

# FAITH AND VICTORY

## The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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### What Shall I Take With Me?

May Ola Johnson

They say, "We brought nothing into this world,  
And we'll surely take nothing away;"  
But I don't quite agree with them;  
I'll tell you why this I say:

I brought nothing into this world,  
A helpless babe I came;  
But since Jesus gave me salvation,  
It isn't now the same.

He said, "Nothing shall separate,  
Neither in life nor in death;"  
So I shall keep my salvation  
Right through my dying breath.

Yes, I shall take my salvation,  
That gift of God so free;  
And I'll not be empty-handed  
When the God of heaven I see.

(The author passed to her reward at the Monark Springs Campmeeting, July 29, 1954).

### At What Distance Are You Following The Lord?

First of all, I want to say, if we are following along with a distance between us and Christ, it is dangerous following. As long as there is a gap or opening between the two of us, there is danger of something coming in between us. If anything gets in between us and our Saviour, there is danger of losing sight of Him.

In Mark 14:54, we find where "Peter followed Him afar off, even into the palace of the high priests. And he sat down with the servants, and warmed himself by the fire." This was the beginning of Peter's down-fall. Before this he vowed: "Although all should be offended, yet will not I." We may feel sure of our nearness and close relationship with God when things are going well. But when things begin to go wrong, the way gets stormy, and the road rough, are we close enough to feel his hand in ours, leading us along, and

his arms encircled about us protecting and shielding us when the enemy shoots his fiery darts? There are a lot of disadvantages as well as dangers in following afar off. Some may be weak in the faith and are following him afar off. If so, one should avoid places and company that are likely to ensnare and trap them.

Peter followed afar off, even into the palace where Christ was, but sat down at a distance with the servants or the wrong company. He had affection and love for Jesus, or he probably would never have followed him to the palace. But he also had weakness and fear. He wasn't willing to follow along in Christ's company and acknowledge Him as Christ or a friend. But being behind with the servants, when asked if they knew him, he answered, "I know him not."

When we have perfect love, we won't fear what people will say or do to us; but will go right along hand in hand with our Lord, acknowledging Him as our Savior and Redeemer. "For there is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear, because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." 1 John 4:18.

Then on the other hand, there are advantages of keeping near him. There is that blessed hope, peace, satisfaction, and safety. When we need him most, he is with us. We won't have to start investigating to see where we are, nor will we have to start looking around to see where he is. He is right here! at a moment's need we can look up and contact Him.

When dangers assail us, we can feel his arms about us and know beyond a doubt that we have been born again and sinneth not, and are begotten of God, and that wicked one toucheth us not. 1 John 5:18.

I feel like the one who wrote the song: "Keep Me Near Thee."

"Keep me near Thee, blessed Jesus,  
Keep me near thee, lest I stray;  
With thy mighty hand uphold me,  
Lead me gently all the way.

"Keep me near thee, precious Savior;  
Many snares are by the way;  
Neath thy balmy wings protect me,  
Draw me nearer thee each day.

"Help me live so near thee, Jesus,  
That thy whispers I may hear;  
Let me feel thy arms around me,  
When the hand of danger's near.

"Draw me nearer, blessed Jesus;  
Closely fold me to thy breast;  
Pillowed on thy loving bosom,  
Let me ever sweetly rest."

We can't pray enough in one day nor read enough in one day to last us a week. It takes daily praying, daily reading, and a daily dying out to self in order to maintain that nearness and perfect contact with the Lord.

Yours for a closer and humble walk with God,  
—Lela Gibson.

## Giving and Receiving

There are religious bodies of people in the world today who at one time trusted the Lord and honored Him with faith; but now we see them grown cold and faithless, and are fervent to get dollars from others to further their carnal, worldly, religious desires and fleshly ambitions. They have lost sight of the true riches and are filled with their own ways in carrying on that which should be God's work. They work in many unbiblical ways—beg, urge, and force money out of those under their influence to carry on what they call "God's work." I am persuaded that God does not accept any gift unless it is given freely from the heart as unto God. If one is urged, begged, trapped, or decoyed into giving, there will be no eternal reward in such giving for them. Those that lose faith in God often wrest the Scriptures from their proper meaning and force the law of tithing upon their followers. There is not a single Scripture in the New Testament, if properly interpreted, that teaches tithing as binding upon the righteous in Christ Jesus. Jesus says in Matt. 5:17, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill." When he died on the cross, the law was fulfilled and the prophets. Under the law they gave tithes, but under grace the law is fulfilled inasmuch that we now give all into His hands. He moves on us by His Spirit to take and give of His as He directs, and in that way the soul is kept alive in Christ, for it is God that is working in us both to will and do of His good pleasure. Binding the law of tithing on a soul will kill the free-will giving and the continual looking to God for the Spirit to work in you, directing you in your giving as to when, where, and how much.

Where folks do not know that the tithing is abolished when in Christ and they sincerely and freely give a tenth, I believe that God will bless those souls and honor the giving. But when forced upon them as a New Testament doctrine by faithless, covetous, would-be religious priests, they will receive no eternal profit. The New Testament way is: "Freely ye have received, freely give." Matt. 10:8; 2 Cor. 9:7, 8.

Many of these blind leaders use the 23rd verse of the 23rd chapter of Matthew to prove that tithing is a New Testament doctrine. They make out that the Lord was teaching us to tithe when he was telling

those scribes and Pharisees that they ought to tithe and not to leave the weightier matters undone. The scribes and Pharisees should have tithed because they were still under the law and would be until Christ died on the cross and fulfilled the law and the prophets. The law was in force until Christ poured out his blood on the cross and thereby fulfilled the law and made us free from all law bondage, becoming our law in our souls individually, for all now is in his hands. Under the law one would have to kill a man to be looked upon as a murderer; but under grace, if one has hate in his heart, he is counted a murderer. So Christ fulfills the law, for no one will murder unless he first has hate in his heart. Under the law, one had to commit the act of adultery to be stoned to death as adulterer; but under grace, one is an adulterer if he looks on a woman to lust after her. In this Christ fulfills the law, for no man will commit adultery except he first has lust in his heart for the woman. Under the law they were commanded to keep the seventh day holy, but under grace we keep every day holy. The soul rest that we have continually in our souls spiritually is fulfilling the literal sabbath rest under the law. In this the Lord fulfills the literal sabbath: In Christ we are made perfectly free from the law—tithing included.

It would be foolishness to ask a man who has all he possesses truly in the hands of God and is letting the Spirit of God lead him in giving, to tithe. To obey such a demand would rob the man of his freedom in Christ and interfere with God's plan of guiding the man in his giving as to when, how much, and where to give. To put a man under the law of tithing would have a tendency to deaden the free working of the Spirit in the soul and make him a prey to other law doctrines, and in time he would become a dead soul with a profession only. This would be a sad state indeed.

One who realizes that tithing is a law doctrine and does not belong to us under grace, who have left all to follow the Lord, is a happy person, indeed. He then can give as the Spirit of Christ within him so directs; and his soul is completely satisfied, as he is a worker with God in his giving and his soul will prosper.

Some put up the argument that many business men prosper in their business because they tithe. Their prospering in business is no proof at all, for many infidels and atheists prosper in business. If you will trace it down, you will find that most of the tithes of those business men who tithe and prosper in business are given to these sin-you-must religions which are anti-Christ in doctrine; and God would not be working with such at all. One who has clear light that tithing is not a New Testament doctrine and then does not give free-will offerings as the Spirit directs, will not prosper in his soul; for giving is the very life of Christ in the soul. God and Christ both set this example before us. God gave his Son; Christ gave himself, poured out his very life's blood for us. The love of Christ for us should constrain us to give freely and cheerfully wherever opportunity presents itself and his Spirit approves.

Someone may ask: How are you going to keep your work going and expenses paid in printing and sending forth the gospel if you do not teach tithing and urge or in other ways decoy people into giving? I answer that this is not my work. If it were my work, I would have to do as others do. The work is in God's hands and he knows all the needs, and we ask him for what is needed and he moves upon his free saints who have all in His hands, and they give freely and willingly as he directs them, and thus the work is supplied with means enough to do all that He wants us to do, whether it be much or little. I have found by many years of experience in fully trusting the Lord that the need of a thousand dollars is no more to him than one dollar. The amount is nothing to Him, for with Him it is just a matter of the need. He controls the finance of the whole world, the cattle on a thousand hills belong to him. Oh, brethren, let us have real living faith in God. I would not want any one to give to this work that the Lord has put upon us unless he gave freely as unto the Lord, for I am persuaded that he would receive no eternal reward unless he gives it freely from the heart as unto Him who has given it to him as a steward over His goods.

