

FAITH AND VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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The Christmas Story

The Christmas story is never old,
Though repeated year after year.
The sweetest story ever told—
To me it grows more dear.

Jesus as a little babe,
No room for him in the inn;
He in the crude old manger lay,
But my heart has room for Him.

The wise men coming from afar—
They seemed to know the worth.
The angels to the shepherds sang:
Sweet peace to all the earth.

They brought him to the temple
Where Anna long had been;
Simeon was ready to depart,
When Jesus he had seen.

Oh, wondrous precious blessing
To men on earth was given,
When Jesus as a little babe
Was sent here straight from heaven.

Ne'er had such a mission lay
Before a baby sweet—
A busy life,—a cross—and then
Salvation's plan complete.

By Sister Minnie Noakes
(Two verses added)

Jesus Said, "Come."

Truly this is of great importance, Christ calling the poor wayward sinner to him. He says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matt. 11:28, 29. Even in the old Testament He says, "Come now, let us reason together, saith the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isa. 1:18.

This is the greatest invitation ever offered to mankind, yet it is the least heeded. Friends, if you had a relative who was rich with this world's goods, and this relative made a great feast and offered you a great portion of his goods, would you not go? Of course, you would. If there were any way possible, you would do your utmost to be present.

Now, Christ has made a feast, and he sends his invitation throughout the world that "Whosoever will may come." "Come, for all things are now ready." Luke 14:17. This glorious invitation has been extended to all, and is still held out to the sinner today. And in verse 18 He says, "And they all with one consent began to make excuse." Notice, he says "they all began to make excuse." They did not have any excuses, but they tried to make them. Would you make excuses if your rich relative offered you a part of his riches? I doubt it very much.

The devil may say to you, You are too wicked, too far gone; let someone else go; look what you would have to give up. You could not quit smoking; you could not quit drinking. But Jesus says, "Come . . . for my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Remember He said, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Now if death overtakes you with one sin or act of disobedience that is not repented of and washed away by the blood of Jesus, it will forever separate you from God and heaven. Dear one, if you are reasoning this way, or that way, hear what God's Word says, "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." NOW, not next year or next week, but it is NOW God wants to save you.

By reading the Bible, we find there is but one way to come to Christ. Jesus says, "No man can come to me except the Father which hath sent me draw him." John 6:44. This takes place when God convicts a sinner of his lost condition and calls him to repentance. How different is the Bible plan of salvation, or coming to Christ, from the way many tell it from the pulpit. We hear it on every hand, "Come to my church, or come join our church." You might join all the so-called churches in the land, and still be a stranger to Christ.

God has made great provisions that the soul of man might be fed. He said, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this

bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." John 6:51. Christ suffered death that we might have life and have it more abundantly. Again comes his call to the sinner, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, Come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; Come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labor for that which satisfieth not? harken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live: and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David." Isaiah 55:1-3. Praise our God! What a wonderful invitation, and precious promise. God is able to fulfil it all, if we will only let Him. It is up to each individual, just turn yourself completely over to him and he will cleanse that old heart, and give you a new heart. Paul tells us, "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. Heb. 7:25.

One of the many excuses many people try to hold to is this, "WE CAN COME IN THE ELEVENTH HOUR." And they will say, "Look at the thief on the cross." The Word of God, when read and understood as it should be, shows these excuses to be only backed up by the devil, to get the poor sinner to put off salvation until it is too late. In the first place, notice the Scripture in regard to the eleventh hour, "And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all day idle?" The answer: "They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us." Matt. 20:6, 7. Now this is very plain; is it not? If a man is not hired, how can he go to work? This means people who have not been called to repentance, consequently, they have not heard of Christ or his plan of redemption. I would say in regard to the thief on the cross, the thief never saved anybody, and never will. Christ and the thief were both on the cross at once. The thief was executed because of his crime; Christ was crucified because of the sins of the world, and to save poor sinners from eternal misery: therefore I would advise you to look at Jesus on the cross, and not the thief. The thief perhaps never had heard of Jesus until he met him on that day.

I believe God wanted everyone to know that he wanted them to come. He says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Rev. 3:20. This he had reference to a sinner opening his heart to God, and by so doing he has communion with God, and a feast on spiritual food, such as Jesus spake of in John 6:35. "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. Praise the dear Lord! And in the last book of the Bible and the last chapter, I believe Jesus wanted to make sure everyone should know they were supposed to come, for he said, "And the spirit and the bride say, Come. And

let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst Come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Rev. 22:17.

Sinner friend, Jesus died on the cross that you might have that eternal life. Think for a moment what he went through just for you. They platted a crown of thorns and put on him; they bowed the knee before him and mocked him; they spit upon him and took the reed, and smote him on the head; and after they had driven spikes through his hands and feet they still mocked him, saying, "If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross." Also, "He saved others, himself he cannot save." He didn't have to take all those things, but he did it because of the love he had for you and me, that you and I might have a home in heaven. Will you heed his invitation? Jesus says, Come. Do you hear his call? Do you realize he means you? He says, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near." Isa. 55:6. Hear what God says to them that refuse: "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at naught all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; when your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me." Prov. 1:24-28. The Word plainly tells what will happen to them that refuse. "But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." Isa. 1:20. So if you believe, yield unto Jesus just now, "For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee; behold now is the day of salvation." 2 Cor. 6:2. Amen. Earl B. Bliss.

The Great Commission

Matthew 28: 19, 20.

Jesus tells us to teach them to observe "all things, whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Many of us believe that we are teaching them to observe all things as Jesus commanded us; but, brother, who are the "THEM" that we are to teach to observe all things? Look at the great commission: "Go ye therefore and teach ALL NATIONS" (v. 20) "teaching them to observe all things."

Dear ones, are we doing it? If not, why? And if not, can we expect Him to be with us? If He is not with us, our preaching is powerless, and we cannot expect the people to obey us.

Isn't this the age of which Ezekiel spoke in Ezek. 33:31-33, "They come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness." Today we will go many miles to hear the gospel preached; but are we obeying it? We, as a people have plenty of this world's goods. Many are living up to date in a modern age of

materialism. But are we obeying the gospel? Verse 32: "And, lo, thou art unto them as a very pleasant voice . . . : for they hear thy words, but they do them not." If this is our condition today, there is a reason.

The apostles went forth obeying this great commission, and the Lord was with them, confirming the Word with signs following. Bro. D. S. Warner and others had a burden to get the gospel to ALL the world, and they preached with great power and authority. When we can say we have the same burden (and really have it) that the apostles and the early reformers had, we will have the same power and authority that they had.

John 15:10, "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love: even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in His love." Verse 13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." We are to love one another and the lost world with the same love that God had for the lost. God gave to get this love to the lost world. He gave His life in the person of His Son. That same love will cause us to give our lives for the lost.

But if we do not obey him, we do not have this great love, and our preaching will be powerless, not with authority as Jesus had, also all others had who obeyed Him in carrying out the great commission.

Your blood-washed brother, H. P. Huskey.

The Mark of The Beast

Whose adorning IS that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and the wearing of gold, and the putting on of apparel—this is the work of those in Babylon; counterpart not written (1 Peter 3:3).

These women adorn themselves with broided hair, and gold, and pearls, and costly array—these are an abomination in the sight of God (1 Timothy 2:9).

Their husbands also agree thereto because they themselves dress the self same way; and moreover these women have gone to wearing men's apparel, which is spoken against in Deuteronomy 22:5. This Scripture states that all that do so are an abomination unto the Lord, proving that these are the works of them who belong to Babylon; yet more, these women in keeping up with the styles of these latter days, use paint, powder, lip stick, fingernail polish, with which they even polish their toenails (Isaiah 3:18-23). All these practices of the world are carried out in sectism more or less, here and there, insomuch that it is difficult to tell those of sectism from those of the world. Yes; not only difficult, but also impossible.

Now "YOU" who are in sectism, who do not according to these written above and do not approve of such things, to "YOU" is the warning given: "Come out of her MY PEOPLE," for sectism is Babylon, and shall surely be overthrown.

And as for these hirelings (hireling ministers), they care not for the sheep; otherwise they should have long ago warned them to turn from their evil way and the evil of their doings; but until now they

have not done so, as you can plainly see. (Jer. 23: 21, 22). Therefore I advise you: Do not turn the cold shoulder to them who are warning you to flee from the wrath to come, for this warning is not of man, but of God who is speaking through His saints.

