Paul and Silas were beaten with many stripes and thrown into jail because the people of that city rose up against them and said, "They teach customs which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans."

Yes, my dear brother minister, sister or brother, if you hold against the evils of this world in deed and in truth, you will have plenty of opposition, and that from those who claim to follow Jesus. But we must strive lawfully if we keep our own souls saved. Paul said, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway," or as the dictionary says, "one thrown away or rejected, shipwrecked."

Brethren, let us be bold for God, but always in the Spirit of Christ, with meekness and humility of heart, striving lawfully, holding the truth in righteousness and true holiness.

Obituaries

Sister Beadie Russel, born August 5, 1882, passed from this life Jan. 29, 1952, age 69 years, 5 months, and 24 days. She gave her heart to the Lord some years ago, associated herself with the saints all the years we knew her and seemed to have a great love for the truth of this Evening Light. For a number of years she lived in Miss., and the last several years she lived near Loranger, La., and attended services regularly at Oak Grove. She and sister Maggie Powell made their home together, and we feel confident they had good times together in the Lord, both being dear saints of God. She accidentally met with death when her clothing caught fire while burning grass off a field, which brought great grief to our hearts. But we feel sure she was ready to go to meet the unexpected summons to come up higher.

Funeral conducted by the writer assisted by Bro. Ray Key and Bro. L. L. Perry. Scripture reading: Revelation

14:13; 7:13-17; John 11:25, 26; 1 Cor. 15:12-25, 49-58. Her body was laid to rest in the Oak Grove Cemetery to await the resurrection day. —Sister Katherine Key.

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William Robert Gordon, son of James and Nancy Gordon, was born October 12, 1894 and departed this life February 14, 1952, age 57 years, 4 months, 2 days. He was born seven miles north west of Hennessey, Okla. and grew to manhood near Dover, Okla.

He was married to Miss Bessie Lee August 9, 1914. To this union seven children were born, two of whom preceded him in death.

At an early age he was converted and joined the Baptist church. Later, receiving more light he embraced the truth as taught by the church of God. There were times when pressed by the duties and cares of life that he weakened and faltered, then would repent and turn to God when he became aware that he was really in error. He trusted God for physical healing.

His health began to fail about four years ago, while living in Wichita, Kansas. Thinking rural life might be more favorable to his condition, he and his wife returned to the community near Okeene, Okla. where they had begun their married life.

Bereaved are: his wife, Bessie L. Gordon, Okeene, Okla.; Lester, Wichita, Kans., Mrs. Renolda Grace Williams, Okla. City, Mrs. Cornelia Ragsdale, Mrs. Audrey Brown and Robert Virgil all of Los Angeles, Calif.; a mother, Wichita, Kans.; 5 sisters; 5 brothers; 8 grandchildren; 3 sons-in-law, 1 daughter-in-law, neices, nephews, and other relatives.

Funeral service by Bro. U. Phillips, assisted by Bro. Lewis Williams, Bro. Manly Spears, and Bro. Fred Pruitt. Texts, Matt. 24:42-47; 2 Cor. 5:17; 2 Pet. 3:10-14. Interment in Parvin Cemetery, Okeene, Okla.

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Sister Emma Ritchie, born Dec. 4, 1868, in Buffalo, Mo. was found dead in her bed at her home (Reeds, Mo.) Feb. 17, 1952, age 83. She had been in ill health for several months and had been suffering from a heart condition. She had been dead about four hours when found by her son, Bert Taylor. Her first husband, Charles Taylor, died in 1924, and she was married on Dec. 16, 1930 to Mr. Ritchie, who died Aug. 7, 1946.

Sister Ritchie loved the Lord and labored hard, even at her age, to support His work. The saints who have attended the Monark Springs Campmeeting the past few years will remember her for her faithfulness in bringing vegetables which she had raised for the campmeeting.

Surviving are three sons, Bert and Roy Taylor, both of Reeds, Mo. R. 1, Bill Taylor of Carthage Mo.; five daughters, Mrs. Ellen Sanders of Carthage, R. 1, Mrs. John Wooten of Carthage, R. 3, Mrs. Florence McDonald of Reeds, R. 1, Mrs. Ethel Cline and Mrs. Chloe Kosmata of Carthage, R. 1; one brother; one sister; 39 grandchildren; 46 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral service by Ersa Carrick of Webb City, Mo.

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MEETINGS EASTER SUNDAY

Again the saints at Guthrie wish to remind you that they desire your presence on Easter Sunday, April 13th, at the chapel located on the corner of 6th St. and W. Warner. Services morning and night and the New Testament Ordinance to be observed in the afternoon. Basket dinner at noon in the dining hall.

The saints at Kalamazoo, Michigan extend a hearty invitation to saints and friends everywhere to meet with them on Easter Sunday, April 13, 1952. Lord willing, there will be services in the morning, a basket dinner served at the meeting place, ordinance services (feet washing and the Lord's Supper) in the afternoon, and regular services again at night.

We expect to have brother and sister Ray Key with us at this time. The saints at Kalamazoo have rented the upstairs of the K. of P. Hall, 801 W. Main St., It is a red brick building near the Michigan Central tracks. (Please use the side entrance). Anyone not able to find the place, call either of these two telephone numbers: 4-8258 or 50407.

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The saints plan, Lord willing, to have all day services at the High Hill chapel, 4½ miles north of Neelys Landing, Mo. (on the Neelys Landing and Hines Landing Road) on Easter Sunday, April 13th, with dinner on the grounds. We need help in the services that day and are praying that the Lord will send some good ministers this way. We will be glad for any saints who can to come and be with us.

E. B. Pinkerton

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Muncie, Indiana—Dear saints scattered abroad, greetings:

I want to thank the dear Lord and all His people whom He has moved upon to help us on the building project here; financially, labor donated, and your prayers in our behalf. The chapel part is near ready for use, and we will be working on the kitchen as the Lord provides means to go ahead. I am sure we can have all in readiness by campmeeting time with the dear Lord's help.

We plan, Lord willing, to have all day Easter services observing the ordinances of our Lord's Supper and feet washing. We extend an invitation to all saints, and would appreciate the presence of some of the saint ministers for this meeting.

The chapel may be reached by going east of Muncie just outside the city limits on Route 32. Turn north at Kem's popcorn stand, which is Claypool Road. Go about three blocks, and to your right you can see the chapel, which is of red brickcrete.

