

FAITH AND VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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Behold the Man

O look! Behold the blessed Son of man
There in the garden, when he took his stand,
And yielded himself to the Father's will,
Salvation's plan for the lost to fulfill.

Behold the grief depicted on his face—
The guiltless suffering in the sinner's place.
With blood running down, he earnestly prayed;
By Judas he soon was to be betrayed.

At the head of the mob the deceitful one
Betrayed with a kiss God's only Son;
They took and bound him, and led him away,
From the place where he often resorted to pray.

The Son of David, to whom the blind man cried,
Was soon condemned to be crucified.
To the captains and priests were granted the pow'r,
To have their own way in the crucial hour.

They mocked him, they scourged him, they spit in
his face,
And asked that he die in a murderer's place;
But Pilate discerned their envious plan,
And declared, I find no fault in the good man.

They hated him because he exposed their sins,
And turned the light where darkness had been;
So the voice of the priests, and the people prevailed,
And Pilate saw that his efforts had failed.

He delivered Jesus, the Son of God,
To be bruised and crushed 'neath the chastening rod.
O, hear him cry as he hung on the tree:
"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

Yes, he cried again and gave up the ghost,
And darkness shrouded the heavenly host.
The veil of the temple was rent in twain,
When the Lamb of God for sinners was slain.

They laid his body in a new made tomb;
His disciples were filled with doubts and gloom.
The Jews set a watch to hold him fast,
But he rose triumphant from the grave at last.

Tell it! go tell that the Saviour has risen,
He hath broken the bars of death's cold prison;
And the light doth shine where the darkness had
been,

O look! Behold the Saviour of men!

—Ulysses Phillips.

Old Time Saints

By the term, old time saints, we mean people who believe, act, live and worship after the manner of the apostles as recorded in the 27 books of the New Testament. And in this short article we will note a few things concerning this peculiar people.

First: They do not build expensive houses and Temples for places of worship like the heathen or make an outward show of religion. But are content to worship in humble places, in their homes, tents, groves, halls, or humble chapels, knowing that the most High dwells not in temples made with hands, but in the hearts of his people.

Second: They do not use musical instruments in their worship, knowing, God is not worshipped with men's hands, but in Spirit and in truth.

Third: They do nothing for outward show to be seen of men; but worship God in sincerity, with a meek and humble spirit.

Fourth: They do not adorn themselves outwardly with jewels, diamonds, precious stones, gold, pearls, and costly array; but prefer a plain, humble, saintly dress as becometh people who profess holiness.

Fifth: They do not have respect of persons, honoring the rich and learned; but they honor and respect all men alike.

Sixth: They do not honor and prefer highly educated ministers above Holy Ghost ministers, but believe in each and every member of the congregation fulfilling their calling that they have received from the Lord.

Seventh: They do not recognize as ministers those who are not in harmony with the Word of God, but believe and teach that the ministers and gospel workers should be examples to the flock.

Eighth: They do not believe in a hireling ministry but as we have freely received, we should freely give.

Ninth: They do not resort to earthly physicians and remedies in time of sickness, but all the elders and faithful members of the church together, pray for and anoint the sick in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, trusting in God for their healing as the apostolic church did.

Tenth: They do not lay up treasures here upon earth, but by helping the poor, and giving alms to the needy, they lay up treasures in heaven.

Eleventh: They do not spend their money and time foolishly in going to shows, races, prize fights and such like, but endeavor to spend both their time and money in a way that is pleasing to God.

Twelfth: They do not drink intoxicating drinks of any kind or use tobacco in any form, or do anything that is injurious to the soul, mind, or body.

Thirteenth: They do not indulge in foolish talking, or jesting, but rather in giving thanks.

Fourteenth: They do not lie one to another but speak the truth in their hearts.

If you wish to learn more about this peculiar people, their faith and manner of worship, please attend their regular church services. —J. W. Y.

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"Have Ye Received the Holy Ghost Since Ye Believed?"

It has been our privilege to be in many different congregations, and having the knowledge of some conditions that exist, one is made to wonder if many precious souls really HAVE received the Holy Ghost since they believed. Paul was speaking to saved people here, people who had peace with God. But Paul was looking at the trials and tests ahead of them; he knew that they would need this great power and love. "It is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." There is no other way to obtain it.

If you are a believer, saved from all of your sins and living a holy life, you are a candidate for this precious experience. Oh, dear ones, do seek God for His sweet spirit to reign within you.

Some may think they received the Holy Ghost when they were saved; but Paul, speaking by inspiration of God, said, "SINCE ye believed?" Notice Paul's writing: "I was minded to come unto you before, that ye might have a second benefit." Note the words in the last verse of the song: "Come Over into Canaan Land." "Oh, second grace! I find it sweet! God's holy will is now complete: The Father, Son, and Spirit reign; All inward foes are surely slain." (No. 297, "Evening Light Songs"). Yes, there is an inward foe that causes trouble in a saved person's life. Paul speaks of it in Eph. 2:3: "... and were by nature the children of wrath even as others."

This nature is inherited. In Gen. 5:3 we read, "Adam lived and begat a son in his own likeness, after his [Adam's] image." This was after Adam had sinned, lost the image of God and was driven from the garden. God, himself, knowing man's weakness, promised Noah (Gen. 8:21), "I will not again

curse the ground anymore for man's sake; for the imagination [or thoughts] of man's heart is evil from his youth." Perhaps this was why David wrote, "I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me." Ps. 51:5.