Remember them of Noah's day, how they mocked him and scoffed at him and laughed him to scorn when he built the ark, saying, the Lord will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all who will not turn from their evil way that they may gain an entrance into the ark (Gen. 6:17). And when the ark was near completion and they considered the size of it, they still mocked, saying, "Will God send water enough to cause that thing to float?" But when the waters came, their mockings, scoffings, and laughings were suddenly turned to weeping and praying; but alas, **IT WAS TOO LATE!**

Likewise also at the time of the destruction of Jerusalem, Jesus warned them and the apostles warned them, telling them that it was shortly to come to pass, stating that the mystery of iniquity doth already work.

Paul told them to "WATCH." This is good today. "WATCH and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears" (Acts 20:31). Yet how few heeded the warning, and of the few that heeded the warning, some of them afterward turned back unto unbelief; which was unprofitable for them, for many were caught in Jerusalem and could not escape; but the apostles and the other disciples escaped with their lives because they heeded the warning. To many it seemed like idle talk. That is just what many think today—"It's just idle talk." But I warn you: "Take care," for according to Scripture, this thing has happened unto men twice, not mentioning Sodom and Gomorrah and other little instances, and it is going to happen again. Are you going to let it happen to YOU?

Even so now, we are given the warning to "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues, For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities" (Rev. 18:4, 5).

Will you make light of this warning and let it be said of the publicans, heathens, and harlots, even this, that they shall go in before you? These are the words Jesus spoke to them of the sect of the Pharisees and Sadducees: "Verily I say unto you, the publicans and harlots go into the kingdom before you, For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not, but the publicans and harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him." Matt. 21:31, 32.

Bro. H. C. Erdman.

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FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma
Phone Number 1479

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY

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

Subscription price: 60¢ per year for single copies. 40¢ each subscription in quantities of five or more to one address for a yr. (Pay quarterly if you desire).

Editorials

As I write these editorials it has been just one month ago today since my dear wife left us to be an occupant of the glory world. While we miss her very much, yet the Lord is healing the wound and we know she is far better off than we, as she has finished her course and gained the prize and we have to fight on and keep the victory over the enemy in order to be ready to join her in that forever blissful state. The Lord brought the Scripture to me found in Revelation 2:10, which reads thus: "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life." By his grace and help I mean to be faithful and win that crown which Peter says "will never fade away." Wife was so patient while on her bed in sickness, and when she suffered pain, prayer would be offered and the Lord would relieve her although sometimes we would have quite a battle and would have to pray again and again before the victory came. But God was faithful. Just a few hours (not minutes) before she passed, Anna Marie, my daughter, asked her if she suffered anywhere and she answered no. She went so easy and quietly—just slipped away to be with Jesus, and left her house of clay, exchanged it for a crown in glory, her coveted prize. It would only be selfishness in me to want her back here in this world of sin and sorrow. The witness that the Lord gave us of her being accepted by Him will always be a bright spot in my memory of her. So we will labor on and look to God for grace to fight a good fight as Paul did, and win that blessed crown which Paul says is for every one that loves His appearing. Blessed be the name of Jesus who gave his prepared body and blood for us as a sacrifice on Calvary's cross, appeasing the wrath of God, which we justly deserved, and brought joy and peace to our souls in knowing that our dear heavenly Father receives us as his blood-washed children—Glory be to His name!

The Lord is greatly encouraging our hearts in the printing work, and is supplying more help to get the gospel printed and sent out. Sister Pearl Johnson has felt led of the Lord to do the cooking and housework, and she is doing good service for the Lord in this capacity. My daughter Anna Marie and her family, who live at Chino, Calif., have felt led of the Lord to move into the house, and she will help in the office work. Carl Miles, her husband, is a Linotype operator, and he has work here in Guthrie to do. We welcome them here to be with us, for Anna Marie is deeply consecrated to the Lord and his service. She has a call to the ministry and is also editor of the "Beautiful Way" paper for children, which is printed here and sent out quarterly so the children can have a little paper to read every week in the year. She will make fine help in the office. She says that she has never lost the burden for the printing work since she was a girl at home and helped us here in the work. The Lord is doing exceedingly, abundantly more than we can ask or think for the publishing work, and the gospel by the printed page is reaching more and more precious souls and giving them an opportunity to embrace the truth and be ready for heaven.

Since we sent out the "Three Months" subscription offer, the Lord is stirring hearts, and the subscriptions are coming in by large quantities. We rejoice to know that we shall have an opportunity to get the truth of His Word to so many extra souls during the winter months when folks read more than in the summer.

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Another issue of the "Evening Light" song book is being printed, and by the time this paper reaches our readers, we hope to have them all printed and ready to send to those needing song books. We are making the binding much stronger than that on any books heretofore printed. If mothers will not let their children play with the books during meeting hours, they will last indefinitely.

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I am much impressed by the Scripture found in the third chapter of Colossians, beginning at the first verse, which reads as follows, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."

This Scripture also harmonizes with the words of Jesus where he says, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." The latter part of this Scripture harmonizes with the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 8:17, 18. If souls who are not prospering in the Lord would really obey these Scriptures, their soul would become like a watered garden, for they could then feast on the good of the Canaan Land. There are entirely too many in the world today like the record given of the Laodiceans in the third chapter of Revelation. They had drifted into a state that was neither cold nor hot, and the Lord said that he would spue them out of his mouth. The goods of this world had increased upon their hands and they felt rich and in need of nothing; but spiritually the Lord said they were wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. What an awful condition for a soul to be in, and not even to be aware of the fact—just drifting on with a profession and no God in their soul. Christendom is cursed with just such professions today. In the 18th verse the Lord counsels them as to just what they should do in order to regain their standing with God. His counsel here, I am persuaded, is equal to just what Jesus told the rich young ruler to do in order to have eternal life. This young ruler had great possessions and the Lord knew where his affections were. He told him to go and sell what he had and give to the poor and "come follow me and thou shalt have treasure in heaven." If these Laodicean brethren had sold their possessions and given all to the poor, it would have been to them like buying gold tried in the fire. Then they would have had to look to the Lord for all things instead of to what they possessed, and they would soon have learned that the true riches were in Christ. Their eyes would have been opened then and they would have been clothed

with His righteousness instead of filthy rags of self-righteousness. Many today when the first love is in their hearts, give liberally and freely to the cause of God; but as time goes on and goods increase, they become lukewarm and give very little, if any. The devil is succeeding in wrecking many a soul in this manner. Giving is the very life of the soul of man and denotes Christ in them; for both God and Christ set this example for us, and we should follow in His steps. God gave His only begotten Son and His Son Christ gave his body and blood as a ransom for our souls so we could be heirs with him in glory. Let us awake out of sleep and see that we have oil in our vessels and be ready for the change from mortal to immortality.

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ASSEMBLY MEETING NOTICE

The annual assembly meeting of the Church of God at Guthrie, Oklahoma, will convene from December 24th to Jan. 2nd, Lord willing. The chapel is located on the corner of 6th St. and W. Warner Ave. and the dining hall and sleeping quarters for men and for women are back of the chapel. The Lord has blessed in these meetings in years passed, and we request that you pray with us for another out-pouring of God's blessings upon this one.

All who teach, preach, or love the truth are invited. For information write to O. C. Porter, R. 5, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

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Obituaries

Louis Titus Henderson was born Sept 2, 1873 in McAlester, Oklahoma and departed this life Sept. 8, 1954 in Akron, Ohio at the age of 82 years. He was married to Birdie Wilcox Dec. 25, 1904. They had no children.

He was sick about 18 months and during his affliction he sought the Lord for salvation and the Lord wonderfully saved him from his sins. He manifested a wonderful life of salvation unto the end and trusted the Lord. Many times when asked about his condition, he would answer that he was just waiting on the Lord. Thus ends a long life through the mercy of God, and the spirit now waits the Resurrection Day to forever be with the Savior.

He leaves his wife, Sister Birdie Henderson; two sisters-in-law of the same home; several neices and nephews; other relatives and friends. He is greatly missed by his wife. At this coming Christmas they would have been married fifty years. He had a great desire to get well enough to go to meeting, but the Lord had a better place for him.

His favorite song was, "How Firm a Foundation."

Not because my loved one left me,

Not because I am left here still,

Not because I think that my burden

Is one that others will not fill.

His absence calls for sadness,

His presence I'll not have again;

So I'll bow to the will of God, the Saviour

Until in Heaven we meet again.

Funeral service by Henry Chaney. Scripture Text: Psalm 37:37.

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Brother George Peek was born in Macon County, N. C. February 18, 1872, departed this life September 6, 1954 at the age of 82 years, 7 months, and 12 days. He was united in marriage to Maude Boserman Oct. 29, 1899, to which union seven children were born: two daughters, M.

Pearl Donaldson of Detroit, Mich., Mrs. Pauline Pickens, Pittsburgh, Pa.; four sons, Percy of Charleston, Paul of Camden on Gauley, Phurah of Richwood, and Preston of Cowen. The youngest son, Porter, deceased.