—Fred Pruitt.

### Repent Ye

"At the times of this ignorance, God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent" Acts 17:30. "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and long suffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" Rom. 2:4.

We see by the above scriptural quotations that it is God's demand upon the human family to repent. This has been one of the most outstanding messages given to the world since the advent of John, the forerunner of Christ. The command is just as great and the need is as urgent now as it ever has been. In Matt. 3:1, 2 we read, "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." This is not a message for one nation only, but for men of every kindred and tongue. God commandeth all men everywhere to repent because "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

Thorndike says that the word "repent" means to feel sorry for sin and seek forgiveness. John gave as his reason for demanding repentance: "for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." The opportunity to get right with God had come. God can not fellowship sin, and men can not be forgiven or washed from their sins except they repent; and it is necessary for the Spirit of God to show men their sinful state and condition so that they will repent, as one will not repent until he is made conscious of his wrong-doing, or until he can see the depths of his sin and realize that the wrath of God has been invoked upon them. The way that God has chosen to bring about this result is through the preaching of his word; just as it was in the case of Ninevah. The men of Ninevah repented at the preaching of Jonah, and God spared

the city because they repented and called mightily upon God. When ever and where ever God sends forth his word under the anointing of his Spirit, that is a manifestation of his goodness to lead men to repentance. Some do not seem to know that this is the goodness of God being extended to them, and therefore pass the message by unheeded. But He has warned: "In the day ye hear his voice, harden not your heart." The men of Ninevah believed God. They sought the mercy and favor of God, and it was granted.

1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." After John was beheaded, Jesus came forth with the same message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Many came to him and were pardoned.

Dear precious souls who have not yet turned to God; the responsibility rests upon you to repent. God has and is even now giving you a chance to repent. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" 2 Pet. 3:9. It is the goodness of God that leadeth men to repentance. He gives the call to turn away from evil; and all who will give heed and obey his voice shall be saved.

There are two kinds of sorrow. Some are sorry, not because of their sins, but because they have been caught up with, so to speak, and have been exposed—just as a thief is sorry when he is caught. This is not what God is calling for. God is calling for true repentance that produces results, to the effect that men quit the sin business.

When John saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, "O ye generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance." Or in other words, do things to prove that you have really repented. 2 Cor. 7:10-11 reads, "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death; for behold, this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! in all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter." These people proved that they had repented by their conduct. Zacchaeus proved his contrition by his willingness to make all necessary restitutions; and the Lord said, "This day is salvation come to this house." Dear ones, God is sending out messengers today to warn men and women to flee from the wrath to come, to sound the alarm, to reveal his mercy and love, to show his goodness to all who will give heed. It is an individual responsibility for every one to repent. You will have to repent for yourself. If you will forsake all evil, turn to God with all your heart, he will receive you with open arms, and will blot out all your sins, and bestow upon you the joys of his salvation. Repent ye, and believe the gospel.

"God commandeth all men everywhere to repent."

—Ulysses Phillips

Mo.—Dear saints scattered abroad, greetings of love in Jesus' name, who died for us all. I felt like writing to the little paper and telling what the dear Lord has done for me. About two or three weeks ago I had a hard chill and fever. I called for my daughter to come after me. They had prayer for me and by the time they got here, the Lord had healed me. I went to her house and stayed three days and came home. I have not had any more chills. So I am praising the Lord for his goodness to me and for saving my soul and sanctifying me. I want to live for Him, so pray for me. Your sister, Mary Hampton.

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## “FAITH AND VICTORY”

### 16-Page Holiness Monthly

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

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

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

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the promulgation and restoration of the whole truth to the people in this “evening time” as it was in the morning church of the first century: the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from the world and entire devotion to the service and the will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God; no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ; and separation from all human organizations—such are not authorized in the Word.

#### FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma  
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#### THE BEAUTIFUL WAY

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

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## Editorials

The campmeetings for the summer are now over and eternity will only tell the good that has been accomplished by the Spirit of God in these meetings.

Souls have been saved in every meeting, believers sanctified, and bodies healed by power divine. The saints have been greatly strengthened, and the oneness of God's people demonstrated and truly proved. The California State Campmeeting closed Sept. 5th, and we have been hearing good reports from this meeting. We do pray that God will greatly bless the saints in California as they labor on for Him in the unity and oneness of the Spirit.

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Unbelief in Christ is the greatest and most outstanding sin in the world today. There seems to be plenty of head belief, but few allow him to live in and control their heart affections. Therefore Christ is crowded out of the heart and is given only head service, which only amounts to selfishness and covetousness, which brings disgrace on the name of Christ. All manner of sins are committed by professing Christians who will not practice all the Word of God. Unbelievers will dress themselves like the fashions of the world, baring their arms and great portions of the body. They will wear gold and jewelry for ornamental purposes and display pride in various ways. Many will live in adultery and go right on professing to be the Lord's. And sect ministers will console them in such actions, for some of them are in the same boat (as it were) traveling the broad way to destruction with a profession of religion. Others will drink liquor and use poison tobacco, thus fulfilling the lusts of the flesh in a manifold manner. Women professing Christ will let their young daughters out on the streets with scarcely any clothing on them, which inflames sex lust in young men's hearts and brings on many ungodly crimes and blights otherwise useful lives. The devil has the cigarette between the lips of the majority of our young girls. Young mothers suck these cigarettes and poison their offspring before they are born, and thereby bring weaklings into the world. Satan is succeeding in getting the television right in the home where the children are reared up with their minds filled with folly, foolishness, and crime. Henceforth there will be an enormous crop of law breakers trained up by the television. Truly the Scripture is being fulfilled in 2 Timothy 3:13, which reads thus: “But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.” Also we read the first five verses of this chapter, which foretells the times we are living in: “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boastful, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

We see all these sins being committed in the world today. Children are disobedient to their parents in a marked degree. The parents generally are to be blamed, for they do very little training of the children; they just let them have their own way. Often they will tell the child to do a thing and do not see that they do it; but let them have their way. Thus the child grows up with little or no respect for the parents and their wishes, nor for the officers, and none for God. Hence crimes are filling the land. The only cure for such a condition is for the parents to get back to Christ in repentance and live in true holiness before God, getting counsel and wisdom from God as to the rearing and training of the children.

This world is growing more and more like the Antediluvian people and more like Sodom and Gomorrah. Read now some statistical facts concerning the corruption and wickedness in this country:

**"THINGS TO THINK ABOUT**—Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI, and trustee of the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D. C., gives the nation these nine important points to think about:

"1. People spend eight times more hours at movies than at Sunday school. 2. Only one out of twelve persons in our country attends church regularly. 3. Seven out of eight children quit Church and Sunday School attendance before they reach fifteen years of age. 4. Fifteen million sex magazines are printed monthly and read by teen-agers. 5. There are more bar-maids in America than college girls. 6. One million girls have venereal disease. 7. One million illegitimate babies are born annually. 8. Our nation harbors three times as many criminals as college students. 9. A major crime is committed in America every 22 seconds."

Paul said, "Knowing the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." It seems that people in general have become so gospel hardened that all persuading, entreating, and exhortation does no good; but they just go on in their revelry and sin, having their consciences seared as though with a hot iron. Truly this sin-cursed world is ripening fast for destruction. Christ is the only hope for this world, and it seems that people have no time for Him.

It is a righteous thing for God to recompense tribulation and anger upon the wicked and Christ rejecters. In 2 Thess. 1:8 we read, "In flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."

Let us take heed unto the Word of God and save our lives through belief in Christ, bear the cross and wear a crown in glory.

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God gave his only begotten Son and Christ (His Son) gave his life in much temptations and sufferings for our salvation. A crown of thorns was roughly placed on his head, knees were bowed in mockery, his back was scourged, his sweat was as great drops of blood, his feet and hands were pierced with nails—

in this manner he gave his life freely for our sins. This great manifestation of love for us ought to constrain us to give our lives to him and freely give to the gospel work that precious souls may hear the gospel and live with us in eternity with God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

We have many burdens, trials, and tests in this work of faith in getting the gospel to men by the printed page. We linger before Him often in prayer for counsel and wisdom and for those that write in for prayer who are sick or have burdens to bear. We tell him our needs for the upkeep of the work and trust him to find hearts who are willing and obedient and will hear and hearken unto his voice so all phases of the work will be kept going and the gospel will reach the souls of men by the printed page. We invite the saints everywhere to share with us in this precious work of getting the truth to perishing souls.