"As by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Rom. 5:21. This refers to spiritual death or separation from God. **Man died in Adam**, but is made alive in **Christ Jesus**—brought back to God. Praise be to God for such great love manifested to us through His dear Son. God came to our rescue by sending His Son Jesus into the world to seek and save that which was lost.

John came preaching, "Repent, the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Jesus preached: repent and be baptized. The disciples also preached repentance and baptism. Read in Matt. 3:6 how people came to John "... and were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins." Every sin you commit must be forgiven, and will be when you are saved. Notice the next verse, how the Pharisees and Sadducees came to be baptized; but John said, "Bring forth fruits meet for repentance." This fruit is what the world is looking for today, a definite forsaking, a turning away from all unrighteousness. Then a real **quickenning work** will be performed in your heart. "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sin." Eph. 2:1-5, "But God who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith he hath loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened [made alive] us together with Christ, (by grace are ye saved)."

Saved! Think awhile—are you saved? Are you born again? made alive? begat by the truth? "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." This work called justification brings peace in the soul; peace with God. Rom. 5:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the spirit." Rom. 8:1. "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand." Rom. 5:2.

Peter was not able to stand until the Holy Ghost came. That great power he received enabled him to look into the face of that murderous assembly and declare unto them that they had crucified the Lord. When they cried out, "What shall we do?" he preached boldly to them to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins, and told them that they would also receive the Holy Ghost. Peter also says in Acts 15:8, 9, "And God which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them [the Gentiles] the Holy Ghost, as He did unto us, and made no difference between us [the Jews] and them [the Gentiles], purifying their hearts by faith." Titus also verifies this purification in the second chapter, verse fourteen, "Who gave himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity [or all of our sins] and purify unto Himself a peculiar people." (Purify the nature).

Has this work taken place in your heart? The writer can truly testify to this glorious experience. The second work is just as real as the first, and even

more so. See how Jesus instructed his disciples in Luke 24:49, "... but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high."

Some are teaching that the disciples were not born again, but in Matt. 19:27-28, Peter asks, "... we have forsaken all and followed thee, what shall we have therefore?" And Jesus said unto them, "Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed me, in the REGENERATION..." This refers to the new birth, not something under the law. In John 15:2 Jesus says, "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away, and every branch that beareth fruit he purgeth it that it may bring forth more fruit." To purge means to cleanse, to free of impurities or elements regarded as undesirable. **SANCTIFICATION IS THE PURGING ACTION THAT DESTROYS THE INBORN SIN AND PURIFIES THE HEART.**

"Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." (The church). Eph. 5:25. This church is not perfected until it has been cleansed by the sanctifying power of the Holy Ghost, then He presents it unto himself a glorious church, without spot or wrinkle." Praise the Lord.

In Eph. 3:14-17 Paul is writing to saved people, and he says, "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That He would grant you; according to the riches of His glory, to be **STRENGTHENED, WITH MIGHT BY HIS SPIRIT IN THE INNER MAN, That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE, MAY BE ABLE TO COMPREHEND WITH ALL SAINTS WHAT IS THE BREADTH, AND LENGTH, AND DEPTH, AND HEIGHT; and to know the LOVE OF CHRIST which PASSETH KNOWLEDGE, that YE MIGHT BE FILLED WITH ALL THE FULNESS OF GOD.**" Are you able to comprehend with all saints the breadth, length, depth, and height of God's truth?

Notice the words **CHRIST DWELLING IN OUR HEARTS BY FAITH.** When Jesus taught his disciples in John 14:15, he said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments; and I will pray the Father and He shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever; even the spirit of truth; **WHOM THE WORLD CANNOT RECEIVE**, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: **But ye know him; for he dwelleth with you; and shall be in you.** I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you." (In the person of the Holy Ghost).

Several times we have been beside the death bed of saints who had accepted this glorious truth, and lived by it, as we do. In their passing on to glory, they had sweeping victory over death. Meditate upon these things...

"Take heed unto thyself and to the doctrine; continue in them; for in so doing thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee."

"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."

Your saved brother,

Samuel E. Abbott

WORK

"Son, [daughter], go work, today in my vineyard" Matt. 21:28.

Every saint will work for God. Let us take our Bibles and see what the Lord has to say to us. First, no human can give you your proper calling. God will let you know what your calling or gift is in the church. But remember this, there is a work to be done, **NOT TO BE SEEN OF MEN.** Jesus said to his disciples, and to the multitude concerning the scribes and Pharisees who sat in Moses' seat: "... but do not ye after their works; for they say and do not." Matt. 23:3, 5. "But all their works they do for to be seen of men." Thank God, we are to work for the Lord, and not for man.

Perhaps you say, "I have faith, but I cannot work for the Lord." Let us see what the Bible says. James 2:17, 18, "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works." Young people, study John 15 with a prayerful heart. What would you think of a vine created to bear fruit, yet it bore no fruit?

Remember when Nehemiah was building the wall of Jerusalem. Those who helped him to finish it were not lazy people: "... for the people had a mind to work" Nehemiah 4. Oh, what a work we have now! The truth of God's Word is real, but it takes diligent work to get people to see this. What did Paul say? "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist; make full proof of thy ministry." 2 Tim. 4:5. Our Lord worked. "But Jesus answered them: My Father worketh hitherto, and I work" (John 5:17). First, be sure you are a clean vessel, then whatever work you do in the name of the Lord will be effectual. "... that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Rom. 12:1.

Let the world know that we have the truth and are not ashamed of it.