Brother Peek was a minister in the Evening Light Reformation for over forty years. We first met him in Richwood over thirty years ago. He was the first one to bring this truth to us. God wonderfully used Bro. Peek in preaching the Church of God doctrine. As we recall the past, his memory is very dear to us, and it thrills our heart anew to think of the wonderful cottage meetings and when we first heard the beautiful Select Hymns. God at that time gathered out a few, some from sectism and some getting saved. We do not know how many of them have stood true to the Lord, but we do know three of us are here in Charleston at this present time laboring for the Lord: my husband, myself, and another sister faithful to this precious truth we heard over thirty years ago. And now as we think of Bro. Peek's work being ended here on earth, we do know some of his work is still going on. Husband and I visited Bro. Peek (he lived about a hundred miles from Charleston) on Friday and Saturday before he passed away on Monday. He seemed to know us at times, but was unable to talk, only spoke our names and a word or two that we could understand. When we had prayer with him, he made us to know that his trust was in God.

We pray that God will bless and comfort Sister Peek and bring the children into the fold that they may be an undivided family around God's throne. Sister Spaur

Frank Christian Ott, son of William and Anna Ott was born October 19, 1906 at Guthrie, Oklahoma and departed this life October 21, 1954, following a short illness while at work Thursday afternoon.

On February 15, 1926, he was united in marriage to Miss Nellie White of Guthrie, and to this union three children were born, one preceding him in death.

Mr. Ott has always resided in and around Guthrie, and has been engaged in the trucking business for the past several years.

He is survived by the wife, and two daughters, Mrs. Zeld Miller of Guthrie and Mrs. Vivian Cleek of Arcadia; his mother Mrs. Anna Drake; and four sisters, Mrs. Elsie Embry, Mrs. Mabel Tripplett, and Mrs. Minnie White, all of Guthrie, and Mrs. Alma Gunter of Lawton, and two grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

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Ethel May Stice was born March 15, 1895, departed this life Nov. 5, 1954, at the age of 59 years, 8 months, and 21 days. She was married to Lester Leroy Stice March 15, 1916, to which union were born six children, two infants preceding her in death; leaving one son, Arlda Stice of Wenden, Ariz., and three daughters, Mrs. Wanita DiDio of Hammond, La., Miss Ila Stice of Pacoima, Calif., and Dorall May of the home, also two grandchildren. She is also survived by her husband of Webb City, Mo. She leaves her father, J. N. Rapp of Montevallo, Mo., and two sisters, Mrs. J. M. Highley of Montevallo, Mo., and Mrs. J. M. Hites of Sheldon, Mo., besides other relatives, friends, and saints, who mourn their loss which we feel is her eternal gain.

She gave her heart to God in her youth and walked in the light as the Lord shed it on her pathway, and kept herself prepared for the great event when she passed from time to eternity, which she did very peacefully, resting in the arms of Jesus.

Funeral service conducted by Bro. O. B. Wilson of Pacoima, Calif., text, Prov. 31:10:31, assisted by others. Burial in the saints' cemetery known as Oak Grove, out of Loranger, La.

We have lost our dear sweet mother,
But our loss is heaven's gain;
For we know that she is resting,
With our Savior she shall reign.
She lived a life of purity,
Her faith in God was strong,
She strived to do the best she knew,
Her life was filled with song.

We weep because her place is vacant,
We shall hear her voice no more;
We miss her smiles and tender love
Now that her life is o'er.
Now that she's gone, all we can do
Is strive to do the right;
Then we can meet our Mama dear,
Then faith will turn to sight.

—Composed by her daughter Dorall May Stice

"EVENING LIGHT" SONG BOOKS

The "Evening Light" song books are being printed again. This new book will contain 16 pages of songs more than the previous issues of this book, and the binding will be made much stronger in every way. By the time you receive this December paper, we hope to have these books ready to ship to those who desire them. This book has shaped notes and cloth binding and contains 496 pages. It is just the song book for the saints of God, and those who have been using them will testify to this fact. Because of the extra pages and the binding being made stronger, the price will be a little higher than formerly. They will be post paid to you at the rate of \$1.50 each book up to ten books. Ten books or more up to 100 books will be \$1.40 each book. One hundred books or more will be \$1.30 for each book. Send your orders in early so we can fill them before we get them packed away. The full issue of these books will weigh near a ton and one-half, and it will take a lot of space to store them to use as needed.

—O—O—O—O—O—

Gifts for Christmas

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1954 "Faith and Victory" papers bound together in book form. Price 50 cents each.

NEW BOOKS FOR SALE

Sketches of My Life and Some Bible Truths, by Sister Lottie Joiner of Loranger, La. This book is very interesting and contains 132 pages with good paper cover. Price, 50 cents per book or five books for \$2.00 post paid.

Shadow of Good Things or The Gospel in Type, written years ago by Russell R. Byrum, newly printed, good paper cover, 139 pages, exceedingly good, showing plainly the meaning of the types and shadows of the Old Testament. Price \$1.00 post paid.

— oOo —

EIGHT AND ONE-THIRD CENTS NOW AND THEN
WILL KEEP THE MINISTERS ON THE TREND

Dear saints and friends, also lovers of the truth—Greetings to all of you in much love in Jesus' name. We feel that we have a very important subject to discuss with you. We surely feel that the dear Lord has directed and inspired us to write on this subject, concerning our ministers. We all say that we love the truth, and I believe we do. I will agree that we as saints do support the ministry to some extent, but not enough. As I thought about it and became concerned and burdened about it, the dear Lord showed me a plan whereby we could all help support the ministry more efficient.

Notice our subject: Eight and one-third cents now and then will keep our ministers on the trend. Mark 16: 16, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel." I believe God intended that His ministers carry the gospel. His Word says so. He also said they shall live by the gospel, meaning that He would supply their needs thru' the members or the body. You may read 1 Cor. 9:7—Read through the 14th verse. Space will not allow much comment. Note the 7th verse, please. It explains itself. Now note the 9th verse—working the ox and then muzzling him, he cannot eat. Now let us change that to our ministers. They labor behind the pulpit, in the sick rooms, in homes, trying to encourage souls that are discouraged, going to different fields far and near on the bus or train or their own conveyances. Saints, do we realize it takes money? Can we realize they are leaving their homes and jobs? I am sure you have not thought of it in this way. This is to stir up our pure minds. Surely we can all be thankful that God, through His inspiration, shows us a simple and easy way to help support the ministry more than ever before. Now eight and one third cents per month for twelve months of the year would amount to \$1.00. It seems to me that any boy or girl could sacrifice this small amount for the dear Lord, and surely we older ones could do that and much more. We can sacrifice more because we have more knowledge and the Lord has blessed us in so many ways. Think what He cleansed us from. Let us name just a few: tobacco, coffee, whiskey, snuff, dope, medicine, etc. There are no hospital bills, no silver nor gold adornments, no worldly dress, no television. Now these items will run into the hundreds of dollars. Just what are we doing with all this amount? Are we giving to the ministry as we should? May the Lord help us to wake up along these lines.

I have the opportunity of attending campmeetings and meeting from forty to fifty ministers from far and near, especially at the National campmeeting. Some attend this meeting and stay for our local meetings here in Oklahoma. Several days they are away from home. It takes money to come and money to go back—obligations going on and nothing coming in. Saints, we all well know our meetings are run on free-will offerings. If the offering taken for ministers should amount to \$200.00 or \$300.00, when divided among the number of ministers,

each would receive a very small amount. I have known some to get the small amount of three dollars.

Eight and one-third cents per mo. given by each one who can, will bless us with \$800.00 or \$1,000.00, which will still be a small figure.

Now I am asking every saint boy and girl, man and woman to give to the cause of the ministry. The Lord will bless us, I am sure. I am asking every lover of the truth to give as the dear Lord directs you. It wouldn't be right for me to set a maximum, but let the Spirit of God be our limit. One brother has already given me \$5.00 for this cause; and I believe the Lord will move many more of us to give more than \$1.00. When one invalid sister heard of our plans, she said she would be glad to give an offering to the ministry.

The best way, I believe, to send your offering is for each congregation to make up their offering from time to time and send it to Bro. Pruitt at Faith Publishing House, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. Arrangements have already been made. He will deposit the money in the bank. It will be reserved until campmeeting time. When you send an offering to him, be sure to state that it is for the ministry, so he can credit it to this account. Those who are isolated can send their individual offerings to the same address. We hope all will subscribe for the "Faith and Victory" paper so they can keep up with our subject. Send any time any amount and let us all get it in before our National campmeeting in 1955 (Neosho, Mo.).