We have been happy in constructing this place of worship, feeling in the Spirit it is His precious will, as we realize time is getting short and we won't have the freedom we now have much longer. It should interest every saint, especially in this part of the country, to the extent they will do all they can to make this coming campmeeting a glorious one. There are many precious souls that need spiritual help. Let us each dig deeper in the love of God and begin to pray that God will be moved on the throne in behalf of souls all over the land for a closer walk with Him. Sister Minnie Brown, Route 6, Muncie, Indiana.

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PRAYER REQUESTS

Tex.—Dear saints, Greetings of love to all in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. I have been reading the "Faith and Victory," and do so much enjoy the good sermons and letters and every word of it. I am so thankful for the love of God that binds our hearts in Christian love. I desire the saints' prayers for a tumor (I guess) that is under my right arm. It is very painful at times. It gets better, then gets worse. I hate to have people to bother with me because I feel so unworthy, but I must go on the upward way and not fail the Lord. I need help in body and I need spiritual help above all, that I may please my Lord. I felt like I should write and seems like I'm so unworthy that I hated to, but this scripture came to me, "Ask and ye shall receive." Nellie Lovell.

Mrs. Ben Harrison of Arapaho, Okla. is not well in body and desires the saints' prayers for healing. She also desires prayer for her unsaved husband and family.

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

Ill.—Dear Christian friends,—May the dear Lord bless each and every one. One day last week I went to the Post Office for my mail and very much to my surprise I was handed a "Faith and Victory" paper addressed to me. I was so glad. May the dear Lord bless this wonderful work and the one who sent it to me. I have read this paper before and like it.

I solicit the prayers of all the saints for the healing of my ear and eyes, which are weak. I have been healed a number of times and I know nothing is too difficult for Jesus. Also please pray for the Lord to lead in my behalf in settling an estate that I am involved in, and for God to have his way in behalf of the home, which seems to hinder me in working for Jesus, as I have to stay here. I promised God last fall I would go all the way with Him, when he sanctified me and called me to preach. I feel so humble in his sight. I want to work for my Master. I have given up all for Jesus. This old world is naught to me. This evening while I was cooking my supper, which I could hardly do for praising God, I just shouted all over the place. As a rule I am lonely, living alone on a forty acre farm on the outskirts of a little town, but tonight I had no fear. Why? because heaven came down as I had been with the saints of God through reading the "Faith and Victory." I felt so near heaven. Pray for me saints, that God will lead me out of this net that the enemy has my feet in. I would also appreciate special prayer for my son, Louis Edward over in Germany. May God bless you all is my prayer.

Lola V. Chase.

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

Tex.—Dear friend,—I want to tell you that I am reading the "Faith and Victory" paper. It surely is a fine paper. God is surely blessing your efforts. I have had a hard time with the flu and stomach trouble this winter. Please agree in prayer for me that I get complete victory over it and gain strength. I am so weak.

Christian love,

Mrs. H. R. Grauke.

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

Ill.—Dear saints of God,—I am writing to you for help. I am unsaved and don't seem to get in touch with God. I have been with the saints back in 1910 to 1915 at Springfield, Mo. I lost out in the great divide. I have found no church of God in this part. I have tried the Nazarenes but I can't worship with them. I want the saints to pray earnestly that I may get saved. I am broken down in health and unable to work. Pray for me that I can get with the saints again. I have much faith in the saints of the church of God. Please pray for my healing. I need God's help. I have prayed day and night and I feel like asking the saints to help me.

John Barton.

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

Ark.—Dear saints,—I send greetings to all in Jesus' dear name. I have had an attack of neuralgia and desire your prayers for my healing. I also desire the saints' prayers for my hearing that it will be restored.

A sister in Christ,

Viney Kerr.

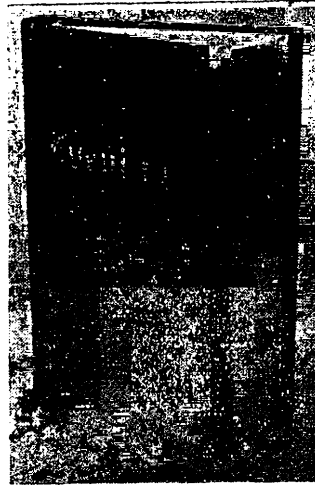
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Ore.—Dear Editor,—Our thanks to the friend who has sent us the little paper, "Faith and Victory." We have enjoyed reading it very much, and get benefit from the sermons and testimonies. Thanks for sending the paper.

Yours for Christ,

Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Parrish.

New Song Book—Evening Light Songs



We are now printing and compiling the third edition of the "Evening Light" Song Book. The binding on this edition will be heavier and stronger and better made than that on the former editions, but the price will be the same.

This book contains most of the familiar songs from the "Select Hymns" song book, and some choice songs from other sources. It contains 480 pages, shaped notes, and cloth bound.

Since this book is getting circulated and the saints are finding out its worth, the sale for it is increasing, and we expect to keep them in stock all the time if the Lord wills. Price: from one to ten books, \$1.40 for each book; ten books or more, \$1.30 for each book; all Post Paid to any address in the U. S. A. Send orders to Faith Pub. House, Guthrie, Okla.

NOTICE TO THE SAINTS

The "Evening Light" song books are proving to be a great blessing to all the saints everywhere. Since they have been in print, calls for them have come in from many congregations which we had not heard of before. They liked the books and after receiving them and using them, they have recommended them to other congregations, so the circulation of it is growing. We are now printing another edition, which is the third. We love to keep it in stock, for the songs are given and inspired by God, and contain many messages of truth.

It is quite expensive to keep these books printed and in stock ready to send out to those ordering them. We are now short on means to have the backs put on the books, which will cost somewhere near a thousand dollars. We are asking our brothers and sisters who have some of the Lord's money which they will not be using for three or six months to loan us some without interest so we can go ahead and have the backs put on and be able to fill the orders which will be coming in. Just send us one hundred dollars, three hundred, or five hundred, or what you can spare, and we will receipt you for it and return the money to you as sales are made on the books. Favors of this kind will be greatly appreciated, and surely God will bless you.

—Fred Pruitt

The Gate Of Heaven

Jacob (type of a Christian) was a stranger in a strange land. He was going away until his brother's fury turned away. Jacob came to a certain place and tarried there all night. He took of the stones (hard things) of that place, and put them for pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. While lying on the stones, he dreamed, and, behold, a ladder set upon the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and, behold, the angels of God ascending and descending on it: and behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, "I am with thee and will keep thee." "And Jacob awaked

out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not . . . This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:11-17)—this is the preparatory place for a better world. Jacob's light affliction, which was but for a moment, worked for him a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory (2 Cor. 4:17). Man's extremities are God's opportunities.

"Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last. Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: When I called unto them, they stand up together." Isa. 48:12, 13. "Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction" Isa. 48:10. Paul said, "There was given to me a thorn in the flesh, . . . lest I should be exalted above measure, For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." 2 Cor. 12:7-9. "For when I am weak, then am I strong," because we call on the Lord (2 Cor. 12:10).

As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people. "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" 2 Tim. 2:3.

—Roberta Reese

Baptism, An Ordinance

Baptism is an ordinance set forth in the Word of God. God's children love to obey His Word. The Word says, "Repent and be baptized." Then 1 Peter 3:21 teaches: "the like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

Some seem to feel that baptism saves from sin. Verse 20 mentions the ark of Noah wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. I believe we all understand that the ark is a type of Christ Jesus, our ark of safety. The water would not have saved the eight souls if they had not first had faith and been obedient to Noah's teaching and gone inside the ark. It is the same today: water baptism does not save, but is a figure or answer of a good conscience toward God.

Now let us read 1 Cor. 15:29, "Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead? If the dead rise not at all, why are they then baptized for the dead?" This brings forth a doctrine taught by an organization that we should baptize for those already dead. They have a vicarious work for their apostles, also a temple for this purpose. We hope, by the Word of God, to prove this an error. The Scripture this is taken from does not intend to be a teaching on baptism; but if we will read the entire chapter, we shall find it all deals in a complete sense with the resurrection. Some were against the resurrection. Paul said (1 Cor. 15:12), "Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?" Verse 14: "And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain and

your faith is vain." Verse 15: "Yea, and we have testified of God that he raised up Christ whom he raised not up if so be that the dead rise not." Paul meant to be teaching: "Do not keep on baptizing for the dead Christ as though he had risen, IF the dead rise not at all. You know he died and if there is no resurrection, then He is not risen, and you are worshiping a DEAD CHRIST and baptizing in the name of a DEAD CHRIST. What good can He do us? All our preaching is vain, also your baptizing for the dead is no good if the dead rise not at all." Paul was reproving them and showing how absurd was their teaching of "no resurrection."

If we baptize, it is as taught in Romans 6:3, 4: "We are buried with him by baptism." We only bury the dead. "That like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the father, even so we also shall walk in newness of life." Verse 5, "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his resurrection." Verse 7, "For he that is dead is free from sin." This does not mean a natural death, but a death to the old life of sin. Then we are ready to be buried with Him, or into his DEATH, to arise as he did and walk in newness of life—a figure of his death, burial, and resurrection. Now this brings us back to our Scripture in 1 Cor. 15:29, "Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead [or a dead Christ, for we are baptized into his death]?" If the dead rise not at all, or if Christ did not rise, then why are we baptized for the dead, or into his death? Why keep the ordinance of baptism if there is no resurrection?

This same organization which claims to have founded its doctrine on prophecies from our Holy Bible and is now teaching a form of baptism for the dead which the Scripture proves erroneous, also teaches and sends out papers to its members to fill out which continue their present marriage into eternity or continue on in heaven. Mark 12:18 makes this clearly a serious error, working on the carnal or natural desire of man. In Mark 12 one asked Christ which would be the husband of a woman who had married seven brethren. Jesus answered, "Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scripture, neither the power of God?" Verse 25, "For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry or are given in marriage, but are as the angels which are in heaven." This makes it very plain that there is not a married state in heaven. Their followers are going about baptizing for the dead and making great preparation to continue their marriage in heaven, while the Word of God, which they say their book is founded upon and prophecies of, condemns these two practices and many others. They also add that the Bible has many errors. I feel it would be a mistake to trust to any book that is filled with errors. May God bless and help us to make a careful study of the Word of God, realizing as Acts 4:12 teaches us (speaking of Jesus who was the WORD and made flesh and dwelt among us) "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." Amen.

—Sister Ersa Carrick

Young People's Section

A Living Witness

If you have bowed yourself in godly sorrow
At Jesus' feet, for all committed sin,
And stayed there till you heard Him gently whisper,
"Child, go in peace, your sins are all forgiv'n,"
And promptly then you did His every bidding,
So happy, and from condemnation free;
Then you can say, "His blood is efficacious,
He died on Calv'ry's Cross to ransom me."

If you have known the peace of sins forgiven,
And yielded then your all to His control,
Died out to earth, its fame, its wealth, its pleasures,
And felt His Holy Spirit fill your soul
To guide, to bless, to teach you of the Father,
And give you over sin full victory;
Then you can truly sing with all the ransomed,
"I know my Saviour lives, He lives in me!"

—G. Ray

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Kans.—Dear saints,—I wish to testify of how the Lord healed me and the way he blessed me. About a year ago I had a nervous breakdown. I wasn't saved then and I had been to the doctors but there wasn't anything they could do for me. Finally one doctor told me there wasn't anything he could do for me and advised me to call in a minister as there was some trouble causing me to be nervous. Sister Eck and sister Beisly came and anointed and prayed for me. The Lord healed and saved me at the same time. He also took away the desire for cigarettes at the same time. The Lord certainly blessed me.

About a month ago this same nervous affliction came back upon me, but the Lord has blessed me through it all. I know the Lord is just as able to heal the same thing today as he was a year ago. I had always thought after the first time I was healed that I would hate to go through that again, but no matter how many times we are afflicted the Lord is as strong one time as another. Pray for me that I will have more faith and confidence in the Lord.

Your sister,

Wildenna Huffman.

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Ind.—Dear Christian friends,—Greetings in Jesus' name. I'm so thankful this morning for what the Lord means to me. He gives us so many things to be thankful for. I thank him most of all for salvation that saves and keeps us free from sin.

The other morning I came home from work and mother asked me to pray for my younger brother who was sick with the flu and had a bad cough. I started to pray and the Lord asked me to send in a testimony if he healed him. The next morning he went to school. God will do wonderful and marvelous things for us if we will serve him. Praise his name.

Your saved brother,

Ray Wilson.

The man who is fighting sin is too busy to carry a chip on his shoulder.

The devil's best work is done by many who claim to love the Lord.

CO Regulations Signed by President

The long-awaited Selective Service regulations governing the two-year period of service by conscientious objectors were finally made official when the President signed an Executive Order, on Wednesday, Feb. 20, 1952.