Do you know the story behind the song, "Just as I am?" Here is part of the story. A young lady by the name of Charlotte Elliott, when she was a young girl in the year of 1836, met her minister on the street. He spoke to her about a closer walk with God. She spoke to him sharply and said for him to "mind his own concerns." Afterward she was sorry that she had spoken to him like that. A few days later she went to him and asked "the way to Christ." His answer was, "Just give yourself to Him, my child." she asked, "What? Just as I am?" The two knelt in prayer for her salvation. Afterward she wrote the hymn, "Just as I am without one plea." —W. S.

Ariz.—The meeting of the church of God has come and gone, but never will the results be forgotten. Six souls were saved and many were encouraged and strengthened. The Lord sent in ministers led and filled with the Holy Ghost. Truly our souls are reaching out for others. We need your prayers that we be able to gather all we can for the Lord.

—Katie Johnson.

"FAITH AND VICTORY"**16-Page Holiness Monthly**

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

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

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

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

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

Free-will offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. All personal checks and Post Office Money Orders should be made payable to Fred Pruitt, or to Faith Pub. House. All offerings and gifts given or sent to Fred Pruitt will be used in the general up-keep of the printing work unless you state that it is for personal needs. We make His work first.

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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THE BEAUTIFUL WAY

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

Subscription price: 60¢ per year for single copies.

40¢ each subscription in quantities of five or more to one address for a yr. (Pay quarterly if you desire).

Editorials

The "Faith and Victory" paper has always stood for sound and solid biblical truth, and, by His grace and wisdom we expect to hold up the true holiness doctrines of the Bible and direct precious souls into all truth so they will reach heaven and enjoy a glorious abode with God throughout eternity, which will never end.

These are perilous times in which we are living, as many winds of doctrines are blowing this way and that way, captivating some souls and separating them from the saints in light, thereby bringing confusion and distress, causing them to turn down plain statements of truth and accept men's theories which blind their spiritual eyesight and lead them on into many erroneous teachings.

The teaching that the disciples were not born again and had no more than a law experience when following Christ is false and very deceptive. Those who hold to such a theory do much violence to the Scriptures trying to bolster up such an idea. A few plain Scriptures on this subject ought to settle the question with any and all honest, fair-minded, spiritually enlightened persons.

In John 17:2, we read, "As thou hast given him [CHRIST] power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him." In the 8th verse we read, "For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me." Here it makes it plain that Christ had the power at this time to give eternal life to men that believed on him. Turning to the first chapter of John, we read from the 12th verse, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name; which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of GOD." The disciples surely did receive Him and believed on him. They left all and followed him. In Matt. 19:28, we read again, "And Jesus said unto them [His disciples] Verily [or truly] I say unto you, that ye which have [past tense] followed me, in the regeneration [To cause to be reborn spiritually—Webster] when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." Turning to the 15th chapter of John and beginning at the second verse, we read, "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it [to cleanse or purify] That it may bring forth more fruit." In the next verse he says, "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."

The disciples at that time were born again, had a justified experience of cleansing and were clean from all acts of transgression, living up to all that he had taught them, and Jesus looked upon them as being born again. In the fifth verse he plainly tells them that they were in Christ, which is the Vine, for he says, "I am the vine, ye are the branches."

A person in a justified state is to be clean or holy, living free from sinning and without condemnation, for the remaining impurity is more or less dormant and overcome by the presence and power of the Lord (Romans 8:1).

In the ninth chapter of Matthew, verse two, we read where Jesus forgave the palsied man of his sins. In the 6th verse he said, "But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins." No person under the law had power to forgive sins; but the priests offered a blood sacrifice for sins, and that had to be repeated over and over again and again. To have one's sins all forgiven by Jesus would bring a soul into a justified state before God without the law—they would be born of God according to John 1:12.

When Jesus sent the seventy out, as recorded in Luke 10:9, he told them to heal the sick and say unto them, "The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you." These disciples, having the experience of being born again, the spirit of truth with them, (John 14:17), could truthfully say to the people, "The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you."

Hear what Jesus said unto his disciples in Matt. 13:11, "He answered and said unto them, [His disciples] Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven, but to them it is not given." Listen to what he says in the 17th verse, "For verily I say unto you, that many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them." It is easy to see by these Scriptures that the disciples had more than a law experience. Being born again, their spiritual ears and eyes were opened to the extent that they were seeing and hearing more than prophets and righteous men who had a law experience. The Lord was teaching them about the Kingdom of God, for they were material that he was building his church out of. On the day of Pentecost the House or temple, church or kingdom (Heb. 3:6; Heb. 8:2) were all together in one accord. The prophet Malachi said (3:1), "... And the Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: Behold he shall come saith the Lord of hosts." In Acts 2:2 we read: "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost." The cloven tongues of fire sitting upon each of them typified the cleansing, and Christ, the spirit of truth coming right in (John 14:17) in the form of the Holy Ghost and possessed the temple, spiritually speaking; and the kingdom of God or church was set up and began to function as God worked in and through each individual member of his Body.