Remember we have some women ministers among us who are much needed. How we enjoy their messages, and the wonderful thoughts concerning our home affairs, child training, etc. Let us all help them come back and have something in store for them.

Also let us remember our cooks who labor from year to year in the heat over hot stoves. Surely we must consider them in our plans.

Now I hope each and every one will consult the Lord in prayer over this matter and give as the Lord prospers you. See 1 Cor. 16:1, 2. May the dear Lord bless every one of you as you read. May we all become so concerned about the work of the Lord that we will be one hundred per cent cooperative. And if I am called in before we meet again, let us all pray that these good plans will be carried on. Pray for me.

Brother M. L. Reed
M. L. Reed, 1018 E. Queen St., Tulsa 6, Oklahoma.

— oOo —
Happy Christmas Day

Unto us a child is born—

Nineteen hundred years ago—

God's only begotten Son;

From Him all blessings flow.

This happy day of gladness

Has come to us once more,

In memory of baby Jesus—

His presence we adore.

He came to be our Saviour,

And set us free from sin—

He's knocking for admittance,

Oh, won't you let him in?

We commemorate His coming

On this glad Christmas Day;

Our hearts o'erflow with gladness

Because He came to stay.

—G. W. Stephenson.

Colo.—Dear readers of "Faith and Victory"—My oldest brother, who was saved in this way as a young man and had faith for the healing of others, had become discouraged and had been away from God for about forty years, for whom I have often requested your prayers, suffered a heart attack last May. I went to visit him and had the pleasure of helping him back to God in a meeting at the church where his son was pastor. God knew his heart and that he wanted to get right with him, but the enemy told him to wait, for he said he wasn't convicted deeply enough. His two sons, church of God ministers, who have great faith, and others pleaded with him patiently and tenderly. We told him that the longer one neglects, the less God's Spirit strives with one; for God's Word says, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man" Gen. 6:3. But if we draw nigh to God, He will draw nigh to us. He had told me he might have to have help, so while at the altar I asked him if he desired the ministers to lay hands on him. He said yes, so they laid hands on him and rebuked the power of the enemy that was hindering him. God saved him and delivered him from the tobacco habit. He has been growing in grace ever since. He had a light stroke recently, but God heard prayer, and although he hasn't fully recovered from it, he is now able to help himself and walk. How merciful God has been to him. His son asked the doctor, which he had had when he suffered the heart attack, what he thought was wrong with his father (they didn't have a doctor this time). The doctor told him that it was a miracle that he was still alive after that heart attack and that he was sure he had had a light stroke.

I caught cold and arthritis in my right shoulder. It pained so much on October 29th that I could not sleep. Three vertebrae in this shoulder had been out of place much of the time for several years and a chiropractor told me then that if I didn't take adjustments for it, it would cause my right arm to be paralyzed. I have often felt that it was coming to that. It came to me to apply the anointed handkerchief which Bro. and Sister Pruitt sent me when I had the flu. I applied it and prayed and immediately the pain left and I went to sleep. The pain hasn't returned, thank God; but my arm tires easily. I recently had a fall which caused trouble which I haven't been able to get victory over it. But God always comes to my rescue and I know He will not fail me in this. He whispers to me now, "I will be with thee in the sixth trouble, and in the seventh I will not forsake thee." He is keeping me with victory in my soul and a strong determination to go all the way with Him. Thanks to all who have remembered me and my loved ones in prayer. We still desire your prayers. E. Coral Myers Johnson

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Mo.—Dear saints,—I am sending my testimony for the second time. I am still walking as close to God as I was many years ago. God has been so good to me. He has healed my body many times. When we live for him, it is wonderful how he will heal our bodies and bless us. I am asking all you dear saints to pray for my eye. I cannot see well and I know God will heal it.

I want to live closer till he takes me home. I do praise God for all his goodness to all saints. If any of you would like to write me, I will be pleased to hear from you. I love the "Faith and Victory" so much.—Mrs. Arch Kemp, Clever, Mo.

o-o-o-o-o-o

Ohio—Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,—Long have I felt to write a few words of testimony, so this morning I felt so impressed again that I could not resist, and I thank God that he puts that desire in our heart. I thank God this morning for health and strength he thus

far has given me, although at times I do not feel so well. I was especially troubled much with hay fever in the late summer. I prayed much for the Lord to help me, and he has helped me. But I didn't get complete victory over it. I know with God there is nothing impossible. He is still the same. And I thank God that I can say that I am still saved and sanctified. Praise His holy name. My desire is to live closer to the Lord. I think the closer we live to the Lord, the less chance Satan has to tempt us. But as we read, "Blessed is he that endureth temptation." We in Mark 14:38, "Watch ye, and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak." Dear Lord, help me at all times to be what you want me to be, that I may be a blessing to others, is my prayer. A sister in the Lord, E. Ewald

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Mexico—Dear saints of God,—I feel led to send in my testimony. Today finds me much encouraged in His service. I praise Him for all past blessings. He has been so good to me, healing me of many afflictions, including T. B. and other great afflictions. I give Him all the praise. I am in a darkened land with David my son, trying by God's help to get the gospel to sin sick souls.

Mexico has been darkened by the teaching of Rome; but we find those that are tired of this deception, and are ready to listen to the truth. It is wonderful to hear some who have been redeemed testify and sing the praises of God out of full hearts. Not many have been reached yet, but the few are very precious. They seem to be so grateful that the gospel has been brought to them. Pray for us here. Your brother, H. P. Huskey

Editor's Note—We are thankful to know that some of the saints are in Old Mexico, getting the gospel to these very needy souls. Bro. Huskey writes us that there is great need of a man and his wife there in the work, who are burdened of the Lord for missionary work. A woman can get into the homes and talk with the women and do much good that way. If those who go speak Spanish, well; but if not David Huskey could work with them until they learned it. There is a good chance to build up a good congregation there. They have meeting in their rented house. Address: H. P. Huskey, Apart. 53, Navojoa, Son., Mexico. The best way to send offerings to this work is to send it in form of a Bank Draft as money orders have to be held until they can get word back from the States to get them cashed. We are giving his address so those who want to help this foreign missionary work in any way can get in touch with them.

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Mo.—Dear ones,—Greetings to each of you. This finds us still loving the Lord. We are glad to say we are saved and enjoying the blessings of the Lord day by day.

Truly we can see His hand in so many ways, and can say with the Psalmist David, "Acknowledge Him in all thy ways and He shall direct thy (our) paths."

Since we have been trusting our bodies in the hands of God, we have been healed so many different times. It is truly wonderful, but more wonderful still is how he keeps us well and healthy. We can't thank and praise Him enough.

The Lord is more real and precious to us than ever before, and it is our desire to continue to trust him for soul and body, and to do all we do to the glory of God.

Pray for us,

Louie and Evodna Marley.

La.—Dear saints,—I feel that I would like to be on a mountain so high that all the world could hear me shout, "I'm a child of the King," and tell about my wonderful Saviour Jesus Christ. He is so real, so good to me. I have been saved three years, but one and one-half years I was grazing in the wrong pasture. But when my Shepherd called me out, I knew His voice. I ran into his arms, and he led me into his fold. Praise his dear name. He has other sheep whom he is calling out of these dangerous pastures with ravening wolves. Let us pray that they, too, will heed his calling and follow him to the true fold of God. I have seen his healing power manifested many times, but one time I feel I must tell about.

I had a skin cancer on my face and the Lord healed it. I asked him to leave the outward appearance of it as a testimony—and just as the Lord and I knew, people see it and with fear in their voices ask what it is (not daring to mention the word cancer for fear it would scare me). Then with a happy smile, completely without fear, I tell them how the dear Lord has healed it.

Pray for me to stay in the will of God. Pray for my family, too. Your sister in Christ, Mrs. Inez Taylor.

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Okla.—To the dear saints, greetings in Jesus' dear name,—Some of you know of my affliction which began in September. It was under my shoulder blade, and seemed very severe to me. I promised the Lord if he would heal me that I would testify through the "Faith and Victory." Praise His name for his wonderful healing power. I am saved, sanctified, and satisfied and pressing my way to glory. I have an affliction on my body. Please pray that the Lord will heal me of that. I know He is able to do it.

Callie B. Owens

Mo.—Dear young saints,—I want to testify for the Lord just to defeat the old devil. He is trying every way he can to get God's children to be discouraged and give up. Today the enemy came to me and said, "Well you might as well give up, you are not doing any good, and you probably weren't even saved in the first place." I was discouraged for awhile, but just got to thinking, "Why am I so down-hearted?" I knew I was saved and I had not done anything wrong, so I'm still saved. That was just the devil working. I'm encouraged tonight to live closer to God than I have in the past. We all need each other's prayers as we endeavor to live for the Lord.