Remember what Jesus said about a soul in Mark 8:36, 37, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

One soul is worth more than the whole world. Let us live to make Christ known among men. Lay up your treasures in heaven where moth and rust doth not corrupt nor thieves break through and steal.

We find a precious promise made by the Lord himself found in Luke 6:38. It reads: "Give and it shall be given unto you: good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." This promise is just as true as any promise in the Bible.

### STOP, LOOK, LISTEN!

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death." Prov. 14:12 The Word says, "Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matt. 7:14.

"And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness: The unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: The wayfaring men though fools shall not err therein." Isaiah 35:8.

"Verily, verily I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber." St. John 10:1. "Wherefore He saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." Ephesians 5:14-17.

Now folks, there is nothing uncertain about the way which leads to heaven. It certainly is without a doubt, a clean straight highway of holiness. There will be no climbing up any other way, because the Word says, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Heb. 12:14. The Bible is a holy book, and is full of holy teaching.

Praise our God, amen.

—J. S. Green.

## MEETING NOTICE

The saints of the Church of God located 2½ miles north of Sapulpa, Oklahoma on Highway 66-B, will have all day services on the 5th Sunday in October, or Oct 31, 1954. We invite all the saints who can to be with us on that day. Come spend the day in God's service with us.

Meeting time: Sunday School 9:45 a. m.; morning worship service 11:00 a. m.; dinner 1:00 p. m.; afternoon service 2:30 p. m.; and evening service 7:30 p. m. Pray much for this day's services that God will richly bless us, even though you might not be able to be with us.

A sister in Christ, Dorothy G. Barton

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The saints at Bristow, Okla. will have all day services at the saints' chapel located in South Bristow known as South Ridge Community on the second Sunday in October, or October 10, 1954. All are invited to come and be with us on that day and enjoy the services of the Lord and the fellowship of the saints there. Dinner will be served in the chapel and there will be three services during the day and evening.

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## ASSEMBLY MEETING NOTICE

The Jefferson, Oregon Assembly meeting will be held, Lord willing, on the saints' grounds on Hazel St., one block south and a half block east of the bus depot in Jefferson, November 19-29. Jefferson is nine miles north of Albany and 16 miles south of Salem. Those coming on 99E Highway, turn off at Jefferson junction.

All saints and lovers of the truth are invited to come, and will receive a hearty welcome. The meeting will be run on the free will offering plan as usual, with meals served free in the dining hall. All are welcome. The Lord has always provided the needful things to care for all who come, and we urge all who can to come. There are a number of cabins on the grounds and all will be cared for and made as comfortable as possible. Those who can should bring bedding. We urge all saints to plan now to come. Come praying and looking to the Lord for a good meeting. We are expecting the Lord to send Spirit-filled ministers of His own choosing who will preach the whole truth and clearly give out the full gospel of Christ to the people. Those needing help in soul or body should attend this meeting. All are cordially invited.

For further information write to Bro. Harry Davis, P. O. Box 547, Stayton, Ore., Ph. 3147; Sis. Emma Busch, Scio, Ore., R. 2; or Bro. Noah White, Jefferson, Ore., Ph. Fairfax 72317 Albany. Those attending the meeting can have mail sent in care of Bro. Sam Wilson, P. O. Box 41, Jefferson, Oregon and can get it any day of the week.

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## CAMPMEETING REPORTS

Dear saints:—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. We are praising Him today for all his rich blessings to us. The fourth campmeeting at Myrtle, Mo. has come and gone once more. We prayed much for this meeting that God would grant us a good campmeeting in every way, and truly He did hear and answer prayer beyond our expectation. More than a dozen ministers were here, and God surely did anoint and bless them in preaching the Word. Saints from half a dozen states attended this meeting, and we truly enjoyed the sweet fellowship of each one. This year's attendance was much larger than any before; not only of saints and ministers, but also of relatives and neighbors, and several who had never been to a campmeeting before. Some marveled that so many people were amply cared for and no offering was taken at any time. We believe the good seed that was sown will yet bring forth more fruit unto God. Several were saved,

several sanctified, others received spiritual help and strength. Four were baptized and fifty-two took part in a very precious ordinance service.

While we are thanking and praising God for this wonderful meeting, we are looking forward to a bigger and better campmeeting next year. Pray for us.

—Saints at Myrtle.

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The Dover, Okla. Campmeeting, which convened from Sept. 3rd to 12th, inclusive, is now numbered with the events of the past. Although the attendance was not as large as it had been in some past years, the Lord was present to bless in every way, considering the extremely dry summer. The meeting was good from beginning to end with peace and harmony prevailing. The messages were under the anointing of the Spirit, the saints were edified and decisions deepened. The unsaved were warned of and exhorted to flee from the wrath to come. In one service two came to the altar before the call was made; and in another service another came, after invitation, with real deep concern. There was much rejoicing in the camp on these occasions, and also throughout the meeting. The meeting closed with victory, and we are encouraged to press on, realizing the time is short in which we have to labor. We must press on. Brethren, pray for us that we may be able to continue to throw out the life line.

—Ulysses Phillips and Henry Caldwell.

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## Waiting To Be Gracious

The grace of the Lord Jesus in going after sinners, is touchingly portrayed in this letter from a young soldier to his mother; showing how He links on with our past soul history; bringing to remembrance that which is past—the prayers of a mother; the counsel of a father; perhaps the fleeting memory of past prayers, serving to give the sense of His infinite knowledge of us. He leaves no stone unturned to secure us for Himself: He seeks for His lost sheep until He finds it—He never gives up. Many of us, like the young writer of this letter, have to be brought within sight of death before we cry out to Him; but He is there beside us, waiting to be gracious. "He will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; as he heareth it, he will answer thee." Isaiah 30:19. How He listens for that cry, that acknowledgment that we are lost, helpless, ready to die!

As our young friend lay in the grim darkness of that field of death, what thoughts would arise in his heart! Could it be that God would yet bless him? Was He really waiting for him? The infant prayer of his childhood flashes into his mind—"Bless Thy little lamb tonight." What was it to be blessed by Jesus—the Saviour? To have one's sins forgiven, washed away in His blood—yes, he had dire need to be forgiven, to be cleansed. The simple words which, in their simplicity, soothed him, now made him think. Can I take those words on my lips now? No, I am no longer a "little lamb," but a lost sheep, a wandering sheep, old in wickedness, steeped in sin. But Jesus goes after that which is lost, until He finds it. Can I claim this? Did He die for me? Is He seeking me? Yes, even you, guilty and lost, He came to "seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10. This young soldier found it so, and will tell the story of his finding in his own words.

Base Hospital,  
Near the Marne.

My Dear Mother,

You will wonder and be anxious at my long silence, but now I will explain all to you and you will see how impossible it was for me to write before. I have been ill for three months, and did not want to worry you, so waited till I was better, and now I have good news to tell you. It belongs to one night just before Christmas. Oh, shall I ever forget that night! We were a bit surprised in the morning that we were in for fighting that day.

The troops were astir with the dawn and we got on the move towards the enemy's position. We had not gone far when the boom of cannon told us that a battle for life and death had begun.

Things went all right until we got about five hundred yards off the enemy, when I got a piece of shell in my foot. However, I managed to limp along and keep on.

Then my company got orders to reinforce the supports; so we doubled away to the left. We did not get far when I was struck to the ground. Luckily the shell did not burst, or I should have been blown to pieces. I felt so queer, when all at once I seemed to see your face close to mine. I remember a comrade coming who undid my belt; then I suppose I must have been unconscious. I must have lain like that for hours, for when I woke up it was dark and the stars were shining.

There was a strange quiet all about me. I put out my hand and touched a comrade, but though I called him he made me no answer, and I knew he must be dead.

I tried to lift myself up, but fell back exhausted. Then I knew what had happened: the fighting had ceased, and I was left among the dead, with others of my poor comrades who had fallen.

Oh, it was such a shock to find myself lying there, powerless to help myself; a dull ache all over me, and a sharp pain when I stirred. Doubtless there was a big number of dead comrades around—how soon should I be dead? Oh, Mother, I cannot tell you the awfulness of that moment! I was alone, and I believed within a few minutes of death.