When God created Adam and Eve, they had a fleshly body and a divine life in them, even as Jesus when he came into the world; for it is said of him that he was sanctified and sent into the world. (John 10:36). When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and fell,

they received some defilement from Satan and their nature was changed insomuch that Paul in the 2nd chapter of Ephesians said, "They were by nature the children of wrath." The human fleshly nature was defiled with sin. Paul says in Romans 5:12, "Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin: and death passed upon all men for that all have sinned. . . ." In Acts 15:7, 8 the apostle Peter makes it exceedingly plain that their hearts were purified when they received the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost; also Cornelius and his company. To fix up the Scriptures and arrange them so as to make them seem to mean anything else, would be doing violence to the holy Word of God.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us not be carried away by the different and many winds of doctrines that are blowing. Those that drift off into this delusion often begin by finding fault with and criticizing the saints, and speaking as though all were fallen and going to pieces and as though the ministers have no power. By speaking in this way they leave the impression that they are some special ones to set all right and bring new doctrines and new light for all to walk in; thus they beguile the unwary and cripple the cause of God with many. Let us hold steady when the storms are raging and the waves tossing high. Just keep our eyes on Jesus and we can walk with Him on top of all the rabble, commotion, and confusion that Satan kicks up. At one time we were on our way to California in an automobile. In west Texas we met a severe dust storm. It slowed down our speed and we could see but very little; but we still held on to God and kept going. After awhile the wind ceased and the dust settled and we went on our way rejoicing and happy in our Pilot, Jesus.

Jesus will take you through the dust storms of life if you will keep your eyes on Him and not on the conditions existing. If Peter had kept his eyes on Jesus and not looked at the waves, he would not have begun to sink. But if you feel you have begun to sink, do like Peter, and cry out: "Lord, save me!" Jesus will reach out his hand and save you. Be of good courage and let your eyes look straight ahead, and our Pilot will land you in that heavenly abode to rejoice with him forevermore.

TOUCHING INCIDENTS, AND REMARKABLE ANSWERS TO PRAYER"

We do thank the Lord and the saints for their interest in the book for boys and girls that we are getting ready for sale. This book has 135 pages and forty-one pictures. It is in large type, so will be easy for the children to read. It will cost \$1.50 each for cloth binding or ten or more books for \$1.40 each. Some are being covered with a heavy durable paper that can be washed with a damp cloth, and will be sold for \$1.00 each or ten or more books for 90 cents each. We want to have them ready by the first of April, so you may send in your orders now.

We are also praying about another book for children, in which we may use the most outstanding true stories in the "Beautiful Way" paper. If you know of, or have had, an experience that will interest children, write it and send it in for the "Beautiful Way," so we will have more from which to choose.

Camp-meeting Notices

THE NATIONAL CAMPMEETING

The 17th annual National Campmeeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, on the saints' camp ground at Monark Springs (Neosho, Mo.) July 22nd to 31st, inclusive. Monark Springs is located five miles east of Neosho, Mo.

A cordial invitation is extended to all nationalities and lovers of the truth to attend this national gathering of God's people. Here you will find Christian encouragement, and all the spiritual and physical benefits provided for mankind in the great atonement. Further information regarding the meeting will be published later, but plan now to attend.

At the business meeting of the last campmeeting several needed improvements on the campground were discussed, among which was the need for an ice storage house, a water line laid from the well to the north end of ground, painting of dining hall and tabernacle, and construction of modern sanitary facilities. This last item is urgently needed and should be started as soon as additional ground adjoining the campground is available for purchase. All the other improvements can be made before campmeeting PROVIDED the material and labor are supplied. Let us all be "workers together" with the Lord in His great cause and give of our time and means to provide a suitable place of worship.

You may send your offerings to Bro. Ralph M. Beisly, R. 5, Coffeyville, Kansas, or to the undersigned. If you are within driving distance of the grounds and can help with the work on Saturdays, please advise Bro. Beisly.

—Lawrence D. Pruitt, 1116 W. Wash., Guthrie, Okla.

Hennessey, Oklahoma

* We, the saints of the church of God in Hennessey, plan in the name of the Lord to have a campmeeting here, starting May 27th and lasting through June 5th. Pray much for the success of the meeting, that God will bless on every line. All are welcome.

For more information write: Bro. Thomas Davis, Box 441, Hennessey, Okla.; or Sister Willa J. Williams, R. 1, Box 113.

—Ada B. Davis, pastor.

DATES OF OTHER CAMPMEETINGS

Guthrie, Okla.—Aug. 5th-14th, corner of 6th and W. Warner — O. C. Porter, R. 5, Guthrie, Okla.

Myrtle, Mo.—August 19th-28, one mile east of Myrtle —S. E. Abbott, Thayer, R. 2, Missouri.

Bakersfield, Calif.—Aug. 12th-21st, South Brown St. —I. C. Chandler, R. 6, Box 37, Bakersfield, Calif.

California State Campmeeting, Aug. 26 to Sept 4, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif. (suburb of Los Angeles). O. B. Wilson, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima.

ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be all day services on Easter Sunday, April 10th at Myrtle, Mo. Ministers, saints, and lovers of the old time truth are invited to attend. Come filled with the Spirit of God and expect the Lord to bless and give us a good meeting.

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The annual services on Easter Sunday will be at the chapel, 624 W. Warner, Guthrie, Oklahoma, April 10th. Regular Sunday services, basket dinner, and observance of the ordinances in the afternoon. The saints are looking to the Lord for a revival meeting before Easter.

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To the saints scattered abroad,—Greetings to you from us in Oklahoma City, Okla. Having therefore an

urge to publish the truth by air, we ask your prayerful support to this end; and should any feel led to contribute financially, we will assure you our gratitude. Send all correspondence at present to: Manly Spears, 2704 N. E. 19th, Oklahoma City, Okla.

MEETING NOTICE

The annual San Bernardino Young People's Meeting will be held May 7th and 8th, with afternoon and night services on Saturday May 7th, and regular all day services on Sunday, May 8th. Also a revival will be held prior to the young people's meeting, beginning on Sunday May 1st.