Yours in the one true way, Carol Allen

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Mo.—Greetings in the Lord,—I feel that the Lord wants me to give my testimony to him. I am saved and encouraged to live for the Lord. He has answered my prayers and healed my body many times.

Pray for me that I will always do what the Lord would have me to do. Love and prayers, Joe Earl Sorrell

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Ore.—Dear Aunt Marie,—I want to tell you something that the Lord did for me. When I was walking down the hall day before yesterday, my leg started to hurt me. But I asked the Lord to help me to my next class, because it hurt so much I could hardly walk. Before I got there it quit hurting. I was happy the rest of the day because I know that it was the Lord that helped me. Pray for me.

Shirley Stice.

(The above testimony was written for the "Beautiful Way" paper, but was overlooked by mistake.)

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Okla.—Greetings to the saints in the name of the Lord,—We feel it is good to add our note of praise to the Lord with the other testimonies, for which I am now setting type at the Lord's print shop, and getting them ready to print in the "Faith and Victory." During the fifteen

years that I have worked for the Lord in helping to print the gospel here, I have enjoyed the many, many good testimonies and articles; but I haven't often taken time to write one myself. But since the saints were so faithful in praying for us in our recent burden, we feel it would be God's will for us to express our thanks to them and Him through the paper, as a number of the saints have been wondering how we came out of the trouble, and we do not have time to write to the different ones individually.

For the benefit of those who do not know of what trouble I speak, I will tell it briefly. In April, 1954, my husband was involved in a bad wreck, which occurred in an unmarked intersection here in Guthrie. The traffic laws were mostly in our favor, but because we did not have Liability Insurance as the state law requires we were soon surrounded with threats of a law suit from the other parties involved, their insurance company, and threats from the State to suspend Hyrum's drivers' license and take his car tags. Quite a large sum of money was involved, and we had not long been out of debt from another wreck of a few years previous, so it was a great burden. The saints prayed earnestly for us at the Monark Springs campmeeting and Guthrie, Oklahoma. At times the Lord would bring reassuring promises to us of His help in the matter, but it seemed some were determined not to be peaceful about it. We were advised by one in authority at the State Department of Public Safety to get a lawyer and sue the other parties; but that was not God's way, and we told them how we believed about it. The Lord so worked that the insurance company, which had threatened suit, released us, and after that the State released us, even though we could not obtain a release from the owner of the other car involved, which we were supposed to have before obtaining a release from the State. We could see the Lord working at different times. One time two patrolmen came to get the drivers' license and tags, but Hyrum was not at home and I could not give them his address nor tell them when he would be home. The Lord had worked it that way. The day after that, the State recalled the suspension order. I surely do thank the Lord, for my time is so taken up in working here in the Lord's print shop and in performing necessary home duties that driving the car for my husband would be a great burden, which I would have had to do if they had taken his license even if we kept the plates by putting them in my name. We believe the Lord will continue to keep peace for us.

Space will not permit me to tell of the many other wonderful things that the Lord does for us from day to day. Our trust is in Him for soul and body, and He never fails to come to our rescue in time of need. Many times the Lord leads us in ways from which we would naturally draw back, but knowing that His way is the way to heaven, we crucify self and follow on. It takes true determination to choose to gladly go on when the sacrifice which we have placed on the Altar is being consumed; but it takes that if we are to hear the words at the end of the way, "Well done."

Mrs. Hyrum Ray

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Mo.—Dear young saints,—I feel impressed to send in my testimony to the "Faith and Victory." I thank the Lord for being saved and sanctified, also thank Him for how he cares for me and hears and answers prayer.

Last night I woke up and had a sick feeling. I told the Lord if he would take this away I would send in my testimony, which He did. I am feeling fine now. The Lord has done many things for me, some of which are very amazing in my own eyes. I am glad we can trust him for all things. My desire is to draw closer to him each day. I desire your prayers,

Christian love,

Leon Sorrell.

Oklahoma.—Holy greetings in Jesus' dear name,—Today finds us still saved and much encouraged to press on for God.

I am writing my testimony. I promised the Lord if He would heal my grand baby I would publish it to others. On the 17th of October we were getting ready to go pick cotton. My little grandson got up out of his bed and fell down. My daughter asked what was wrong with him (Henry). I looked around and saw that he would get up, then fall again. I asked him what was the matter, and he began to cry. My husband and I prayed for him and every time we would call his name in our prayers he would laugh. After prayer was ended he came into the kitchen and said, "Mama, look at me." I began to praise the Lord; but before I got breakfast he fell again. That time I asked my husband to go get the saints. They came and prayed for him, and before we could load the truck Henry was in the door. I asked him to sit down, so he did, and he got up and began walking again. So we loaded our things on the truck, and soon we were gone.

After we had arrived at the place where we were going, I received a letter saying, "Henry can't walk at all now. He can't do anything but slide on the floor." That brought sadness to my heart. I began to call on God. Husband said he had a high fever. That was Bro. Leonard Roberts' Sunday in Hoffman, so Husband got them to go down and anoint and pray for him. He said all the fever left him. So the next letter I got from home Nettie Mae said, "Mother, Henry is sitting around on the floor playing with his brother. He can't walk a step." The people were saying he had Polio and that she ought to take him to the doctor, but my trust was in Doctor Jesus, who knows all things. I began to tell God all about it. I said, "God, you made him, and my trust is in you, and I am looking for my baby to walk again." The mother of the baby came by and got me. She wanted to have him examined. I told her that it was her child, but for my part I was going to trust God for him. I told her if she wanted to take him to the doctor she would have to carry him herself and stay here and go back and forth to see about him; and if she wanted me to care for him I was going to put him in God's hands. So I did. She said, "Mother, I am not going to have anything else to say, because I am not saved and you are trusting in the Lord." I was praying day and night, and the saints who knew about him were praying, too. He was down about three weeks, but I continued faithful to God. One sister was there with me. She and I continued in prayer to God. She was much consolation to me. So I told God if he would let my baby walk I would have it published that it might be encouraging to others to keep their trust in God. I had faith to believe that God was going to let him walk again. So my daughter wrote me when she got back home: "Mother, if my baby would die, I would have to go to the pen." I told her no, that I was responsible for those boys and was willing to go to the pen if God didn't heal him. I was willing to suffer. She said that encouraged her for me to say that I would suffer for him. I thought of Paul and Silas being in prison for the gospel. I had faith to believe that God was going to let him walk, although many discouraging things were said to me. If I had been weak, I would have yielded to the advice of others; but my trust was in God and I was standing on his Word. He said he would heal all manner of sickness and disease, so I was trusting him. Just before I returned home, I received a letter that he was walking. Oh, how I praised God for his healing power. Saints, let us stay true to God, and hold to his unchanging hand. He promised to never leave us, so let us take Him at His Word.

My goal is heaven. I am willing to suffer for Jesus' sake. Young people, keep encouraged. Keep your trust

in God. He is all we need if we only count it so.

Henry also was broken out with sores. We do not know what it was, but God knew and we never tried to find out. Our trust was in God. They are drying up, but the big scars are on his back and stomach. Pray much for us. We mean to stay on the battlefield for God till He calls us from labor to reward. Mattie Ligons.

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So. Charleston, W. Va.—Greetings to the saints in Jesus' dear name—We feel the Lord would have us write at this time and testify to what our God is doing here in South Charleston. Truly we do praise the Lord. This truth is so precious to us; and we think what it cost our precious Lord Jesus—yes, though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor that through his poverty we might be made rich. He was in the form of God and was equal with God, but he was willing to come down here among men and be made in the likeness of men. He humbled himself and died on the cross that through his death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil. Yes, praise the Lord, we are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. Dear saints, let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for he is faithful that promised). And let us consider one another to provoke unto good works; not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more as we see the day approaching.

Now a few words about our campmeeting in July. The meeting was precious from start to finish. Not as many saints came as in former meetings, but the meeting reached out farther than any we have had. People came that had never heard this truth (and now at this writing these same people have taken their stand for this truth).