Even though the regulations have been formally issued, it may be weeks, or even months, before the program gets under way. Much planning work still needs to be done by National Headquarters. Four or five forms must be drafted, printed, and distributed by National Selective Service to state and local officials. The regulations themselves must be printed and interpreted to local boards. Detailed directives and instructions must be sent to state and local units of the System. Furthermore, arrangements for procurements of job openings must be made by the National and State Directors. This may take several months. Even after the program begins to operate, it will probably take on momentum very slowly.

Definition of Work

The work to be done by conscientious objectors shall be "civilian work contributing to the maintenance of the national health, safety, or interest." This civilian work shall be limited to employment by the government—federal, state, or local—or by a nonprofit organization engaged in charitable, health, welfare, educational, or scientific activities. Private employment for profit-making organizations or business shall be excluded.

CO's May Volunteer

Any conscientious objector within the age range of draft may volunteer his services at any time. If not classified at the time of volunteering, he shall be classified at once by the local board. If found acceptable, he shall be assigned to service as soon as a job is available.

Determination of Type of Work

A conscientious objector will be given opportunity to submit to the local board three types of work in which he is interested. If none of these is acceptable to the board, it in turn will submit to the CO three types of work. If none of these is acceptable to the CO registrant, the State Director or his representative will meet with the registrant and the local board to try to find agreement on a job. If his method still does not succeed, the matter shall be brought to the attention of the National Selective Service Director before a work order is issued by the local board.

Work at Home in Exceptional Cases

A CO registrant is to be sent away from his home community except that, in special cases, the local board may order the CO to work in his home community when to do so would be in the national interest.

Travel Provided

Meals, lodging, and travel will be provided to the registrant from his home to the place of employment, or the place of delivery to a private agency; they will also be provided when transfers are necessary, and when the man returns home after two years of service.

Transfer in Some Cases

When employment for a CO ceases, due to circumstances beyond his control, he shall be transferred elsewhere to the same type of work. This will not be regarded as a break in the continuity of his service.

The National Director may release a registrant for physical or mental incapacity or for undue hardship to a dependent.

National Director Determines Prosecutions

If a registrant fails to obey the work order of a local board, or if he fails to perform satisfactorily his duties after being on the job, the National Director in Washington will determine if he is to be reported to the Department of Justice for prosecution. This will be done after a study of the file by the National office.

State Directors Administer Bulk of Program

When a man receives a work order from the local board, he will be placed in Class I-W. The State Director of the State in which he is working will hold his file and supervise his work. If a CO is assigned to work outside the United States or its territories, the file will be held by the National Headquarters which will supervise the work. Most objectors will work in this country.

When Work Is Completed

After a CO registrant completes his service, his file shall be returned to the local board where it shall be marked 1-W-R (released) until such time when he attains an age greater than the age of liability.

There will be no CPS or national work camps as known in World War II.

State Directors of Selective Service will play a large part in the administration of the program. Many of them have already appointed staff personnel for this purpose.

There will be no private employment which may cause profits to accrue to a private individual or business.

Men nearest the top of the age limit (18 to 26) will be given work orders first. Those near 19 or 20 may not be "called" for a year or two.

Federal work will probably not be included in the beginning of the program, except in special cases. Most work at the outset may be in state institutions.

It seems there will be no sudden rush of "work orders." Orders are not to be given until job opportunities are available.

City, county, and state agencies such as mental hospitals, state training schools, TB hospitals, health projects, experimental stations, dairy testing associations, forestry and game conservation operations, flood control projects, soil conservation units, local Selective Service boards, churches, and others—in fact, almost anyone—may submit to the State Director, and National Director, for their approval, job openings for CO's.

Local boards will probably have lists of job openings available for inspection by I-O registrants in the local board office. These lists will be grouped according to regions, which usually include several states.

There is unanimous opinion among Selective Service officials that I-W registrants shall receive pay at the prevailing rate of the vocation in which they are serving. They want to avoid the charge of administering "slave labor" and "involuntary servitude," a frequent criticism of World War II. CO's are also to receive accident and other benefits.

It will be the policy of Selective Service, to provide work for CO's as far removed from the war effort as possible. Physical force by any Selective Service official seeking compliance with work orders will not be allowed.

I-W registrants will probably have the right to call upon the State Director at any time if disagreement with job conditions, etc., occur.

All CO's, before being given work orders, will probably be asked to take an Armed Forces physical examination. If they are not acceptable (do not pass the physical tests) they will be given the IV-F.

Some State Directors, have already contacted, thru the Governor, their Welfare, Education, Forestry, Interior and other departments in making a survey of jobs.

Direct any inquiries or requests for further information to NSBRO, 1105 K St., N. W. Washington 5, D. C. They are keeping in touch with daily developments.

—"The Reporter For Conscience Sake"

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The Debt We Owe

Most of us have heard the story of the two people and the rosebush. The first person stood looking upon the rosebush and said, "What a pity that the rose has thorns." There was a disgusted look upon his face. Presently the second individual came by and sweetly said with joy in his heart, "Oh, isn't it wonderful that the thorns have roses!"

We hear so much about the awful sinful condition of the world at this present time. To me it is God's voice calling out of the vast wilderness of sin for reapers. Never in all the world has the harvest field been so white unto harvest. The greater the sin, the greater the need for individual evangelism. Let each get outside of Christ's granary where the already-harvested grain is stored, and into the field of harvest. "The well need not the physician." I believe that the constant effort of trying to help Christ save others will help us to stay saved. Just letting our light shine is not enough today. We had better start rubbing on salt, into the quick, otherwise true Christianity may be backed from the face of the earth by sin. This is but that more excellent way of which Paul spoke in 1 Cor. 12:31, "And yet I shew unto you a more excellent way." James (1:24) tells us that this perfect-in-the-sight-of-God-way is: "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." It says, "the fatherless." This includes all sinners, for to them God is dead, and they are truly Fatherless.

Rom. 1:14, "I am debtor to the Greeks, and to the Barbarian." The barbarians are foreigners to the Christian belief, or sinners. God's plan is all that exists for the salvation of the sinner, and the child of God is the sinner's servant, or should be. Without the sinner, there is no need of Christ, salvation, or Christians on this earth.

Mark 2:17, "When Jesus heard it, he said unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but SINNERS to repentance."

Phil. 2:7, "But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men." He came to call sinners to repentance unto salvation.