Something that Mr. P—once said to me in one of those walks he took me when a lad, came to my mind: "You'll want God one of these days," he said, "and don't forget, He is waiting to be gracious to you." Then I thought of some verses and bits of hymns you taught me as a youngster. Oh, you were a good Mother to your boy! I tried to put a verse or two together of this one:—

"Jesus, tender Shepherd, hear me,  
Bless thy little lamb tonight."

and you would never believe how there, under the starlit sky, those simple words soothed me; but they made me think . . . I, Tom F— was no longer a "little lamb": I was a black sheep; old in wickedness, a wandering sheep. Oh, Mother! It all came back to me there: your teaching, your prayers, your life as a true Christian. I sobbed out my heart to God, and begged Him to forgive me all my sins for Christ's sake . . . And He settled it there and then, out in the cold night. He said, "My son, give me thine heart," and I answered, "It is Thine."

The terrors of death left me, for One stood beside me who took away all my fear, and I wept for joy.

I am writing this very fully, and from my heart. I feel you, dearest of mothers, will understand and rejoice.

Well, they came round in the morning to bury their dead. I remember clutching at a comrade's arm, as he was lifting the next poor chap from the ground, but I had no voice to speak, and soon became unconscious. When I awoke, I was in the Base Hospital, where they have written to you, but I wanted to tell you the good news myself, and soon I shall be with you, for although my

wounds are healing, I am to have a spell at home.

When I get home, we will thank God together, won't we?

Your loving and dutiful son,

(Signed) TOM

May the Lord graciously use the experience of this dear young man to the help of some soul that in dire need turns to Him for help. He is still waiting to be gracious, and wherever there is the confession of need—wherever there is true repentance, He is willing and waiting to save. "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1:7.

Editor's Note—In reading the above article, it is easy to see what influence early and proper training has upon a child to bring them to Christ in later years. This young soldier was in a dying condition and the Lord brought his mother's teaching to his mind, thereby led him to get saved. The truths of God's Word impressed upon their plastic minds can never be erased. That is why it is so important to teach the child about the Lord while it is young.

We believe that the little "Beautiful Way" paper is doing a great work for the Lord which will tell on the coming generation in bringing many souls to the Lord. We send this paper to any address in the United States for sixty cents per year, which will mean that your child will receive one copy every week in the year. We send five copies or more to one address for the small sum of forty cents per year for each copy or subscription. Every growing child should have this paper to read, that the truth may be planted upon their tender hearts. Every congregation or superintendent of the Sunday School ought to see to it that the children's classes receive this paper for each growing child. You will find the rates for this children's paper advertised in the first column on page four of the "Faith and Victory" paper. The majority of children today are growing up without much training, and become lawless young men in their teen age and form gangs to do evil. Let not your child be one among such gangsters. Teach them the better way of life while they are under your control.

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### A Little Fellow Follows Me

A careful man I ought to be

A little fellow follows me.

I do not dare to go astray

For fear he'll go the self-same way.

Not once can I escape his eyes;

Whate'er he sees me do he tries.

Like me he says he's going to be,

That little chap who follows me.

He thinks that I am good and fine,

Believes in every word of mine.

The base in me he must not see—

That little chap who follows me.

I must remember as onward I go

Thru summer sun and winter snow,

I am building for the years to be

That little chap who follows me.

Author Unknown.



Oklahoma.—Dear saints:—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. Today finds the saints of Bristow encouraged to press on for the Lord.

It has been sometime since the Lord has impressed us to write a letter of thanks to all the saints who sent donations on the building here. We tried to answer each individual donor as the donations were received, but thought it would be pleasing to the Lord to answer through the paper, too. We surely thank each and every one of you, and feel sure that the Lord has blessed each of you, too.

We are only a few in number here, but the Lord impressed us to have a place of worship here; so by God's guidance we purchased this building in South Bristow, known as South Ridge, and we welcome all the true saints of God who preach the pure clean gospel as recorded in God's holy Word. If any of the ministers or saints happen to be passing through here, you may contact Brother D. H. Wheeler or Brother W. L. Foster as to the meeting times.

We still owe about \$905.00 on the church building here, but we are trusting God to help us in this matter. So pray for us that God will ever lead us from victory to victory.

We have been praying for sometime that the Lord would send a younger couple here to help us get our Sunday school built up; but we are not able at this time to take care of anyone. But if some couple felt that the Lord would have them come here and could support themselves at least for awhile, we feel sure that God will bless you. If you have felt a call to home missionary work, ask God if Bristow is the field for you.

Bro. Wheeler and Bro. Foster are both getting well up in years and are not able to get about among the people as much as they would like to; so we at Sapulpa and Tulsa have been helping them all we could; but the distance is a hindrance to us, as we can only go after work hours.

If anyone desires to know more about the work here at Bristow, you might write to either Bro. D. H. Wheeler or Bro. Louis Foster of Route 2, Bristow, Okla., or to me at 2240 North Columbia Place, Tulsa, Oklahoma, as I am trying to keep their books for them and help all I can.

Brothers Wheeler and Foster and Sis. Dorothy G. Barton

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Mich.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I want to thank you all for the prayers sent up in my behalf. The Lord wonderfully touched my body and healed me of sciatic rheumatism. I have been up and doing my work about six weeks now. I was afflicted about seven months, at times very bad and could not walk. The devil tries to bring it back, but I keep fighting him and resisting him in Jesus' name. He will soon flee. My little boy was just recently healed of a severe case of intestinal flu. Pray for us. Clarence has arthritis in his arms.

Sister Margaret Brant.

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Ohio.—Dear precious saints,—Greetings in our dear Lord's name. I wish to testify to the healing power of our Lord and Saviour which I have felt in my body the past two days. Yesterday morning (Aug. 24th) I arose to prepare to go to work, feeling quite bad. After an attempt at getting ready, I decided to stay at home. As the day wore on, my back and stomach hurt severely, and seemed to get worse. If I had not known about Jesus and his healing power, I would have, no doubt, gone to a doctor or a drug store for medicine. But, praise God! I have read in His Word where it says for the sick to call for the elders of the church, to be anointed and prayed for, and I have yet to find where it tells Christians to turn to doctors or medicine.

As it was prayer meeting night and we live seventeen miles from the chapel, I asked the Lord to give me strength if he wanted me to go and be anointed and prayed for. I got ready and took my family to meeting on faith, not on my feelings. While different ones prayed, my back and stomach stopped hurting. During the remainder of the meeting, my back hurt quite bad. Before service closed I was anointed and they laid hands on me and prayed, and the Lord answered prayer. Today I feel so much better and stronger in body. I do not know what it was that afflicted me, but I did know that God was able to heal me, whatever it was. I thank God that we can stand on the Word of God, and His Word will not fail us if we meet the conditions of His Word. Your brother in Christ, Earl Sharp

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Ireland.—Dear brother in the Lord Jesus,—I love the paper "Faith and Victory." I know no other paper quite the same, and from cover to cover it is all to God's glory and the good of souls. I send it around to people I think it would help and spur them on to live nearer to God.

If I live till the 4th of Feb. I'll be 73 years. I am beginning to feel the weight of years, but God never changes, glory to His holy name forever. He is the same yesterday, and today, and forever. It is comforting to know we have a friend who never changes. I have seen many changes in my 72 years, but He sticks closer than a brother. As I lie awake some nights I think of how poor my life has been, how unfaithful I have been and followed often afar off; but when I repented and turned, I found a gracious God and Saviour, ready to forgive. It is wonderful the mighty stoop he took to save us—from the throne to the cross. When I go up the glen here near where I live, I look at the trees, so mighty and so grand: cedar, chestnut, oak, fir, holly, elm, etc. I look at them and think of the Hand that made them all going to the cross for you and me, and I bow my head and worship—to think He was nailed to a tree that His hand made. We read, "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not." Oh! how sad these words are: "Knew Him not." "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them who believed on his name." I was brought to know the Lord as my Saviour at the age of 16; and oh, He has been a great Saviour!

Margaret L. Dundas

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Dear Pastor—I promised my dear Jesus that I would tell as many people as I could what He has done for me. I was very sick and went to many doctors. They took X-rays and gave me ten different kinds of medicine. I was supposed to take it; but nothing helped. Some Christian friends came to my house and prayed for me that I might be healed. Some time went by; I was not any better. But one night when the pain was so bad that I couldn't sleep, I received assurance that God would hear the prayers of Christian friends. I thank all of you people who prayed for me. I fell asleep and slept soundly until morning. When I awoke the pain was gone, my appetite returned, and I felt good. To this day those pains have not returned. I give God the glory. This is my testimony:

In storm and darkness I had lost my way,  
And thou, my Saviour, seemed so far away;  
Till thou awakened longings in my breast,  
Found me at last and set my soul at rest.  
I strove, but could not find my way to thee,  
But thanks to thee, my Lord, that thou found me;  
And I'm assured that thou wilt keep my soul,  
In heavenly mansions I shall reach the goal.  
And in my heart a song of praise to thee  
Has been implanted by thy love to me;



A song so weak, an echo of thy grace,  
The greatest treasure to a sinful race.