Our God did not fail in sending ministers that were filled with the Holy Spirit and could declare the whole counsel of God. We thank God for all who came, and wish others that have been with us in the past could have been here to rejoice with us. And I want to say again, as in all former meetings, God did not fail to supply every need, temporal needs. And it was precious the sweet spirit of love and unity that was manifested all through the meeting. We could never relate all the good that was done. Eternity alone will reveal that. But we thank God for the real stir in our soul to continue in this warfare, knowing that in due season we shall reap if we faint not. We have been so busy all summer in the work of the Lord. There are so many to visit, the sick and aged who need our comfort and care. We have had some good meeting since the campmeeting. Bro. and Sister Abbott were here and held a two-weeks meeting. Much good was done in it. This past Sunday we had all day meeting. Saints came from Dayton, Ohio and Union City, Ind.—twelve in all. We had a wonderful day in the Lord. We thank God for all he does and only desire to draw closer to him. We are praying the dear Lord to bless all the saints and keep each one faithful to the end. Pray for us, as we do need to pray one for another. Let us walk in the light of the gospel divine; Let us ever keep near to the cross; Let us love watch and pray, in our pilgrimage here: Let us count all things else but as loss. Let us pray for each other, nor faint by the way, in this sad world of sorrow and care. For that home is so bright and is almost in sight, And I trust in my heart you'll go there." Song 354 in "Select Hymns." Your sister in Christ, Mrs. T. L. Spaur.

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Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Tim. 2:15.

The Reign of Jesus Christ on Earth

The Kingdom of Heaven as Opposed to a Future Temporal Reign of Christ on Earth, in Type, in Prophecy, and in Teaching of the New Testament—

We do not go very far in Genesis before discovering in Chap. 14:17-23, Melchizedek a very clear type of the Lord Jesus Christ as our great King-Priest. As someone has said, "Melchizedek, of unknown parentage; of unrecorded genealogy . . . the unique personality of the grand old king-priest flashes meteor like, across the path of the conquering Abraham. Appearing, then vanishing, this Melchizedek, a God appointed type, Heb. 7:1-4, eminent foreshadowing of the righteous King and 'Prince of Peace.'"

In Jacob (Israel) and in Judah, the ancestors of David and of Jesus Christ, we have the kingly prophecy. At the birth of Judah, Lea his mother exclaims, "Now will I praise the Lord; therefore she called his name Judah." Gen. 29:35. The sceptre was not to depart from Judah until Shiloh come. Shiloh (Rest Messiah) "Until Messiah come, whose is the kingdom," "Unto Him shall the gathering of the people be" Gen. 49:10. The present spiritual Davidic throne of Messiah is so illuminated in the prophecy of Isaiah, that it has been called a "pre-gospel."

The "Scofield Bible," with its many comments might be compared with the Romanist version of the Scriptures, differing so little from our own apart from its explanations. He is reported to have said that the prophets never saw the Church, but 1 Peter 1:7-12 disproves this. "Unto whom [the prophets] it was revealed, that not unto themselves [literal Israel] but unto us they did minister the things which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven."

In a careful study of the subject, the reference to the LAST DAYS in the New Testament is of utmost importance. "God hath in these LAST DAYS spoken unto us by His Son." Heb. 1:1, 2. Take notice, "But when the fulness of time was come God sent forth His Son." Gal. 4:4. "Now once IN THE END OF THE WORLD hath he appeared" Heb. 9:26. "Upon whom THE ENDS OF THE WORLD are come." 1 Cor. 10:11. All these declarations are against the tucking into the first Epistle to the Thessalonians 1000 years to tally with the symbolic language of Rev. 20:1, 2.

In Gen. 49:1 Jacob's prophecy was for the LAST DAYS. In Acts 2:16-21 the work of the Holy Ghost in establishing the Church was according to the prophet Joel "IN THE LAST DAYS." Connected with this last day prophecy of Joel there are glorious things spoken concerning Israel, Zion-Jerusalem that cannot possibly be placed with a literal Israel before the time of that prophecy or in an age after this age. "Glorious things are spoken of thee, O City of God." Ps. 87:3 (Zion). Heb. 12:18-29 throws much light on the glorious promise wrapped up in the words Zion and Jerusalem for the spiritual Israel. The law and the gospel contrasted: "Ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched and that burned with

fire, but YE are come unto Mount Zion, and unto the city of the LIVING GOD the Heavenly Jerusalem, "To the general assembly of the firstborn which are written in Heaven" "YE ARE COME"—NOW. Jacob (Israel)-Judah-David-Christ Gen. 32:28, the first mention of Israel—"Prince of God" and that means "Ruling with God," "Contender with God." What names for spiritual Israel. "Unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us, HATH MADE US kings and priests unto God and His Father. I John, who am also your brother and companion in tribulation, and in the KINGDOM and patience of Jesus Christ." Rev. 1:5, 6, 9.

The angel Gabriel said to Mary, Luke 1:32, 33, "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest, and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David, and He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there shall be no end." Zacharias "filled with the Holy Ghost—" "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He HATH visited and redeemed His people, and raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets which have been since the world began." Luke 1:66-75. Simeon came by the Spirit into the temple, and took Jesus up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now let thy servant depart in peace according to thy Word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared before ALL PEOPLE, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel." Luke 2:25-32. Anna gave thanks likewise, and spoke of Him to all them that looked for redemption in Israel. "In Jerusalem" (mar. Israel).

In 2 Sam. 7 we have a great outstanding prophecy of the establishing of the HOUSE, KINGDOM, and SPIRITUAL THRONE of DAVID forever. David could not build the temple, a type of the Church, as he had been a man of bloody wars. 1 Chr. 12:6-10. The reign of Solomon was characterized by peace. He must build the temple a type of the man indwelt by the God of Peace, built together with the "household of God" for "an habitation of God through the Spirit." Isaiah 66:1, 2; Eph. 2:11-22. Israel and the Gentiles in one common family, "The middle wall of partition broken down." "Who hath made both one." "One body." "For through Him (Christ) we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father."

In this wonderful prophecy of 2 Sam. 7 we see David as he sat "before the Lord," viewing an Israel; a Kingdom; a throne, not after "manner of man," and a King. Balaam, poor backslidden prophet desiring to prophecy against the tents of Israel for reward, heard something—"The shout of a King is among them," not one of earth, one of the kings chosen in their rejection of God as their King. How did Israel come to have a line of kings nearly all wicked? 1 Sam. chapter 8:7, 8; 10:17-18; 12:25. Now last day prophets are telling us that after God's great mercy upon Israel as a type and in their carrying the types, that Jesus Christ is planning to start things all over with them, and reign over them on David's literal throne. Deut. 18:15-18 is fulfilled in Acts 3:22-26 where Peter says, "And all the prophets from Samuel and those

that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of **THESE DAYS**."

UNTO YOU FIRST, not **LAST**, not in an age to come. The Jews were to have the Gospel message **first**, not **last**, by the express command and example of the Lord himself, before and after He went away. After Israel's rejection of God as their King, and the sad ending of the life of their first king Saul, who had battled against the "kingdom," "throne," and "house" of David, though he knew well that was in the divine purpose of God (1 Sam. 24:16-20) and after David's reign begins, the prophecy of 2 Sam. 7 is given him. We find David reigning in the future. When was it to be fulfilled? In a future age from now? No, the book of Acts disproves this. In Acts 1:7, 8 the apostles asked Jesus after he had talked with them of 'things pertaining to the Kingdom of God,' Wilt thou at this time restore the Kingdom again to Israel? A purely earthly, fleshly question in line with their thought recorded in the gospels (Luke 24:21-27). The Holy Ghost who was to teach them all things had not yet come. He answered, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons which the Father has put in His own power (the power of the Holy Ghost) but ye shall receive the power of the Holy Ghost coming upon you (margin) and shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth." The Jew first. Immediately, when Peter receives the Holy Ghost, he sees in the Holy Ghost the spiritual Davidic Throne being set up, and calling upon Israel to "Hearken." He in his very first words proceeds to show how that the prophets **AS MANY AS HAVE SPOKEN**, have likewise **FORETOLD OF THESE DAYS**" Acts 3:19-26. After referring to Joel's prophecy as being fulfilled, then and there, he begins in verse 22 chapter 2 and explains the words in Psa. 16 that appear to be spoken by David concerning himself, but that he (David) being a prophet, had spoken them of Christ. His body saw no corruption, but according to the promise made to David, He was raised up to sit on his throne. "Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted—" "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Matt. 28:18. "The Lord said unto my Lord, 'Sit thou on my right hand until I make thine enemies thy footstool.'" Ps. 110:1. Until when? 1 Cor. 15:24 "When He shall have delivered up the Kingdom to God even the Father." "When He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power **FOR HE MUST REIGN** till He hath put all enemies under His feet." Then 1 Cor. 15:27, 28 tells us how God the Father put all things under Him (Matt. 28:18) until that time when the Kingdom, the Church of the Living God, His subjects (Jerusalem, Zion, Heb. 12:22-29, those who have not sent up the message, "We will not have this man to reign over us,") shall have been delivered up unto God the Father. "Then shall the Son be subject to Him that put all things under Him (here in this **LAST TIME**) that God may be all in all."