Shall we follow in the footsteps of the Saviour?
Bro. Clarence Furman

CORRESPONDENCE

Ohio—Dear saints,—Greetings of holy love in Jesus' name. I have been feeling that the Lord wanted me to send my testimony to the "Faith and Victory" paper. I am so glad I can truly say I am saved from all sin and I'm kept saved by the living grace of God. Oh, what a wonderful salvation Jesus finished on the cross. He said, "It is finished." I have been meditating on God's words

and getting so blessed in my soul. I see our need of being alone with God more in prayer and praying for more grace as we are living in perilous times. We used to read about it in God's sacred word. Now dear saints, it is here and we must watch and pray or the tempter will lead astray. Oh, how I do thank the Lord for all his benefits. He has done so much for me. He has healed my body at different times and has been a dear friend in every time of need. I would not want to be living in this world without being saved and having this great soul rest, contentment, and great settled peace. I don't want anything else, only more wisdom, knowledge, and grace to help others. My heart's desire is to comfort others with the comfort that I am comforted with God. I enjoy reading the good testimonies of the saints. They are my people and as I write I am thinking about many of them that I have met at camp meetings and those I have met at different places. May the Lord ever lead each of us for a closer walk with God.

Dear ones, pray for me that I'll ever be led by God's Spirit. Pray for us here at Dayton. We are having some precious meetings. The enemy is doing all he can against the truth. I thank the Lord for a good pastor and a teacher that the Lord has given us, to teach the Bible so we can understand the Word better. I thank the Lord for each one of the congregation here and everywhere. I am so glad for the prayers of God's people. I thank my Lord for what he has done for my eyes. I can read and read the blessed Bible and other good books.

Pray much for sister Brown at Muncie, Indiana and send her an offering for the meeting house, as God puts it on your hearts. She is a dear saint and one of God's ministers. Your sister in the one body, Martha Jenkins.

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W. Va.—Dear saints,—Greetings in the name of Jesus. I believe the dear Lord would have me to tell of his power to protect his dear children. God says in his word that he will protect his children from all danger. Several years ago I was helping a sister make a kettle of apple butter. It was about noon. I had gone in for my dinner and a great storm came up. The windows were up and I ran to let them down. It was an awful rainfall, and before I went to take charge of the kettle the Lord said, "pray" I fell on my knees and called upon God to help us. We had a large fire burning. Neighbors ran to try to put something around the kettle, and then they tried to put something over the top but couldn't. The corner of the house sheltered us some, and we called upon God. The water ran down both sides of the kettle, but not a drop went in the kettle that we could notice. There was a large pan setting on a little table. It rained so hard that it filled the pan full of water. There wasn't any water fell on the wood. It burned just the same. The sister and I stood and sang, shouted, and praised God for his protecting power. A young girl stood and watched out the window. She said that no water went on the wood or in the kettle. When the rain was over the apple butter was done.

Another time when God manifested his power in my behalf was when I was going around a bank with a fence on the other side of me. A mean horse came full speed around and I didn't have room to get out of his way. He was almost on me. I couldn't say the amount of feet that he was from me. I called upon God, and the horse fell back on his hind feet. He then crawled up and went over the bank. Praise God! I am telling this for God's glory.

One time I had a pot flower setting in the window. There were some rooms built along the side in shed fashion with steep roofs. I lived upstairs. I had set the flower

in the window and was sweeping. I knocked it over and I called from the bottom of my heart "Oh, Lord, save it for me." No sooner than I had said that it stopped and whirled around and laid there on that steep roof. I called a little girl, held her hand and she got it for me. He gives us the desires of our hearts if we ask him in earnest, and believe when we ask him. I couldn't begin to tell the good things God has done for me. He heals my body when I am sick. I have stood on his promises forty years without one dose of medicine. I desire the saints' prayers for an affliction that is on my body now. Pray for me and my family. I desire to see them saved.

Georgiana Sayre.

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Mo.—Dear saints,—What a blessing it is to read those good testimonies. I enjoy reading them. A saint sent my name in for the "Faith and Victory" paper and I praise God for this paper. The one that sent my name in has gone on to be with Jesus. (Mrs. Ritchie). My heart is better for which I want to give all the glory to Jesus. Praise his dear name. Pray for all the young people. It seems like they have so many temptations. It is so hard for them to find Jesus and pray through to victory.

Your sister in Christ, Mrs. Claud Aleshire.

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Mo.—Dear saints,—I send greetings to all in Jesus' dear name. I was reading the "Faith and Victory" paper and I feel it would be the Lord's will for me to write my testimony. I have been reading the "Faith and Victory" about three years and it gives me much encouragement to live for the Lord. About four months ago I went to Mass. to live. I just had my paper to look forward to and I received many blessings from it.

I want all the saints to pray for my unsaved husband that he will come to God and be saved. He is away from home and I have two little girls to make a way for on account of sin. Pray that he will come back before it is too late. A sister in Christ, Mrs. Donald Smith.

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Oklahoma.—Dear saints,—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I feel impressed by the Spirit of God, to send in my testimony. I am still saved. Truly I can say, "The Lord is my light and my salvation: Whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalms 27:1. The Lord is the one I trust. He is a deliverer in the time of trouble. I mean to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, because he is so dear and means so much to me. When we cry unto the Lord for help, believe that we receive what we ask for, and we shall have it. The word says in Matt. 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven." Oh dear saints, we can see the need of more consecrated hearts for God, those that are willing to suffer for Jesus' sake.

Saints, if there ever was a time to fast and pray, it is now. May the Spirit of prayer ever be with us. Let our daily life tell the gospel story, for Christ said "If I be lifted up I will draw all men unto me." Ephesians 5:8 says, "For ye were sometime darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light." I do thank God for being awakened out of sin and am now walking in the light of God's word. We that are saved, have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. We would rather help those that are in sin to see their undone condition and come to the Lord and be saved. We that are saved are children of light. We should be examples to those in sin. 1 Thess.

5:5 "Ye are children of light and the children of the day." We are not of the night nor of darkness. I mean to do my best by the help of the Lord, to be a light in this world so that those in darkness can see how to come to Christ.

Josephine Taylor.

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Mo.—Dear saints,—Greetings to all in Jesus' dear name. A few weeks ago I sent in a request for prayer for a cough and kidneys. Thank God, I can say he has wonderfully helped me but I'm not completely healed. For a while I couldn't lie down at night without coughing until I would give out and choke until I would gasp for breath, but thank God, I can lie down now and rest without coughing hardly any. I do give his dear name all the praise for it and thank you dear ones for your prayers. Please remember me in your prayers for both soul and body. I am so glad and thankful we have One we can trust and depend on, but we have to be willing for his will to be done. I surely do love to read the "Faith and Victory" paper as it helps me to understand the Bible better.