We are expecting the Lord to send ministers and workers to help in the meetings and welcome all to attend.

Chapel address: 978 W. 9th St., San Bernardino, Calif.

The saints at Boley, Okla. plan to have our annual April meeting, Lord willing, April 15th-24th. All are welcome. We are looking for God to send ministers to help preach His Word. For more information write Bro. C. A. Wallace, Boley, Okla. or Sister Ora Spears, R. 1, Box 109, Boley, Okla. Yours in Christ, Ora Spears

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PRAYER REQUESTS

A minister came here in February and through his influence my brother-in-law, Andrew Williams was saved after he left. But in about a month he lost his mind and is now in the State Hospital. Pray earnestly that God will restore his mind and deliver him. Also pray earnestly for his wife and children who need God's help.

Neva Buchanan, Cherry Valley, Ark.

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Calif.—"Faith and Victory" readers—I am happy to say I am saved from all sin with a deep desire to press on in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord has been talking to me for over a month to do this, so I just have to do what He tells me to do.

We have a faithful sister here in Berkeley whom God is using to carry his Word. She is humble, and a good charitable and obliging sister. She goes into the hospitals and everywhere she can and ministers to the sick. She went to the San Francisco Hospital and saw a poor girl who could not walk nor use her hands, and could not raise her head. But the Lord has her walking now. Her head is up, but she still cannot use her hands. But when she took her out of the hospital, she was on her own, for they won't give her any help. The girl does not want to go back over there. She is saved and looking to the Lord for complete healing.

Our Sister Williams has to work out, doing day work to support this girl and herself, pay rent, utility bills, etc. She really needs help from the saints who are able to give what they can. It wouldn't take much from each one; for she is a sister who is worthy and living to please the Lord. Send offerings to Katherine Williams, 1630 Fairview, Berkeley, Calif.

Obituary

At Ackerville, Ala., November 23, 1892, a daughter, Viola Bell was born to Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Charles.

At the age of seventeen she accepted Christ as her Redeemer. As a devout Christian, she lived the life that none could question as being exemplary of the way Christ taught. This life she lived to the end, which was March 4, 1955, at the age of sixty-two years, 3 mos., and 9 days.

At the age of twenty years she was united in marriage to Isaac Davis, to which union three children were born. All of them are still living. He preceded her in

death in 1918. In 1919 she was again united in marriage to John Thompson, to which union six children were born, five of whom are living.

She was a member of the Boley congregation of the church of God. She had the testimony: "I promised the Lord that I would trust Him for both body and soul. This she did to the end. Her favorite song was "Be Strong and True." No. 268 in "Evening Light Songs."

Bereaved are: her husband, John Thompson; her mother, Mrs. Armeritta Charles; two sisters, Mrs. Theola Hubbard and Mrs. Cora Fillmore; fourteen children, fifty-eight grandchildren, six great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

She passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Frank Fladger, Phoenix, Ariz. Funeral conducted by Manly Spears of Okla. City. Text: Heb. 2:14 and 5.

Sanctification Through Faith

Sanctification is the sweet soul-rest, the heavenly Canaan of the soul, which is the inheritance of the people of God. The justified believer comes to God for his inheritance of sanctification. He makes the absolute and definite consecration. He sees that the blood of Jesus has been shed that he may be sanctified. This is Jesus' part; the consecration is the believer's part. Then the two parts must be reckoned together. We can take the two parts, the blood of Jesus and our consecration, and by faith add them together, and according to the immutable law of God, which is the law of faith, the sum is our sanctification.

The apostle Peter, in his testimony of the in-wrought grace of God at Pentecost, speaks of this law of faith, which effected in him and his brethren at Jerusalem, as well as the household of Cornelius upon the event of their induction into this glorious grace, the experience of heart purity, "and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. "This is one phase of sanctification, and according to the testimony of Peter, was a part of the Pentecostal experience. The other phase of it is, in the previous verse of this testimony, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us. "This is explained by the apostle Paul "That we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." Gal. 3:14. Now if we turn to Rom. 15:16, again we see that we are "sanctified by the Holy Ghost." Certainly it could not be made more plain than these scriptures set forth. We receive the pure heart and the Holy Spirit by faith, which experience is scripturally termed sanctification; therefore, we can understand the language of Jesus in that part of the commission of the apostle already quoted: "and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."

Dear brother and sister, let us magnify God and the name of Jesus for our inheritance, and if there should be one reader who has not entered into this promised land, let us go over at once and possess it.

We see a beautiful example of faith in the experience of the children of Abraham crossing the Jordan to enter into the literal inheritance, the priests that bore the ark, which went before the people, were the first to go down into the stream, which, God had said,

should be divided, and the people should go over into their inheritance. As they came down into the river, their feet were dipped into the stream before the waters parted. God had promised it. They believed and obeyed accordingly, and God fulfilled his promise; the waters were parted, and they all passed over. How different this was from those who, forty years previous to this event, had been brought by the hand of God to Kadesh Barnea, who had all the promises of God in their favor, that he would cause them to go in and possess the land. But because of unbelief, they were sent back into the wilderness, to wander and die. This literal Canaan was their promised land, their land of rest, their very own; his seed. But these forfeited it because of unbelief. This was the type of this spiritual inheritance of sanctification, our land of rest, our very own, which we, the spiritual seed of Abraham through faith in Christ, are to go into and possess.