Returning to the last words of Peter's first sermon, Acts 2:36, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus whom ye crucified, both Lord and Christ." What sig-

nificance here in the declaration "Hath made Jesus both Lord and Christ?" Christ—the anointed one—the Messiah. In John 1:41 Andrew said to Simon, "We have found the Messiah which is, being interpreted, the Christ" (the anointed, mar.) In verse 49, Nathaniel under inspiration, cried out, "Thou art the Son of God, the King of Israel." In Acts 13:32-41 we are pointed to the "second Psalm" and the whole chapter identifies the then fulfilled promise to David of a spiritual David on a spiritual throne fulfilling Ps. 2:6, and that the "sure mercies of David" in Isa. 55:3 refer to a King—a Leader, a Commander—in line with Peter's explanation, Acts 2:22-36. So in Isa. 9:6, 7 the "Son" given, the Child born is a Prince upon the "throne of David; the government upon His shoulder." Where would you find an "age to come," literal reign of Christ on earth, if not in the book of Acts? Chapter 15 has been distorted beyond measure, to prove this, but what do we find there? A company of delegates brought on their way by the church to confer with the apostles and elders at Jerusalem, "**ABOUT THIS QUESTION**." What question? As to whether the Gentiles must be circumcised "after the manner of Moses." "The apostles and elders came together for to consider **THIS MATTER**." After much "disputing" in the conference, "Peter rose up," and gave testimony of his call from God, that "By my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the Gospel and believe." That God gave them the Holy Ghost "and put no difference between us and them." Read it all—Acts 15:6-11. The disputing had ceased and all "kept silence" while Barnabas and Paul told of their ministry to the Gentiles. After this James addresses the conference, and here we have in Acts 15:13-17 a regular camping ground for Futurists; a supposed stronghold for a future reign of Christ on David's throne. "James answered, saying, men and brethren, hearken unto me. Simeon (Simon Peter) hath declared (verse 7) how God at the first did visit the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name;" "And **TO THIS** agree the words of the **PROPHETS**," not just one prophet, though James refers to but one to answer his purpose, Amos 9:8-15, where we find a marvelous prophecy of the Spiritual Kingdom of Israel. And "**AFTER THIS**" says Amos. After what? After when? Is there anything in the minutes of this conference to suggest even that James is pointing them to a future dispensation or age when the house of David is to be rebuilt with a larger hope for men? "**AFTER THIS**." The prophet is speaking from his day, and the apostle James declares its fulfillment at that time! After this I will return and will build again the tabernacle of David which is fallen down and I will build again the ruins thereof, and will set it up. That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, **AND ALL THE GENTILES** upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord who doeth all these things." That conference was to discuss the then present work among the Gentiles, and James makes it plain it had been foretold.

The popular last day teaching of the exaltation of literal Israel is a sad injury to them, the Jewish people. Messiah ("the Anointed One") expected by the Jews, whom they vainly expect even to this day. As at His

first coming, their clamor was for a temporal king, so, as we near His second coming, professed Christianity is filling the religious atmosphere with the same cry—"Messiah sitting on David's literal throne."

"Christ," "Anointed"—The name Christ is one of the evidences of His present Spiritual Kingship. While the name "Jesus" is used hundreds of times in the gospels, the name Christ is generally found in connection with His being the Messiah. Also in the first of the Acts, but Paul in Acts 17:3 after reasoning out of the Scriptures "opening and alleging that Christ must needs have suffered and risen from the dead, and that this Jesus whom I preach unto you, is Christ." The name "Lord" is prefixed usually. In the epistles the name Jesus alone, is used only a few times and that more especially in relation to His sacrifice, while "Christ," "Jesus Christ," "Christ Jesus," "Lord Jesus," "Lord Jesus Christ," is used hundreds of times. Why is this? It is all recognizing Him as King. "The Anointed One." While it is quite generally taught that in this time, there is the reigning of Christ over His own, and that some Jews are a part of the "Bride class" to be caught away in a secret rapture (futurists differ as to the secrecy) but the contention is, that the bulk of the prophecies in old and new testaments refer to the future restoration of a national Israel, jumping over from the FINAL destruction and desolation of Israel foretold by Daniel (Dan. 9) into a future age.

All the promises made to Israel after the flesh were conditional. (Ex. 19:4-8) "If ye will obey." (Ex. 24:1-8) "We will do." Broken in a short time (Num. 33:55, 56) "If ye will not obey" "I shall do unto you, as I thought to do unto them." Their history proves they did not do, and God sent His prophets, AS MANY AS HAVE SPOKEN," to tell of a spiritual Israel, the Church of "Zion," "Jerusalem," "The Kingdom of heaven" which "cannot be moved." Heb. 12:22-29—an Israel that would "DO."

"For they are not all Israel which are of Israel." Rom. 9:6-8. "For he is not a Jew which is one outwardly." Rom. 2:28, 29. Paul in Rom. chapters 9:11 mourns for Israel, and makes a strong plea that he might save "some of them," but they must be numbered with the despised Gentiles. "SO ALL Israel shall be saved." For God hath concluded ("shut them up all together") them all in unbelief, that He might have mercy upon all. He warns the Gentiles against boasting; that if they did not "continue in His goodness, they ALSO would be cut off," while Israel "ALSO if they abide not still in unbelief shall be grafted in." "Into their own olive tree." As always a conditional promise, no future favoritism for the Jew. Study with care Rom. 4:1-16. The book of Romans is an epistle to the Gentiles and must be taken in all its parts. John 10:16, "There shall be ONE FOLD AND ONE SHEPHERD."

In John 5:24-29, we have a clear revelation of the first and second resurrections. The first, shown to be spiritual, and the second literal: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word and believeth on Him that sent me hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life. Verily, verily I say unto you, the hour

cometh and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and they that HEAR shall live." (A spiritual resurrection.) Then we have emphasized again the present Kingdom, going back to verses 19:23 when the Father "hath committed all judgment unto the Son," repeated in verses 26:27 followed by a statement of His power manifested in a literal resurrection: "Marvel not at this (spiritual resurrection) for the hour is coming in which ALL that are in their graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth, they that have done good to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation." A GENERAL resurrection day and "hour." No thousand years between. Is this not in line with Paul's revelation of "WHEN the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, WHEN He shall come to be glorified in His saints. This "HOUR is coming."

Would the doctrine of there being 1000 years between the resurrection of the righteous and the wicked, have ever been discovered supposedly in the letters to the Thessalonians had it not been convenient to the interpretation of Rev. 20:1, 2? In 2 Thess. 1:7-9 the apostle sums up his teaching on the Second Coming of Christ in these words: "WHEN the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, WHEN He shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe IN THAT DAY." Perfectly in accord with John 5:24-29; Luke 17:24; and 1 Thess. 4:13 to 5:11. "The day of the Lord" 1 Thess. 5:2. What day? "His day" Luke 17:20-37. "That day." "That night." "The one shall be taken and the other left." "The day when the Son of Man is revealed." Luke 17:30. The "Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven." 2 Thess. 2:7 "That day." "But ye brethren, are not in darkness that 'that day' should overtake you as a thief." What day? "The day of the Lord." Coming not as a thief to them, but it cometh as a thief in the night to whom? "For when they shall say, [the wicked] peace and safety then sudden destruction cometh upon them."

Preceding this, in 1 Thess. 4:3-17 the apostle comforts the saints concerning the sleeping church, that the living saints shall have no preeminence over them at "the coming of the Lord." He is not writing of the resurrection of the righteous 1000 years before the resurrection of the wicked. He tells them "by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent [go before] them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and the trump of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first." First before what? Is it before the wicked rise 1000 years later? No, it is before the being caught up. Take notice, "Then we which are alive and remain, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air,

and so shall we ever be with the Lord." Note the general resurrection taught in the plain words we have already referred to, left by the Son of God, and also in His parables.

Is not the "devil" Satan in Rev. 20:1, 2, in its symbolic language, the same as the Pagan power of Rev. 12? The very impersonation of devilish power, CALLED the devil and Satan, ready to devour the man child as soon as he was born? Pagan Rome. Identified 1 Thess. 1:7-10 with a general resurrection and general judgment "WHEN He shall come to be glorified in His saints and to be admired in all them that believe in THAT DAY. Son of God, Rev. 12:5, Psa. 2.

Was that Pagan power revamped in Pagan Rome bound for a period of time after more than a century of bloody persecution from those that sat upon thrones? In this period of time were there great revivals unhindered by the temporal and religious powers with tied hands? Yes. Have you noticed the more frequent use of the word Pagan in our day than formerly? Was not that power to be loosed out of its prison to go and deceive the nations to gather them together in battle the number of whom is as the sand of the sea? The nations to be deceived and gathered together "in battle." Yes, professed Christendom gathered together with the nations in most barbarous methods of warfare where women and children might well choose extermination.