My son and daughter are able to be up and getting along very well. I thank the dear Lord for it. Remember us all in your prayers. A sister in Christ, Nancy Sweezee.

Ind.—Dear brother Pruitt,—Greetings. I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the "Faith and Victory" paper and the fine messages of Bible truth that are being sent out through its pages. I also appreciate your kindness in sending me those precious messages of the assembly meeting by the wire recordings. We, here at Anderson feel that this is a fine opportunity to get those camp meeting and assembly meeting messages to more people and will do much good. Millions in our country have never heard the full gospel truth taught and lived, as the inspired word demands. The true children or saints are possessors of the heavenly kingdom in all of the purity that the precious holy word declares, and it shall be ours when we surrender our lives completely to our Savior.

I also appreciate those faithful God sent ministers who are giving their lives for the Master and without material reward. Oh, thank the Lord for true shepherds in this modern and evil age. My prayer is, may God be with you all the way. Your brother, G. M. Martin.

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S. C.—I guess the readers of "Faith and Victory" remember my prayer request, asking that every Christian would pray for the Lord to put an everlasting stop to a certain trouble. By the time my letter had time to reach the office I saw a big change, and since the paper has been sent out to its readers the Lord is working more. The Lord put me on a special duty of fasting and praying. While on my knees with my Bible in my hands praying to the God of heaven, he made this testimony and request plain to me, and is urging me to write it. Please pray that the Lord will complete the everlasting stop to this trouble for me. Also pray for the Lord to work in this community and defeat the enemy, and establish a true church of God work.

Six years ago the devil thought that he had me captured and under his control. But praise be to our God, who is just and merciful, he saw an honest desire in my heart and he loved me too much to allow the devil to hold me, although he had me in a world of trouble and disappointment. I went to reading my precious Bible and I read the eleventh chapter of Hebrews, which greatly increased my faith, and encouraged me to start over again, with the dear Lord telling me that there is nothing impossible to them that believe. I went to fasting and praying, and didn't stop until the Lord said, "That is enough.

You are my born again child." The Lord is mine now, and I am his (have been for four years and will be for all time and eternity). This world holds no inducements for me except to work for, and serve the Lord with all the earnestness of my heart.

I was baptized by a God-called church of God minister on December 29, 1931. I have never taken a dose of medicine since then. I have been healed of heart trouble, bronchial pneumonia, blood poison, and flu in a serious form, besides minor troubles. When Satan had me seemingly surrounded, I still never took a drop or dose of any kind of medicine. I asked God to help me to not live in sin. Now I'm a free servant of the Lord—sold out to him, soul and body. Friends, you need not be afraid to step out on God's promises, for he will certainly see you thro'. He will not forsake you. I can look back and see how mercifully and tenderly God has kept his hand over me. Please remember my requests in earnest prayer, and pray that I ever be faithful and true to the Lord at any cost.

Mary Jones.

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Ind.—To all the saints,—I want to say I have proved God's promises are true, that even down to old age we can still bear fruit for the Master. I am sending in a subscription for the paper to be sent to a dear friend who is compelled to go through life in a wheel chair and as I prayed for him one night these words came to me.

Affliction can be a wall of protection,

Or it can be a rod of correction.

God has left it to me, which shall it be?

Then he showed me that through suffering,

Jesus was made perfection.

Pray that God will be all to our brother that he needs in this life and if it his will to heal him we will glory in our God, but if he must bear his affliction let it be a wall of protection. Amen.

Aunt Becca Basicker.

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Calif.—Dear saints,—Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. This finds me recovering from a serious illness of several weeks. The Lord in his mercy has permitted me to know he is my healer, my Savior, my all in all. To know and do his will is my greatest desire. I haven't been out of the house yet since my illness but I feel sure it won't be long until I can. My children have been so good to me. A young woman stays with me through the week and my daughter Mildred is here on Saturday nights and Sundays. The children don't want me alone at night. I had been alone much before I had this sickness. I know God healed me of the serious spells I had almost a year ago. It has been a year since I had the last spell. I am glad there is nothing too hard for our Lord to do. I know he wants all of his children to be able to do things for him.

I have read the paper through. I have been reading a lot since I cannot do much but read, pray, and write. I love the good, pure, true literature. There is so much fiction and so much made up, that our dear young people are caught in sly traps of the readings put out. It is the Christian's duty to get good literature before the public. We all have seen the day when such vain, vile, vulgar stuff which is placed before the eyes of our boys and girls was not allowed but now even those who profess to be Christians look for things that have the "world's thrill" in it. Dear ones, in our prayers we have groanings that cannot be uttered, but our Father in heaven knows all about it.

I know that every saint of God is burdened for their unsaved loved ones, and these war clouds seem to hang heavy over the world. It seems even the unsaved feel the impression of the trouble approaching. There was a world-

wide call to prayer this last Friday. It surely means something for our beloved country to really humble down and pray to God. We have no place to give up, but we can look up and believe our Lord and he will keep us in his care. I desire your earnest prayers for me and my family. May the Lord bless you richly.

Jessie Holloman.

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Okla.—Dear saints,—Greetings in the dear Lord. I have been impressed for some time to send in my testimony. Today finds me still saved and much encouraged to live for the dear Lord. The Lord has wonderfully blessed me and my family. I thank the dear Lord for answering prayer. The more the dear Lord does for me the more I want to do for him. My desire is to do God's will. He is the best friend to man. He is able to make a way out of no way. I have left all the world behind to follow Jesus. I desire your prayers for me and my family.

Your sister in Christ, Mrs. S. Williams

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Mo.—Dear saints scattered abroad,—Greetings in the dear name of Jesus. I'm very thankful to the dear Lord this afternoon for all of his tender blessings he has bestowed upon us the past year, since we have believed in the one true church. I have been saved for the past seven years but never heard of the one true church until last June. The Lord has taken care of us and our children the past year through all of our sickness. He has moved on the hearts of some of the dear saints that have given us clothing and other things that we needed. He has given us a place of our own to stay, for if it wasn't His will for us to have our place he could quickly take it from us. We don't attend services much now but will when warmer weather comes and can go down with our small children. Pray for us that we will ever be true to the Lord. Your sister in Christ, Dorothy Mason.

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Mo.—Dear saints,—Holy greetings in Jesus' dear name. I am glad that he saved my soul. He surely has blessed us with everything that we ask. He has helped us through sickness, so pray for us that we keep up the good fight of faith. May God help you to keep up the good work. Your brother in Christ, Charles W. Mason.