The apostle gives us some wholesome admonition upon the importance of seeking to enter in. "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." Heb. 3:4. An evil heart of unbelief will most certainly cause us to lose our inheritance. We are made partakers of it only by faith. As certainly as the unbelief of literal children of Abraham caused them to be rejected and disinherited, so will unbelief cause the same sad result in losing the spiritual inheritance. They provoked God with their unbelief, and he who had sworn to Abraham that his seed should possess Canaan, now sware that these unbelieving ones should not enter in. They could not enter in because of unbelief. God's Word was not broken however; for he brought into this land those of the children who, their unbelieving fathers said, would become a prey to the inhabitants of the land. And, what still keeps God's word from being broken, is, that he has opened to us this glorious spiritual land, and tells us to go over and possess it. Dear brother, are you at Kadesh Barnea today, and afraid of the giants? God has given the land to us. The message of reproof comes to you with this solemn and important question, "How long are ye slack to go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers hath given you?" This gospel of sanctification is preached to us today as the gospel of literal Canaan was preached to those descendants of Abraham in that day. It did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. The apostle says, "We which have believed do enter into rest," but more must enter in. God's promise to Abraham must yet be more completely fulfilled. The question simply with us, Will we enter in or will we not? If we will not, then the inheritance will be given to others, and we will lose the blessed soul-rest that is provided in this redemption for the people of God. In his exhortation to us, the apostle says: "Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."

"Oh, this blessed holy rest,

On my Jesus' loving breast.

Oh, the sweetness and completeness

Of perfected holiness." —Selected.

Verses of the Bible

He that believeth on my name shall be saved. John 6:47.

He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Matthew 10:37.

Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28.

For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. Matthew 18:11.

With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible. Matthew 19:26.

And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. Matt. 19:29.

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. Matthew 25:46.

And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. Matt. 25:46.

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Matt. 7:7.

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Matthew 6:24.

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. Matthew 10:22.

Verily I say unto you; except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 18:3.

Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. Matthew 18:19.

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. Matthew 24:35.

Take heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. Mark 13:33.

And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch. Mark 13:37.

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. Mark 16:16.

Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Luke 6:22.

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. I Peter 5:8.

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God: and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. I John 4:7.

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.

And behold I come quickly: and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. Revelation 22:12.

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Revelation 22:30.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matthew 5:16.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. Revelation 22:21. —Virginia Trimble.

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Saved or Lost?

This question has been asked: Are these sects lost? Let God's Word answer. Rom. 10:3, "They go about to establish their own righteousness." Gal. 11:12-14. Paul did not preach man's righteousness. The thirteenth verse shows that when he was of a sect he had religion, then he persecuted the Church of God and wasted it, as the sects do today. But when he got salvation he preached the truth. Col. 2:21, 22 tells us to touch not, taste not, handle not, which all are to perish with the using after the commandments of men. So these sects perish. God dwells in His people. 2 Cor. 6:16-18. The 17th verse instructs to come out from among them. So they are unclean. If we will do this, He will be our Father.

The third chapter of First John tells us what God's children are like. The tenth verse tells us: "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil." There are just two classes.

When Paul was in the sect of the Pharisees he persecuted the Church of God, or body of Christ, Gal. 1:13. In Titus 3:10, 11 we find that heresy and sect are the same. "A man that is a heretic after the first and second admonition reject, knowing that he that is such is subverted," which denotes complete destruction. It says, "And sinneth, being condemned of himself." 2 Peter 2:1 says, "There shall be false teachers among you who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them and bring upon themselves swift destruction." If we deny part of God's Word, we deny Him; and if we offend in one point we are guilty of all. James 2:10.

Rev. 22:15 says, "Without are dogs and sorcerers and whoremongers and murderers and idolaters and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie." This is outside the body of Christ. He is the head over all things to the church. Eph. 1:22. The 23rd verse says, "Which is His body." Rev. 22:14 tells us we are blessed if we do his commandment and we have right to the tree of life—full salvation—and may enter in through the gates into the city (church or kingdom)—the one which John saw coming down out of heaven. This church or city came down out of heaven from God—the only church that came from heaven. Read Rev. 21:10. The eighth verse tells us of the destruction of those outside this church.

We read in Psalms 87 that we are born in her—not joined to her.

1 Cor. 1:26, 27 tells us about the type of ministers whom God calls and what they preach. He does not call the worldly wise. (1 Cor. 2:13, 14).

In the 17th chapter of John, Jesus prayed that His people be kept in His Father's name. We find this in the 6th to the 26th verse. In the 16th verse we are told, "They are not of the world as I am not of this world." Praise the Lord!

Jesus, speaking to Jews (likely a sect of the Pharisees, judging from the way they found fault with Him), said, (John 5:42), "But I know you that ye have not the love of God in you." Why? Verse 43: "I am come in my Father's name and ye receive me

not." God's children come in their heavenly Father's name as Jesus did. Jesus is our Brother. God has a family which takes its Father's name. Eph. 3:14, 15. Jesus purchased the Church of God with his own blood. Acts 20:28. He only purchased one, and he called it the Church of God. It is composed of saved people, and they are called saints, 1 Cor. 1:2. Saints are mentioned eighty-nine times in the Bible, fifty-seven times in the New Testament. Jesus built His church. Matt. 16:18. The gates of hell are nothing less than sectism—man-named, man-ruled, man-organized. God's church was organized on the day of Pentecost. Man had nothing to do with its organization. Any organization, called church, since then is man-rule and is not part of the church or body of Christ.

—Bro. M. G. Olson.