During the World War of 1914-1918 we were told it was the last war, that the world was too civilized to endure war any longer—"A lasting peace." 1941 "A remade world." Divine revelation—"When they shall say 'Peace and safety,' then sudden destruction cometh upon them." 1 Thess. 5:3.

Where is the church—the true Israel of God in these times? She is compassed about by an ungodly world largely Pagan. Rev. 20:2. May the benediction of the Apostle Paul to the Gentile Galatians be upon us ALL. "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision availeth anything but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them and mercy upon the Israel of God." Gal. 6:15, 16 and Rom. 2:28, 29. —Mrs. C. T. Pike

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My Claim In the Valley

I have found a lowly valley,
And I staked a life-time claim:
It is the Valley of Humility—
You may not like the name,
But the rose of Sharon growing
Sheds its perfume on the air,
And Lilies of the Valley
Grow abundantly everywhere.

It is watered by two fountains
Replenished from above:
One is the fountain of God's grace,
And one the fount of Love.
And I have the sweetest neighbors
That live so very near:
They are Faith and Hope and Charity,

And loving Grace so dear.
I wish you knew my neighbors,
I think you would love them too;
Come stake a claim real close to mine
Where I can talk with you.

We will have the sweetest fellowship
With the Father and His Son,
And the Holy Spirit dwells there, too;
But nought you need to shun.
Oh, I love to sit at Jesus' feet
And learn my lesson there;
He tells me of another place
That is so wondrous fair.
He said that I should stake a claim—
There was room enough for me—
So I staked a claim in Jesus' name
For all eternity.

(Aunt Becca Basicker, 95 yrs., still I find great joy in serving Him. I love Him. He is my all and in all.)

Roll of 5 "Faith and Victory" papers, one year	\$1.00
12 papers each month, one year	2.00
25 papers each month, one year	4.00
50 papers each month, one year	7.50
100 papers each month, one year	14.00

Greetings to the saints:—May the Lord bless each and every one of you. I am saved, sanctified, and satisfied in the Lord; for he is my keeper and strength. I am truly happy to be working in the gospel work at the Faith Publishing House. Let us be true to the Lord in every circumstance in life. We know that all things work for good of them that love the Lord. He makes a way of escape through every trial. We can be more than conquerors through Him that first loved us. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Cor. 15:58. William Weir

BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll \$1.35, Lesson cards 9 cents

See Page 16 for Lessons for December 5th and 12th.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

December 19, 1954

Printed Portion:Psalms 148:1-3, 11-13; Matt. 1:18-25.

1. Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise him in the heights.

2. Praise ye him, all his angeles: praise ye him, all his hosts.

3. Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.

Psalms 148:11. Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth:

12. Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children:

13. Let them praise the name of the Lord: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven.

Matthew 1:18. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: when as his mother Mary was espoused

to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

19. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

20. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

21. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins.

22. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

23. Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

25. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

25. And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus.

Memory Verse: O come let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker. Psalm 95:6.

Practical Truth: Our greatest reason for praise to God is the gift of his Son to be the Saviour of men.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

2 Cor. 9:15 says "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." Jesus is God's Christmas gift, so while many gifts are being given and received let us think of the main one that God has in store for all those who will receive him.

Psalms 148 is a psalm of much praise which is due to our maker. He alone is worthy of praise for he alone could make the sun, moon, stars, the earth and the heavens; so the kings of the earth, princes, judges and all the people are called upon to praise such an Almighty God.

What more could God do than He has done for the redemption of mankind? He has not only told us in word about the reconciliation of God and man but there are many cases where he has allowed accidents, sickness and other things to happen to bring about a condition of the soul that would reach out to the Lord and have such a longing for the Lord that they would receive him.

In Phil. 2:9-11, we have a picture of Jesus that He made himself of no reputation. He humbled and was obedient unto death, even to the death of the cross. Then God highly exalted Him which shows that God approved of His finished work of redemption. Reader, are you satisfied with God's Christmas Gift? Have you accepted his gift?

THINKING REALISTICALLY ABOUT LIFE

December 26, 1954

Printed Portion Eccl. 1:2-3, 13; 2:1, 18; 3:16; 4:1; 5:10-12; 12:1, 13-14.

Ecclesiastes 1:2. Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.

3. What profit hath a man of all his labor which he taketh under the sun?

13. And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of Man to be exercised therewith.

Eccl. 2:1. I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and behold, this also is vanity.

18. Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me.

Eccl. 3:16. And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there; and the place of righteousness that iniquity was there.

Eccl. 4:1. So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power; but they had no comforter.

Eccl. 5:10. He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.

11. When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes?

12. The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much? but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.

Eccl. 12:1. Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.

13. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

14. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Memory Verse: Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. Eccl. 12:13.

Practical Truth: From the Scriptures we can quickly learn where true profit lies.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." 1 Cor. 1:30. So Jesus is the wisdom to his trusting believing children. Here in this book of Eccl. is much given about wisdom, and discussion of problems of evil and pain, of free will and responsibility. They contrast the ways of life and death. When the preacher is through with his looking over the situation, he says all is vanity. He says he gave his heart to seek and to search out by wisdom concerning all things under heaven and counted it sore travail to be exercised therewith. He tried mirth and pleasure and then hated all the work he had done because he should leave it to those who would come after him. Those who gained silver would not be satisfied with silver nor the increase of goods. There could be no satisfaction in all these things for the soul as only Jesus can satisfy the longing of the soul.

In conclusion he brings us to the place where we realize that those who remember their Creator in the days of their youth and are ready to fear God and keep his commandments will have approval of God at the end of life.

A CRY OUT OF THE DEPTHS

December 5, 1951

Printed Portion:Psalms 130; 86:3-5; 11-13

Psalm 130:1. Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord.

2. Lord, hear my voice: let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.

3. If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?

4. But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.

5. I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

6. My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning.

7. Let Israel hope in the Lord: for with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption.

8. And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Psalms 86:3. Be merciful unto me, O Lord: for I cry unto thee daily.

4. Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

5. For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

Psalm 86:11. Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.

12. I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore.

13. For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.

Memory Verse: Thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee. Psalm 86:5.

Practical Truth: A sincere cry for forgiveness from a penitent heart is not in vain.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

This cry out of the depths by the Psalmist is speaking of iniquities being marked and that he can have forgiveness because God is merciful and by asking for it receive the redemption. This must be a scripture for the penitent soul. Our God in heaven is waiting and listening for the penitent's cry for the deliverance from sin.

There are those who go along through life with little thought that they are really sinners against God but the Bible (God's holy Word) says "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Rom. 3:23.

God is expecting men to come to him for salvation since He gave His Son to die upon the cross for that purpose. Men do not need to go on in sin since Jesus came into this world for this purpose: save his people FROM their sins." Matt. 1:21. In verse 8 He says He "shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities." Since he takes out ALL sin, then how much sin is there left? Answer — NONE.

After conversion the Psalmist wants to be taught so he says "teach me thy way." After forgiveness comes a new life in fellowship with God. There is need to be taught and shown the way to live before God. The aim then is to please God in our doings and to praise Him day by day for His keeping us from sin. 1 Pet. 1:5.

YEARNING FOR THE LIVING GOD

December 12, 1954

Printed Portion:Psalms 42:1-8; 84:1-5, 102:25-27.

Psalms 42:1 As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

2. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?

3. My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?

4. When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holy day.

5. Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.

6. O my God, my soul is cast down within me: therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermonites, from the hill Mizar.

7. Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me.

8. Yet the Lord will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.

Psalm 84:4. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah.

5. Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them.

Psalm 102:25. Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.

26. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed:

27. But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.

Memory Verse: This God is our God for ever and ever. Psalm 48:14.

Practical Truth: People who are spiritually alive will have a longing to go to a place of public worship.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

This Psalm of David is an expression of his needy condition when beset by his enemies around about. His cry and longing for God's help is answered and then his joy and praise rings forth and then he calls upon his soul to not be disquieted within him. What a real help is this to us who have trials that seem to be more than we can bear that we too can call for God's help and get it. Many of us have tried and have shed tears over things and there seemed to be no way out. The Lord was looking down all the time and waiting until every bit of the lesson He had for us was taken according to His will; then He lifted the burden and gave us his presence in fulness of joy. Praise God.

The last two scriptures need to be taken together as we think of how God has laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of His hands. They shall perish and be changed; but thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end. He can praise God for the things that God has done and is still doing for he knows that in God is his strength. In the book of Hebrews (1:10-14) we have this same scripture with the addition about the angels being ministering spirits sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation. That is the important thing that God has for man.