—Mrs. Carl Jacobson, Oxnard, Calif.

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Kans.—Greetings of love in the precious name of Jesus, whom we love and serve. God is graciously blessing his church here in Anthony. We thank God we had the privilege of having with us this summer for a few nights of service, Brother Francisco of Bakersfield, Calif. The messages were timely, inspiring, and were profitable to us. Our souls were refired, and with a mind to work, the Lord has wonderfully blessed in all our efforts. We are in love with God, and it is so wonderful to know his love for the church, the Lamb's bride, the pillar and ground of the truth. The services are being well attended and increasing with new faces in every department of the church. We have a new family of saints: Bro. and Sis. Leo Johnson and family, Carol Ann, Roy, and Myron, moving here from Oklahoma City. They are greatly appreciated, adding much to the services.

We would like to invite any of the saints or saint ministers in full fellowship with the body that are traveling this way to stop by for any of these services: Sunday School, 9:45 a. m.; Evening service, 7:30 p. m.; mid-week prayer service, Thursday 7:30 p. m. Please pray God will continue to use us in his challenging field, that the light will shine brightly so the world will see and know the Lord truly does save and deliver.

A sister in this true way, Sister Mary Martin

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Fayette, Ala.—Dear saints, greetings in Jesus' name. I just feel led to write a word of testimony. This finds me still saved and encouraged to press on to the blessed home that awaits all of the faithful. Our experience of late has not been without trials and temptations, but we are happy to report victory in Jesus' name and through His strength. We find as we look to Jesus from the deepest trial or the highest plains that He is the same loving and strong friend.

As we turned through a book some time ago, our eyes fell on a picture of a war general as he gave his soldiers this command: "Full victory; nothing else."

Surely Jesus was faithful to Him who sent him into the world to bring to man full victory. As we go forth in Jesus' name, may we also contend for full victory, the faith that was once delivered to the saints.

Pray that our life, tongue and pen might be guided by God's Spirit in the future. We have made many blunders in the past. H. A. McMillian.

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Mo.—Dear saints of God everywhere, greetings in Jesus' precious name. It has been some time since I sent in a testimony, so by the help of the dear Lord I will. O! how helpless we are without God! First, I want to tell you how the dear Lord healed me about thirty-five years ago. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, forever. When I read the Bible I would not know much about it. I kept reading and praying. I wanted to get saved, so I was praying earnestly once and felt big wings hovering over me. It came to me it was angels. The dear Lord sent the angels. O, praise his holy name for his love for souls. One time my husband's grandmother fell and got hurt and kept her bed. One evening she was sitting up in bed begging for someone to take her out of that place. Her two daughters were with her caring for her. I was washing supper dishes. The dear Lord told me to go in there and lay hands on her and pray for her, so I obeyed. As I walked in, her daughters walked out. She lay down and prayed with me.

Once I felt I must go to town, not knowing why. I went across the street where there was a dance hall with

big glass windows. I could see in it. The dear Lord wanted me to go in there and pray. A couple had been dancing, and one of them was dear to me. I knelt down in front of them and prayed. Everything was quiet. Then I got up and went out and came home. The God of heaven was with me or I could not have done that.

He has set broken bones for me, no help from man, no bandages, just prayer and faith in God. There are so many other things he has done for me.

Now I will tell some things He has done of late. I was healed of a cancer on my nose. And how wonderfully He would hear and answer prayer and see our tears while my husband was sick. God knows what every tear is for. The dear Lord is so good to us all, a present help in time of need. During the Guthrie Campmeeting I was so sick. No one but the dear Lord knew how I suffered, but I didn't suffer too much. God bless the dear saints of God for their prayers. He healed me the next morning, thank God.

The dear Lord has taken good care of my soul and body for about thirty-five years, never let me get in false doctrine. I will soon be seventy-one years old. I have made mistakes and the dear Lord would help me to correct them. O thank God, not long ago there was a truck in the street. It seemed that I must go closer to see the name and put tracts in it. I didn't happen to have any. I had given them all away or forgotten them. I said, "Dear Lord, if you will keep that truck there until I get back, I will go to the house and get some." So I did and it was still there. That evening or night he died. If I had not obeyed the dear Lord, how that would have grieved me!

I was fasting for so many things a few weeks ago. The third day I was so weak I could hardly go. I said, "Dear Lord, unless you give me grace and strength, I can not go." I was going to a home to read and pray. The devil told me I would die on the way. I thought, "That will be a wonderful way to go." Resist the devil and he will flee from you; draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you. God's grace is sufficient and his strength is made made perfect in weakness. How He did bless me!

Oh, the beautiful church of God! It was set up by the God of heaven; I am in the body; I belong to the Lord. Praise His holy name!

God bless all the dear saints of God. I thank God for the love that binds his children together.

Sister Mary Whitmore.

Mo.—Dear saints—I am happy in the Lord and am trying to go on for Him. It seems like we really have to work hard to keep going forward.

We have had another campmeeting here at Myrtle, and the Lord blessed in every way. We had new ones who had never been here; and, of course, we were happy for all of them to be with us. I also had the privilege of going to Monark Springs this time for the first time. I really enjoyed myself there meeting the saints, and enjoyed the Word that was handed out. I also enjoyed the young people's meeting. It really encourages my soul to see young folks working for the Lord.

I had a vision before our campmeeting of the two highways: One was a highway with Jesus walking on it, leading people to heaven. The other one was a wide highway going down to darkness. I was thinking of the narrow way of people staying near Jesus that they wouldn't ever get on the broad way.

Sometimes we get neglectful at our duty and get away from the Leader. And if we do not see ourselves and come back, we get on the other road, the wrong road.

Dear ones, I desire prayer that I will do my duty at all times. I thank each and every one for their prayers for me in the past. —Mrs. A. L. Sorrell.

P. S. I also have a special unspoken request. —A. S.

Jena, Louisiana—Dear readers of "Faith and Victory," I feel I am duty bound to write my testimony because of a vow I made in my heart.

Last year the car the Lord had supplied for me in 1950 became so badly in need of quite a lot of repair (although I had had so much good service from it) I desired a new one, as I have to be on the road so much alone, going to see isolated saints, etc; and was to be at a place in a few days for a meeting out in the country about 300 miles from home. Of course, I could have gone on the bus; but would have needed a way to go when I got there.

I prayed most of one night for God to undertake and felt I had prayed through, so I traded the car on a new one, which I well realized what a great undertaking for me since it is difficult to even keep up a car when you use it so much; and then to have large payments beside, I knew I was in "deep water." I didn't have much encouragement from people, and when I began to feel so badly about having taken such a step, the Lord rebuked me with Matt. 8:26, "And He said unto them, Why are ye so fearful, O ye of little faith?" I accepted it, and felt I had the Lord to stand by me if my faith failed not.

I had purposed in my heart after one year of meeting payments I would testify of it; and want to say God has stood by me and miraculously supplied, although at times my faith has been tried greatly.

I would think at times I would go to work at a public job, although I have more to do for the Lord than I can get done, and I know how a person can lose out with God by being too much entangled with earthly matters. I finally came to the conclusion that if I had to fast and pray a week out of every month to meet payments, I would still have more time for the Lord than if I were on a job. So I have continued in God's service, and believe the Lord will see me all the way through.

I am endeavoring to count faith as a mighty powerful machine put up against the "mountain," and in Jesus' name it will be removed.

Pray for me that I will be humble and faithful to God and faint not.

In the Master's service,

Ruth Murphey

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Mo.—Dear saints,—Greetings of love to you in the precious name of Jesus. So much has happened since I have last written my testimony.

On August first I meant to seek for sanctification, as I thought then I was living right and up to all God would have me to. I knew it was God's will for his children to be sanctified. I made every restitution and really felt the Lord was going to do something for me that day. As I prayed for sanctification, I felt fire and a joy and trembling start from the soles of my feet and go all through me. I thought the Lord had sanctified me. Then I began to wonder why I did not feel the joy of heaven in my soul. Then the enemy crept in and made me doubt, made me believe I had sinned against the Holy Ghost.