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Mich.—Dear saints,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I want to write and let you know how wonderfully God heard prayer for our son Jerry's baby. In answer to prayer his little navel is completely healed up now. It surely is a miracle from God. It had been so bad. (Before this it had never healed up the way it should, and it had the proud flesh so badly and pus coming from this.) God has completely healed him. Praise God! What a wonderful Savior he is. God also healed him of yellow jaundice. We can never thank him enough. We also want to thank you dear saints there for your prayers. Eva Wilkins.

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La.—Dear saints,—Greetings in Jesus' sweet name. I feel that God would have me to give my testimony. I want to thank the Lord for healing my body. I am still saved in the Lord. I'm so glad this day that I can write to you in the name of Jesus and also testify that Jesus is reigning within my heart and life. The joys of salvation are flooding my soul. There is nothing that can give such joy to my soul as the sweet Holy Ghost. I trust we will get to be at camp meeting this summer. Praise the blessed Lord. I know God's way is the only way to salvation. If it wasn't for God we couldn't live.

Your sister in Christ, Mrs. A. J. Pasquet.

Ill.—Dear saints,—Holy greetings to you all. After reading the testimonies in "Faith and Victory" I felt I should give this testimony of how I was instantly healed.

I had an abscess on my tonsils for a week and was getting worse. I lay down and had my husband to call for our pastor and his wife. No sooner had they got the call and began to pray, than I got up and all the corruption and blood came out of my mouth. After they got here and laid hands on me I haven't had any trouble with my tonsils since. All praise and glory to God!

I have an affliction and I know it will come out by fasting and prayer so I ask you to pray for me. When I get deliverance I'll write, for I have no doubt that the prayers of the saints availeth much and I will be well.

Your sister in Christ, Mrs. Doretta Small.

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Fla.—Dear brother Pruitt,—Greetings in the name of Jesus. I'm very thankful to whoever had the "Faith and Victory" sent to me. I have enjoyed reading it each time it came and find much help and strength in it. I am isolated here. We have no congregation. I find no saints of the reformation church of God here. So will the saints there please pray that the Lord will lead some of his workers to this place? Pray much for me that I stand true and preach the uncompromising gospel of peace, for I mean to go all the way with Jesus.

Yours in his service, sister M. B. Savage.

o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear saints,—Greetings in Jesus' name. I am still happy in the Lord. God is good to us. Isaiah 43:2, "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee: and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned: neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." Verse 3, "For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour."

I do thank the saints for all the prayers and loving deeds of kindness that have been done for my little girl. I thank God for answering the prayers of his children, for I know their prayers came up to God. Although we have come through the waters, praise God, we are claiming victory by faith in Jesus' name who said, "It is finished." God bless you all.

Mrs. Eva Penner.

Calif.—Dear saints,—Greetings of love and may the best of God's gracious blessings be yours. I want to let you know that since I sent for the books and requested prayer for the terrible condition I was suffering in my head, that it is much better. I truly thank and praise his dear name. I am so thankful to the dear saints for their interest in praying for others who are in need of it. I am trusting him for complete healing of this trouble. I have received my "Faith and Victory" and have read it all through and re-read most of it. I could not live isolated here without it. It is so good and rich and I do love to read it. I think it is so wonderful, the work that is being done there. We folks who can't be in meetings very often can feed on the good writings of the good little paper. We are so thankful for it. May the dear Lord whom we love, keep, guide and bless you always is our prayer.

A. J. Brewer.

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Ore.—Dear saints,—Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. I have been thinking of writing for a long time, but have been busy and we have been having some sickness for quite awhile, however we are still trusting in the Lord to work it all out to the glory of God. We have a family of four girls which we want the saints to pray for, also my wife and me.

We still rejoice in the day the Lord led us out of Babylon. We found out about the saints through some friends who were taking the "Faith and Victory" paper. We saw about the camp meeting at Jefferson in it and the Lord spoke to me and told me to go, so we went. That was a year ago last June. We have been going most of the time since. We don't go every Sunday. It is too far to drive as it is 133 miles. We enjoy being with God's people. Praise his dear name.

I had had an affliction for several years and I promised the Lord if he would heal me I would send a testimony to the "Faith and Victory." That has been quite awhile ago so I wanted to do as I promised. He has healed me and I didn't have to be cut up to have it done. Praise his dear name forever. May God bless in the work there is our prayers. Pray for us. Your brother saved by the blood that flowed from Calvary's Cross, Lee Owen.

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Mo.—Dear saints,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. Oh, how I love my Savior for what he has done for me. My Jesus has forgiven me of all my sins. They are all under the blood. Praise his dear name. Oh, how I do thank my blessed Savior for the nice, clean "Faith and Victory" paper. It is wonderful. I enjoy the tracts and love my Bible. Praise our God's wonderful name.

Dear ones, the devil is after old people that want to live for Jesus. I have detected the old sly fox. Jesus said that foxes have holes and the birds have nests but the Son of man had no where to lay his head. I often feel sad about our dear Lord when I think about it. Oh, I want to get closer to my dear Jesus and I do thank the dear saints for their prayers. I still need all of your prayers that Jesus will have his way with me. I am determined to go all the way with Jesus. Praise his dear name. Our dear Lord is all we need.

I am seeking Jesus by faith and not by sight. I want to say that here is where my husband has so many battles. He pays too much attention to feeling. I think he should live by faith and not by feeling. Sister Sell.

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Ariz.—Dear saints,—I send holy greetings to all. I am yet saved and encouraged as never before to go all the way with Jesus. I realize the race isn't to the swift nor to the strong but to the one that endureth to the end, so I mean by heaven's grace to prove faithful unto the end. I have been afflicted with a severe cough but the dear Lord has wonderfully healed me, for which I give him all the glory and praise. I desire the prayers of the saints that I continue to keep victory in my soul.

Yours in Him,

Bertha Slaughter.

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Nebr.—I want to thank the friend very much for sending the "Faith and Victory" to me. I enjoy it very much and it has brought much comfort to me, while here at the hospital. Yours Truly, Mrs. Jo Heath.

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Kans.—Dear saints,—Greetings in the dear name of Jesus. I am so glad that I can witness this morning for Jesus. I can truly witness that I am saved and standing under the blood of Jesus. I am much encouraged to go every step of the way with the Savior. I am glad to know what he is and has been to me for the last eleven years or more.

I am asking the saints to pray much for me. I have truly had a hard time but by the help of the dear Lord I mean to keep the faith. In 1942 I injured my left arm and right knee very badly. I could not rest well at night. The next year, 1943 I injured my back and the same knee.