I believe God answers prayer,
Answers always, everywhere;
I may cast my anxious care,
Burdens I could never bear,
On the God who heareth prayer.
Never need my soul despair
Since he bids me boldly dare
To the secret place repair,
There to prove he answers prayer.

George Muller (1834)

How We Are Known

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:35. These are the words of our dear Saviour to his disciples before his crucifixion, and these are his words to us today. He tells us to love one another as he has loved us. How much did Jesus love us? "And hath given himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor." Eph. 5:2.

Dear ones, if we stop a minute and just picture in our mind the awful suffering that our dear blessed Lord bore, the cruel thorns that were placed on his tender brow, and the nails that were driven into his dear hands, the scourging, the mocking, surely our hearts would be touched. And why did he suffer all this? For the lost world—for you and for me that we might be saved. Do we appreciate salvation as much as we should? When we just stop and think what the dear Father gave us, we may value the gift more. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Jn. 3:16.

Do we love one another as Jesus loved us? Are we willing to deny ourselves or sacrifice a little in order to visit some who need help? Someone might be discouraged or have sickness in the home, and just your presence would help them to get the victory. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye have love one to another." Dear ones, our lives are being watched. People are taking note of the love we manifest one to another. Sometimes when we are going about our work and some dear soul is brought to our minds, and we feel burdened that they are in need of our help, we offer up a prayer to God

for them. The Lord may impress us to go see them, but the devil begins to present things to us: so much to do today, or it is quite a drive and there is so much work to do, I just cannot go. Perhaps that dear one has been pleading with God for help and encouragement. God heard that prayer and spoke to you, but you would not listen. Oh, dear ones, it means so much for us to have that ready obedience in our hearts to God's voice and to be ready to go and do what He says do. If we aren't careful, we shall get a "stay-at-home" spirit or a kind of neglectful spirit.

Jesus says, "Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not unto me." Matt. 25:24. Time is fast coming to a close and we shall stand before God. Will there be one soul lost because we did not do our duty or did not show them our love as we should? May God help us as saints of God to have the real love and care for one another. In 1 Cor. 12:25, 26 Paul says that the members should have the same care one for another and whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it.

Sometimes when a dear brother or sister is burdened down under the accusing power of the enemy, just your presence or one word of encouragement will lift the gloom and help them to press the battle on. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

—Vena Sell.

Correspondence

Calif.—Dear saints,—Greetings in Jesus' precious name. I have had a leading to write my testimony to let you know just how much God has been blessing me. I thank God for keeping me saved and encouraged. My determination is to serve God whatever the cost may be.

About three and one-half years ago God miraculously healed me of pneumonia and a very high fever. I was not able to keep anything on my stomach, and I was very weak. I wasn't even able to lift my head. All that I would ask for was prayer, because that is the only medicine I know to use. The saints prayed for me several times before I was healed. The reason I was not healed immediately was because I had a hindrance in the way. When I confessed, the Lord healed me immediately. I was able to sit up and began to praise God. "I know it was the Lord." After my illness I had to crawl before I could walk (I was fifteen years old at the time). Today I am in the best of health, thank God.

Jesus really taught me things during my illness at that time. He made me to know that we must live to all we know and understand if we desire our prayers to be answered, and keep little foxes away that may hinder in any way.

The Lord really blessed us with a wonderful meeting in Berkeley. Six souls were saved, five were my sisters and brothers. I really am a happy soul. Pray for these that were saved, that they may stay encouraged.

The Lord has really brought me from a long ways. I cannot possibly tell you everything God has done for me. He has come to my rescue many times.

I ask the saints to pray for Sister Nell Austin in Berkeley. I feel I can say she is yet saved and encouraged. She has been a real encouragement to me since she has been here from the hospital. Sister Katherine Williams was led to bring her into her home a little over a year ago.

Nell got saved before she left the hospital and God has kept her saved since then. She is not able to help herself in any way. If you care to write, her address is 1630 Fairview, Berkeley, Calif.

My trust is in God for everything. I desire your sincere prayers. I really mean to be a real example for Jesus at all times.

Sister Rose Etta Eddens

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Mo.—Dear saints and readers of "Faith and Victory"

Greetings in Jesus' sweet name! I am still saved, happy in the Lord and determined to press the battle on.

I promised the dear Lord if He would heal my body of high blood pressure, I would, by His help, tell about it through the little paper. Surely I love the dear Lord with all my soul, mind, and strength, and I want to keep my promise. Praise His sweet name! He means so much to me each day. I have trusted Him for both soul and body for over thirty years and He has never failed me. About three weeks ago I was suffering quite badly with what I think was high blood, as my neice suffered with this affliction and my suffering was about like hers. Bro. Murphy Allen and Sister Ruth Murphey were here about three months ago, and my neice was anointed, prayed for, and was healed. When I was suffering, I desired the ministers to be here to pray for me, but I thought the saints here could pray the prayer of faith; so when we met at the chapel for prayer meeting, I had the saints to anoint and pray for me. Praise the Lord, He touched my body and took the suffering all away while they were praying. Oh! how that encouraged my heart. It just lifted me up and put a song in my heart, "What a mighty God we serve!" I do thank the saints for their prayers in my behalf. It is surely wonderful to be in the true church.

The Scriptures teach that in the last days many false prophets shall arise and deceive many. It is surely being done today. How we need to watch and pray lest we be deceived, too. It would be awful to come to the Judgment bar of God, thinking we are saved and hear Jesus say, "Depart from me, ye that work iniquity, I never knew you." There is no use of any being deceived if they would obey the Lord. He said, "Search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me." I am so thankful to know the Lord is able to save and keep us in this straight and narrow way. We know the devil is working night and day to deceive, for the Scriptures say the very elect will be deceived if possible.