I was sick, taking something we believed to be Malaria fever, but it was really typhoid fever, so I decided to go to the doctor and be treated, as I didn't think the Lord would help me any more. The torture in my mind during my illness cannot be told. Every night I did not think I would wake up the next morning after I finally got to sleep—I couldn't for close to two weeks. But, praise the name of the dear Lord, He saw me through. He finally began to make me realize the devil is a liar, and I began to be able to talk about it with my husband. We finally decided to send for God's minister here to talk with me about things. He greatly encouraged me and advised me to seek for forgiveness, for if I hadn't gotten

through I couldn't have sinned. So I prayed again for forgiveness and reminded God of his promise. Praise his name, He saved my soul. Now I see that was what he was trying to do. I wasn't saved before, though I thought I was. There were no temptations there before like there are now. The precious Lord has saved me from sin, and I am born in the kingdom of heaven. Pray for me, all of you. I'm weak, just a babe in Christ and need the prayers of all God's children. Pray for us.

Christian love,

Sister Dorothy Mason

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Okla.—Greetings to all the saints in Jesus' dear name. I am still saved and much encouraged to press on for the dear Lord. Truly I am living to all that I know and understand. The Lord is so wonderful. He has done so much for me since I have been saved.

During our tent meeting here I became very ill and the Lord came to my aid and wonderfully healed me. I trust the Lord for my children's healing as well as for myself, and He wonderfully blesses them. I don't mean to ever turn back because there is nothing back there for me. I mean to make heaven although I have some hard trials and tests; He always brings me through.

After our meeting was over here the enemy tried to bring the same affliction back, but the Lord heard and answered prayer. Bro. and Sister Crawley came and the saints here, and he anointed me. I got up that same evening, praise the dear Lord! I need the saints' prayers that I will stay true to the Lord so that when I call upon him for help there will be nothing between me and him. Pray for my husband also. He is deaf in one ear. Also pray for my two little girls that got saved, that they will hold out for the dear Lord. I also have a special unspoken request.

I want the saints to pray for an affliction on my body which I have had about two years. Also pray for my sister who is going through some severe trials and tests. A sister in Christ,

Lorene Payne

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Ark.—Dear saints,—I am so happy to write my testimony to all of you today. The Lord truly answered the saints' prayers in my behalf. Less than two weeks ago, I was told to report to the T. B. Sanatorium at Boonville, Ark. to check on me for T. B. as I have been sick since June. I asked Pauline Lowe to have the saints pray for me. She wrote to different ones and called others. The doctor told me yesterday they could not find any T. B. and I could go home. I told the doctor that prayers had been answered. He just looked at me and said nothing.

This illness has really taught me what it means to live close to the Lord. And I intend to live for Him to the best of my knowledge.

I desire the prayers of the saints that I will gain my strength back, as I am very weak.

May God bless each and everyone of you.

—Mrs. Harry Lowe

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Kansas—Dear Young Saints,—Greetings of love to one and all. I feel it is my duty to send my testimony to the "Faith and Victory." Today I am much encouraged in the Lord and my whole heart's desire is to live for him all the days of my life.

I thank the Lord for all he has done for me. I thank him for his saving and keeping grace. He has wonderfully blessed me, also heard and answered prayer in my behalf here of late.

Recently, I have seen so many, both men and women, that are afflicted mentally and physically. This makes me to realize more than ever before just how good the Lord is to me. I think we as young people should be more

thankful and show our appreciation more for the wonderful blessings which the Lord has bestowed upon us. I believe one way of showing our appreciation is to live a more Christ-like life as we go about our daily routine, and read and pray much. I feel that among the young people there is a lack of reading and praying. May we just stop for a moment and ask ourselves the question: "How much time each day do we set aside for reading and praying?"

The devil tried to tell me that I couldn't write anything that would be of any value to anyone, therefore, it would be useless for me to write to the "Faith and Victory" paper. Even so, I did what the Lord wanted me to do, and that is what counts. Pray for me that I will live a life pleasing to the Lord. Edward L. Sorrell.

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## What Does The Dragon Represent?

(Revelation 12:3)

The dragon represents Pagan Rome, as seen in the previous article entitled, "A Woman Clothed With The Sun."

Who were the dragon's angels? The adherents of Paganism. What does the whole twelfth chapter of Revelation teach? The great conflict between Christianity and Paganism, which took place in the beginning of the Gospel dispensation. How did the conflict end? "And the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." (verses 7, 8, and 9). He, the devil, or his devilish power and influence by which he held sway over the minds of the people was broken off. He was cast down from the ecclesiastical heaven. He had no more power or authority to organize and establish his Pagan faith above that of the Christian faith. His priestly office to function in Christian's matters had come to an end. The light of the gospel had swept away his refuge of lies and proved to the world that he had no part in the salvation of souls.

How did Christians celebrate this victory? "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night" (verse 10). How did the Pagans accuse the Christians day and night? History tells us if any calamity befell the Pagans they blamed the Christians for it. If death or famine came upon them as a people, they would blame Christians and put them to death. If so much as a fire would break out in any of their cities they accused the Christians and put them to death. Thus they were both day and night accusing the Christians of things of which they were not guilty. The Pagans glutted themselves by shedding their innocent blood. No wonder they shouted for joy when the Roman Power began to crumble before Christianity. How did the Christians overcome? "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony. And they loved not their lives unto the death." (verse 11).

While the Pagans opposed Christianity with fagot, sword, crucifixion, the followers of Christ never

raised their hands in rebellion, only testifying that the blood of Christ saved them from sin. "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" (Rev. 14:12). While these saints were going to the beheading block, the stake, we hear the Revelator saying, "these are they which came out of great tribulation and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb," (Rev. 7:14). These sweet burning testimonies were their only weapons of warfare, but thank God, they overcame by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony. The love of Christ was so dear to them that they loved not their lives unto death. They would rather die than to be separated from the love of Christ. Heathenism could not stand before such a religion as this; but went crashing to pieces before it. "Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea, for the devil is come down unto you having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time" (verse 12). I am persuaded there are two pictures drawn from this twelfth verse. One contrasts the other. "Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them." Here he is talking to those that washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. He is exhorting them to rejoice because they have won the victory over sin and the devil. What does he say next? "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea, for the devil is come down unto you having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." We see from the above scriptures (verses 8 and 9) that he was cast down from his high heavenly seat into the earth. He can no more reign from his high heavenly throne, but takes his seat on an earthly throne, working through the civil power in order to continue all possible persecutions he could upon the Christians.

"When the dragon saw that he was cast into the earth, he persecuted the woman [the church] which brought forth the man child" (verse 13). This dragon power tried to save itself by slaughtering the Christians. But the Christians soon outnumbered the heathen and Rome tottered and finally fell. A. D. 476.

While the Christians were so fast increasing, what happened? "And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place. Where she is nourished for a time and times and half time from the face of the serpent" (verse 14). This woman was the church (verses 1 and 2). The wilderness into which she went is the same as already considered in verse 6. The obscure state of the church during the apostasy. Two wings of a great eagle signify the rapidity of the spiritual decline of the church. Time, times and half time cover the same period as verse 6—1260 years.

What next did John see? "And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood" (verse 15). Here we quote history again. Some think this prophecy was fulfilled in the Arian heresy, which arose and for a short time seemed to sweep every thing like a flood. The adherents of that heresy

at one time out-numbered the Orthodox. It looked as though the entire Church would be carried away by it. This heresy was but the dregs of Paganism that came out of the dragon's mouth. What became of the flood? "And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth" (verse 16). Some writers borrow from the time when the earth opened and Korah, Dathan, and Abiram quickly went down into the pit (Numbers 16:32), as to signify a sudden disappearance of that flood which the serpent cast out of his mouth. It is true according to history that the Arian heresy suddenly disappeared, or in a very short time. But when speaking of the earth helping the woman, I feel as it might possibly be referring to civil powers, the earthly rulers, for it says the earth helped the woman. While the church was undergoing these persecutions, it had intervals of rest. The treatment of the Christians depended to some degree on the personal character and disposition of the emperors and soldiers. Some emperors were of a mild policy, not particularly interested in religious matters, which made a degree of rest for the Christians. Some emperors brutally mistreated the Christians and added to their persecutions. Under Philip the Arabian the Christians were not molested, the prospect of the church was bright. Quoting from the history of the Christian church: "Constantine, the ruler of Gaul, fought his way against contending rivals and finally entered Rome, the capitol, in triumph. Enthroned Emperor of the west, he immediately issued an edict of toleration favorable to the Christians, and soon became a professed Christian himself and by law made Christianity the established religion of the Empire." Paganism as a religious power had been overthrown long before by the followers of Christ; but now its political importance received a death blow with only a few struggles before its final downfall. Thus the earth helped the woman and swallowed up the flood of persecution which the dragon cast out of his mouth. "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev. 12:17). The old dragon was completely conquered, cast down, his power broken. So he became wroth at the woman (church). A son was born to the dragon, called the beast; and through this son the dragon made war against the remnant of her seed; those were the few who stood true to God during the dark ages.