I went through much suffering, trials, and temptations but I'm so glad that I can say that a great Friend stood beside me both day and night.

I carry a heavy burden upon my heart from time to time because the Lord has called and anointed me to preach the gospel. Now if I were with you I could explain more clearly. Last year (1951), the Lord brought a vision to me through a dream, early one morning. I heard a man outlining Bible verses to me. The devil at once got discouraged. He tried his very best to wake me out of sleep but this man spoke so plainly that Satan's little noises were no trouble. The man told me to read Luke the first chapter through to the first chapter of John and be glad. Johnie Williams.

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The devil is never too busy to rock the cradle of a sleeping backslider.

Large asking and large expectation on our part honors God.

Prayer is an acknowledgement of faith; worry a denial of faith.

An atheist cannot find God for the same reason that a thief cannot find a policeman.

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BIBLE STUDY

Notice—Primary Picture Roll \$1.35, Lesson cards 7c each.

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A FELLOWSHIP OF MANY FOLLOWERS

April 6, 1952

Printed Portion.....John 15:5-9; Philippians 2:14-16;

Romans 16:1-7.

John 15:5. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

8. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

9. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

Phil. 2:14. Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

15. That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

16. Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

Rom. 16:1. I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:

2 That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.

3. Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:

4. Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

5. Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my wellbeloved Epaphroditus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.

6. Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us.

7. Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

Memory Verse: Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. Jno. 15:8.

Practical Truth: People who abide in Christ constitute a world-wide fellowship.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The first two verses of our lesson deals with those who are spiritual and those who have lost the spiritual life out of their souls. The ones who abide in Christ are ever growing more spiritual, but the ones who lose their life of spirituality wither and die spiritually. Those who remain with Christ have the promise of the love of the Saviour and he exhorts us to "Continue ye in my love." The 13th chapter of 1 Cor. is of practical use and comment on the first part of this lesson which deals with love to God and man.

As we read the word of God and the Holy Spirit reveals Christ to us as we read, then his words become life to our souls. It is vain to talk of Christ abiding in us if we neglect his words. Three great things are mentioned as resulting from abiding in Christ—power to bear much fruit, power to get in prayer whatsoever we ask, and fulness of joy. The world cannot give joy but Jesus can and does give his people joy. Everything in this scripture relates to Jesus—My Father, My words, My disciples, My love, My joy, and My commandments. The secret of loving one another is abiding in Jesus. His love to us is the standard and measure of our love to one another. He loved us so much he laid down his life for us.

THOMAS AND THE RISEN LORD

April 13, 1952

Printed Portion.....John 11:14-16; 14:1-6; 20:24-29.

John 11:14. Then Jesus said unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

15. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.

16. Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.

14:1. Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

4. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

5. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

6. Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

20:24. But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

25. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

26. And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

27. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

28. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

29. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

Memory Verse: Because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. John 20:29.

Practical Truth: Christ's appearances to his disciples after his burial were positive proof that he had risen from the dead.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

When we think of Thomas, we think of doubting Thomas, but there are a number of good things about him that is worthy of note. He was ready to go to Jerusalem to die with him. When he said he would not believe without evidence he required, that only proved his willingness to do so if he had that evidence. Is it not commendable that he sought personal contact? His saying "My Lord and my God," when he did have the evidence proves his honesty and sincerity. In our day we are not permitted to see the Lord with our natural eyes because we are to "walk by faith" which is "The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." And Jesus said, "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him." Psal. 34:8. So there is plenty of evidence for us in these days when we test the word of God and do as he says, he will give to us salvation through faith, taking away all sin, just as he says he will and then cleanse our hearts, making them pure in sanctification. Jesus is still ready to convince any honest seeker that he is just what he says of himself; "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

JESUS AND THE LAW

April 20, 1952

Printed Portion.....Matthew 5:17-20; Mark 10:17-22.

Matt. 5:17. Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

18. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

19. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Mark 10:17. And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

18. And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.

19. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

20. And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

21. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

22. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

Memory Verse: The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. John 1:17.

Practical Truth: The commands and teachings of Jesus, which even go beyond those of the Old Testament, establish the validity of the moral law for all men.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The laws of our land and the laws of God are to be obeyed. We are told in Acts 5:29, "We ought to obey God rather than man." But that is when the law-makers conflict with the word of God. In this country, the most of our laws are in accordance with what God says, so that the Christian can obey God and the laws of the land too. And the sinner could if he would.

Jesus fulfilled all the ceremonial laws so they are not binding on the Christian. But the moral law is even stronger than in the time of Moses. Since Jesus dwells in the heart of the Christian he helps us to keep the law that he gave while here on earth. In Jer. 31:31-34 we have the prophesy of the Lord writing the law in the heart of man, and in Heb. 10:15-22 we have the Holy Ghost repeating it with a stronger declaration that "By the blood of Jesus" we can have "A new and living way."

The young man in the last part of the lesson seemed to be willing to do everything that the law required but when Jesus told him to sell all that he had and give to the poor, he would have treasure in heaven, and take up his cross and follow him; that made him sad. His heart was on his possessions.

SUPREME LOYALTY TO GOD

April 27, 1952

Printed Portion.....Exodus 20:1-6; Luke 14:25-27; 16:13-15.

Exo. 20:1. And God spake all these words saying,

2. I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

3. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

4. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

5. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them: nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

6. And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Luke 14:25. And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them,

26. If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

16:13. No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

14. And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him.

15. And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

Memory Verse: Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image. Exodus 20:3-4.

Practical Truth: Our supreme allegiance is due to God and to Christ.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

A man's god is what he loves most. If at any time we have that which we put before or equal with God, we have broken his commandment. God must have first place in our affections and devotions to him. The world or an ungodly family will not help us to do that. Everything we do should have the approval of God, then we can do it heartily as unto the Lord. God knows when we are wholeheartedly sincere. Israel was never weaned from idols until God sent them into captivity. God was long-suffering with them and told them many, many times that he would send them into captivity if they did not quit their idols. They kept persisting in it until that was just what happened. Seventy years later they were ready to go back to Jerusalem under Ezra and leave all their idols behind. They were glad to say "What have I to do any more with idols?" Hosea 14:8. God had corrected them until they saw the folly of idols. He will correct us too for our idols.

Those old Pharisees in Christ's day wanted to appear loyal to God but Jesus knew their hypocrisy so he told them just what they were. They derided him. Jesus made it very plain when he said, "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."

C. W.