—Hightower

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## False Doctrines

In the early morning of the Christian era there were perilous times. Christians were persecuted unto death, were sawn asunder, burned at the stake; but this only deepened their consecration, and they willingly went to the stake. This kind of persecution only settled them down deeper in God and left such a testimony to others that strengthened them in God and prepared them to suffer for Christ's sake as He

had suffered for them. They were promised that they should also reign with him.

But in this evening time the enemy of all souls has changed his tactics from literal punishment to deceptions and false doctrines in the garb of some kind of religion. People want some kind of religion. Some people are easily deceived, and most any kind of religion will suffice for them; while others which have more light are not so easily deceived. So Satan just gets them to pervert the pure gospel (wrest it), 2 Peter 3:16, 17.

Of these false religions, there are many kinds. We shall name a few, beginning with the religion that promises people a home in heaven provided they were once converted. These leaders or preachers say if one is once converted (saved) he can never be lost, for a spark remains and will be rekindled some time.

Now let us go to the Book (Bible) for the source and fountain head of truth; for thus saith the Lord.

Let us take the sayings of Jesus in the 25th chapter of Matthew, the parable of the Ten Virgins. Verse seven makes us know they were all virgins, but five were wise and kept oil in their vessels (the oil being a type of the Holy Spirit) and five were foolish and let the oil or grace of God leak out and their lamps (lights) went out. They were shut out in darkness and were not permitted to meet the bridegroom. If you will remember, they were amazed when they were denied entrance (cut off).

Now let us go to 2 Pet. 2:20-22: "For after they have escaped the pollutions of the world [sin of all kinds] through the knowledge of the Lord [saving grace] and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled [back in sin] therein, and overcome [back-slidden] the latter end is worse than the beginning [before they knew Christ in the remission of sin]." Verse 21: "For it had been better not to have known the way of righteousness than after they had known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them." Verse 22: "But it happened unto them according to the true proverb; the dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed [saved] to her wallowing in the mire [sin]." These texts are ample proof to show that it is possible to die a spiritual death after one has been converted (saved); or separated from the divine life in God.

But the greatest deceptions are brought about from wrong or false doctrines taught among those who were one time saints and are now deceiving souls by their influence and spreading these false doctrines.

We shall dwell for a short time on the grace of sanctification or heart purity. The Word of God is clear on this experience to every one who has not become blinded or deceived. The first thing for a sinner to do is to seek the Lord for salvation; namely, forgiveness of his sins, the sins he has committed since he has known what sin is and comes to the knowledge that he is lost and needs the Saviour. These are the sins that are booked up against him. Because of a deep conviction for sin, he willingly and truly repents, and God for Christ's sake forgives him. Now he is in a good condition to go on unto perfection and the completion of his full salvation, according

to God's plan—his TWO PERFECT WORKS of grace.

What is this person's next step? After he has been born again through the forgiveness of his sins, his next step is to make a complete gift and surrender of his body a living sacrifice, holy (free from committed sins) and acceptable unto God. (Rom. 12:1). When he does this the Holy Ghost comes into this gift (heart of man) dedicated unto God and burns out all dross (carnality, the inherited sin principal) or carnal nature. Jesus never will move into a temple (or heart of man) without first cleansing it, as Jesus and sin cannot abide in the same temple (or heart).

Now we shall take up the false part of the teaching of the one work of grace.

The first work of grace is forgiveness, and the second work is a dedication or a dying out to all but God's divine will, then an infilling of the Holy Spirit. Jesus told the disciples that they were witnesses to repentance (Luke 24:47-49). They could testify to these things. But Jesus told them further: "Behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you, but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high. Now if they had received it all in the one work of grace (both forgiveness and cleansing) what need of further tarrying before God? There are ministers from among us who are teaching that they are saved and rid of carnality when first converted; and all they need to do is to dedicate their service to God. But this teaching has God's Word in reverse, because a consecration must come first before a spiritual filling can come into the soul.

We inherited carnality through Adam Rom. 5:12: By one man sin entered into the world. How did it come into our hearts? Was it not an inherited principle of sin inherited through our fore-father Adam? It was planted in the human heart, leaving a blight that even the ground was cursed because of it.

There was a need of a real washing in the Fountain. Zech. 13:1, "In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness." "In that day" means the gospel day or day of Christ.

Two things are mentioned: sin first, then uncleanness, which covers the inherited tendencies.

There is more danger in these false doctrines of one cleansing (one work of grace) which is now being taught in many different ways (which shows it is wrong). We are instructed by the Word of God to all speak the same thing. Wrong teachings make party spirits and the out-come is divisions and spiritual death. I say the remedy (or cure) for these things is a real know-so experience, which is a safeguard against falling into these spurious doctrines.

When a person gets so deceived that he is willing to risk his soul on the deception he is teaching, he is nearing the border line to sinning against the Holy Ghost. His only way of escape is never having had the Holy Spirit; because if he has had a real sanctified experience, then denies the working of the Holy Spirit, I say there is very grave danger.

Let us continue longer on some of the dangers. I say a man never gets in these predicaments without having turned down God and light. Then he is

eligible for the strong delusions; and for this cause—what cause?—failing to keep a love for the truth (which means all) God shall send them strong delusions that they should believe a lie (false doctrine) that they all might be damned (or condemned) who believe not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness (2 Thess. 2:11, 12.). Pleasure in unrighteousness means a love for false doctrines, does it not? or any departure from the truth. Every doctrine that causes a separation from the saints, separates them from God according to light. There may be young saints who do not have much light, whom God will labor with, or be patient with; but I mean those who have been in the light for years and taught these glorious truths and now have departed from it, teaching something else. They say they have new light; but light never confuses. Light within itself has the same transparent clearness. The color comes from what we look through. For instance: we have a 50 watt bulb, then we put another 100 watt bulb beside it; the only difference is just fifty watts "more" light. Spiritual light is given by the Holy Ghost who enlightens our souls, and those who have the Holy Ghost will readily see the truth. Man's wisdom will deceive him unless the Spirit of God reveals the truth. The Word of God and the Spirit of God always agree.

Now in this evening time when the light is shining clearly (Zech. 14:6, 7) comes what is called new light. Now here is the deception. Many claim they are church of God ministers. As Satan transforms himself into an angel of light, therefore is no great thing (or marvel) if his ministers be transformed as the ministers of righteousness (2 Cor. 11:14, 15). Jesus said by their fruits ye shall know them. What is their fruit? If it is love, there will be a flowing together with the saints of God, but if it causes division among the real saints, then we will know it is a fraud, or false doctrine. Let us keep our hearts closed to every false way and not have any fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

Yours in the service of the Lord our Saviour,  
—E. M. Zinn.

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## Praise Him

Let us praise the name of Jesus  
From whom all blessings flow,  
No other name under heaven  
That can save our precious soul.

Let us speak the sweet name, Jesus,  
There is power in that name so divine;  
The tempter will hastily leave us  
When on Jesus we fully recline.

Let us rest in his strong arm of love,  
Hid away from the world and its strife;  
For Jesus is the way to heaven,  
He has the words of eternal life.

—Effie Miller

## Regrets

The following are selections from writings of two men, who in former days were professed leaders of God's people. How many more people, who are in error in this age, should be in distress and confessing, who are much farther below the standard of Christian plainness than were these two men, Wesley and Finney.

Chas. G. Finney Confesses:—"The question now regards fashion, in dress, equipage, and so on. And here I will confess that I was formerly in error. I believed, and I taught, that the best way for Christians to pursue, was to dress so as not to be noticed, to follow the fashions and changes so as not to appear singular, and that nobody would be led to think of their being different from others in these particulars. But I have seen my error, and now wonder greatly at my former blindness. It is your duty to dress so plain as to show to the world, that you place no sort of reliance in the things of fashion, and set no value at all on them, but despise and neglect them altogether. But unless you are singular, unless you separate yourselves from the fashions of the world, you show that you do value them. There is no way in which you can bear a proper testimony by your lives against the fashions of the world, but by dressing plain."—Charles G. Finney's "Lectures to Professing Christians," p. 146

John Wesley Distressed:—"I am distressed. I know not what to do. I see what I might have done once. I might have said peremptorily and expressly, 'Here I am; I and my Bible. I will not, I dare not vary from this Book, either in great things or small. I have no power to dispense with one jot or tittle of what is contained therein. I am determined to be a Bible Christian, not almost, but altogether. Who will meet me on this ground? Join me on this, or not at all.' With regard to dress in particular, I might have been as firm (and I now see it would have been far better,) as either the people called Quakers, or the Moravian brethren;—I might have said, 'This is our manner of dress which we know is both scriptural and rational. If you join with us, you are to dress as we do; but you need not join us unless you please.' But, alas! The time is now past; and what I can do now, I can not tell."—Wesley's Sermons, Vol 11, p. 439.

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### JOB'S STRUGGLE TO UNDERSTAND LIFE

October 3, 1954

Printed Portion: .....Job 1:1; 19:7-10; 23:3-10

Job 1:1. There was a man in the land Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

Job 19:7 Behold, I cry out of wrong, but I am not heard: I cry aloud, but there is no judgment.

8. He hath fenced up my way that I cannot pass, and he hath set darkness in my paths.

9. He hath stripped me of my glory, and taken the crown from my head.

10. He hath destroyed me on every side, and I am gone: and mine hope hath he removed like a tree.

23:3 Oh that I knew where I might find him! that I might come even to His seat!

4. I would order my cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments.

5. I would know the words which he would answer me, and understand what he would say unto me.

6. Will he plead against me with his great power? No; but he would put strength in me.

7. There the righteous might dispute with him; so should I be delivered for ever from my judge.

8. Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him:

9. On the left hand, where he doth work but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him:

10. But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

Memory Verse: Ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13.

Practical Truth: In difficult situations in life we need to maintain a strong faith in God.

## COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In many respects Job is a representative character and has many of the problems of life such as many others have even in these days. The things he had were all taken from him, then after Satan got through with him and his "miserable comforters", we find that God tests him too. Each one has his trials; and those who come out victorious are those who are "purified, made white, and tried," Dan. 12:10. God's people are expected to suffer awhile, 1 Pet. 5:10.

Job did not know (and many today the same) that God was at hand, "For in him we live and move and have our



being," Acts 17:28. It is God that gave us "the breath of life" Gen. 2:7, and again "Without me ye can do nothing," John 15:5. In his faith Job honestly sought God but verses 7-10 show "I am not heard" "Set darkness in my path," "Stripped me," "Mine hope hath he removed." He must have felt like Jacob, "All these things are against me," Gen. 42:36. But for all that has happened he still says, "Oh that I knew where I might find him," verse 3. What a difference when Jesus came, for Philip said, "We have found him," John 1:45. However, his faith is not diminished for he says, "I know that my Redeemer liveth" and expected to see God. Job 19:25, 26. God understands.

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### GOD'S ANSWER TO JOB'S PERPLEXITY

October 10, 1954

Printed Portion.....Job 38:1-7; 42:1-6, 10a.

Job 38:1 Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said,

2. Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?

3. Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.

4. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

5. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

6. Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;

7. When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

42:1 Then Job answered the Lord, and said,

2. I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.

3. Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understand not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.

4. Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.

5. I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.

6. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

42:10a And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends.

Memory Verse: Be still, and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10.

Practical Truth: We should trust in the wisdom and goodness of God, no matter how mysterious some of his providences may seem to be.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The Word speaks of this world as a "Vale of tears," but it is a "Vale of soul making" to those whose are willing to undergo the trials and look to God for the needed help and strength. Remember at all times the kind of people to whom God will look, Isa. 66:2, "To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my Word." We find that when God speaks to Job he humbles down and confesses before his God.

God does not always remove suffering right away but his presence is worth all the suffering we may undergo when we can see His hand in it all. He does not always explain things to us, but he tells us to "wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he will strengthen thine heart: wait I say on the Lord", Ps. 27:14.

It is the longing in the heart to "see God" but when that opportunity comes like it did to Job, the heart sees itself unworthy of God's presence.

The last verse of our lesson shows God's final kindness to him. The Lord told Gideon "Surely I will be with thee", Judges 6:16. Jesus said "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid" Matt. 14:27. The Lord told Cornelius, "Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God", Acts 10:14. God is faithful.

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### THE WAY OF WISDOM

October 17, 1954

Printed Portion .....Proverbs 3:1-6; 4:10-15, 18-19.

Proverbs 3:1 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments;

2. For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

3. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

4. So shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

5. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

4:10 Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.

11. I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.

12. When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.

13. Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.

14. Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.

15. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.

4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

19. The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

Memory Verse: Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:5-6.

Practical Truth: Wisdom for daily living may in large measure be attained through a knowledge of God and his Word.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge", 1:7. Wisdom has to do with human conduct, and the wise person is he who lives righteously and turns away from evil. The one who seeks diligently can find wisdom, he can ask God for it, but he must apply himself to that very thing or he will not receive it, James 1:5-8. Christians soon find out that they are not a match for the things of life without God and they do not lean unto their own understanding but trust the Lord wholeheartedly and He WILL direct their paths, verses 5, 6.

We know and are persuaded that God has a plan for every one of us and his purpose is for us to depend upon Him to guide us in all that we do for Him.

The godly man walks in the light of divine wisdom and so sees the increasing light of the perfect day. Jesus said He was the "Light of the world" and then He said



ye are the lights of the world. As we have Christ in our life (Eph. 3:17) then he can shine through us to a dark world. This is the wisdom that is attractive and will shine in the darkest places of the earth. Our ways are misdirected unless we make his wisdom the law of our lives.

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### GUIDANCE FOR FAMILY LIVING

October 24, 1954

Printed Portion .....Proverbs 4:1-4;6:20-23; 19:13, 14.  
31:10-12.

Proverbs 4:1. Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.

2. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.

3. For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother.

4. He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.

Proverbs 6:20. My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

21. Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.

22. When thou goest, it shall lead thee: when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.

23. For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life.

Proverbs 19:13-14. A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping.

14. House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the Lord.

Proverbs 31:10-12. Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.

11. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

12. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

Memory Verse: My son, keep thy father's commandments, and forsake not the law of thy mother. Proverbs 6:20.

Practical Truth: Everyone living in a home should contribute something to its success.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The family is the foundation of the nation. What the families are is what the nation is. The breaking down of the nation starts in the family life and then permeates the whole nation. There are still homes in this country where family worship is carried on each day regardless of the many who have turned their backs away from Almighty God. How good it is to find a father and mother who train their children the Bible way and see that they obey. Such children find it easy then to obey God. How easy it is to turn them to righteousness. Abraham was a man whom God depended upon. God said, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment" Gen. 18:19. Deut. 6:1-9 also gives good instruction and is a summary of home education. The parents are made responsible for what they teach their children.

In Prov. 6:20-23 we have the guidance for daily life, if the home is to be kept from disruption and disaster.

The children of our broken homes suffer, because they lose confidence in others, feel that they are not wanted by anyone, and shy away as they meet life's battles. Over against that is the home where the standards are purity and love and they are trained so that they develop a strong Christian character.

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### THE DIGNITY OF WORK

October 31, 1954

Printed Portion .....Proverbs 6:6-11; 18:9 24:30-34.

Prov. 6:6. Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

7. Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

8. Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.

9. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?

10. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

11. So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

Prov. 18:9. He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.

24:30. I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;

31. And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down.

32. Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction.

33. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

34. So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.

Memory Verse: Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men. Prov. 22:29.

Practical Truth: Honest work contributes to a man's dignity and well-being, whereas those who refuse to work are parasites upon society.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and the power of his might" Eph. 6:10. In order to be strong, there was one who offered this prayer: "O Lord, only make plain the thing thou art trying to produce in me, and I will cooperate." There is a satisfaction in doing honorable work. Work always has its pay day. Those who work for the Lord will find their lot in life is always attended by his presence, which is far more desirable than all the wealth of this world put together. "And every man shall receive his own reward according to his labour" 1 Cor. 3:8. Jesus said in John 9:4, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh when no man can work." What a contrast we find in the last portion of the lesson about the slothful man. Thorns and nettles are in his field, the stone wall is broken down, which showed that he was void of understanding. The ones who become slothful spiritually will let down in their prayer life little by little and not read the Bible daily, and not do work for God. And it is not long until their Christian experience has left them and their hearts are left desolate. Wake up, soul, if you are in such a condition. "Turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die?" (die spiritually) Ez. 33:11.