Dear saints, pray for us here at Senath, that none will be deceived. We want to keep in the will of God each day.

Yours for the Truth,

Katie Marler.

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Calif.—Dear loved ones in the Lord everywhere—I do greet you in His dear name. I am thinking of God's people and the great work that lies out on a great world. I am burdened for all of God's saints who have had and known His truth of the gospel these many years. I know many have been busy and have done very much more for His kingdom than has been made known here on earth. We are glad God is the one who is recording all these things. I do thank Him that I can see to read, and can pray and sing and shout His praises; but I feel I have done very little. I am praying God will inspire my heart and the hearts of all saints to get a vision of the great field. Oh, why are there not more consecrated workers? Why? Can some one tell me? Now everyone that can read can know there is something wrong. I just believe too many are at ease in Zion. Many act as if they were satisfied with being fed and ministered to, but not doing anything with what God has given.

I know time is precious. There are countries that need the gospel and workers are needed. Oh, what can

be done to stir up the minds and hearts to action? No one wants our land, our country invaded with the Communists. Now I believe every minister of God needs to tell his congregation the awful dangers that are in sight. I have lived so many different places and have seen places where no truth is preached. Many have some of it. I do believe that we who know the truth and make no effort to tell others will grow cold in our experiences.

When we see some that are fully consecrated to work in these fields, and are doing their best, ought we not be back of them with our prayers, our offerings, and encourage them all we can? I am taking myself first for a real inventory to see if I am doing all I can. One writer says: "Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more; you should never wish to do less. Duty is the sublimest word in our language." Let us pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth reapers. Be ye doers of the Word, "Not hearers only."

—Jessie Holloman.

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La.—I want to thank the Lord for salvation and for His many blessings to me. I feel led to tell an experience I had in school about dressing out. The morning before I left to go to school I asked the Lord to help me through it and to give me grace through the day. I went to Physical Education class and did not put on any shorts. The devil did not like it; but it says in the Word of God that the devil comes about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. The devil is worse than a roaring lion. He is out to destroy our souls, but the lions on earth can destroy only the physical body. The devil pushed me and pulled me and even told me that they had a nice black pair of shoes in the dressing room and for me to go put them on. The Bible says to do everything decently and in order. It is not decent to put on such filth as the shorts. When the devil saw I was going to hold faithful, he gave up. If we hold our ground he will not knock us off. When he called the roll and called my name, he did not do anything but mark a nice little "F" in the book. So the Lord helped me through another trial and gave me the victory over the wiles of the devil. I thank the Lord for it.

The word says for us to be of good courage, so if we keep encouraged we defeat the devil. If any one cares to write me so we can keep encouraging each other, my address is R. 2, Box 122, Hammond, La. Remember me when you pray that I hold faithful to the Lord.

—Frank Quave.

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Calif.—Dear saints here and there,—I feel led to write in to the little paper again. I feel it would be to the glory of God to give my testimony. I am much encouraged in the Lord. Praise Him for love and mercy and for what he has done for me. He has done much for me. I surely love the Lord and his way. I can report victory—saved and sanctified and have a strong desire to some day see Jesus. I thank the Lord for his power to save and his healing power. I am having pretty good health since the dear Lord healed me of the troubles I had some time back. I feel well, soul and body. Once in awhile I go to church services and walk about three miles and feel fine—somewhat tired, but I always get paid well for my trip. As our days are, so shall our strength be. God is my refuge and strength (Psa. 46:1; 81:1). I love him because he first loved me. I desire a closer walk with God and to have an increase of faith and more power with God. Oh, Lord; give all of us more faith and power with God, is the desire of my heart. I earnestly covet the prayers of the saints that I may and will live a victorious life; for I do not have long to stay here. Pray for me that I be faithful and do my duty in working for the Lord.

—J. T. Hinshaw.

Calif.—Greetings to all the dear saints,—I thank God for being saved. I thank Him so many times for saving me and keeping me saved. What joy and peace I have in my soul from time to time. Being a young saint and still going to school, I have many trials and tests, but God carries me through. When I first got saved I was ashamed to face my friends and tell them God had saved me. The devil accused me in every way, but Jesus came and lifted me from shame and accusations. The children at school teased me and called me names, but I went ahead and kept the victory and I'm glad I did. Names do not mean anything to me. God is my only hope and care. I hope this will encourage some young saint who has recently been saved and has to go to school. Just hold your head up and think of Jesus. They will call you names, but you won't even hear them. Pray for me that I'll ever keep true. A Sister in Christ, Maxine Weldon

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Okl.—Dear beloved saints everywhere,—It is surely good to serve the Lord. I am glad to know that we have one Master up in heaven, the one we can call upon to help us. I enjoyed the meeting very much. I so often think of the message Bro. Charles Smith preached, in which he told how the devil bothered him until he couldn't even get anywhere in prayer at times. I was thinking I was the only one that had that kind of trials. That helped me so much. I want to press on unto the end. We need to sink down deeper in the things of God so that we may be real strong in the Holy Spirit. I love this wonderful way. I do not get to be in meeting every Sunday. Pray much for me that I may be strong in the Lord and do his will, follow him all the way.

May God help my unsaved children that they may see how it is needful for them to be saved. Part of them are saved, serving the Lord. Pray for them to hold on until they win the crown.

I am thankful for what He has done for me. The Lord healed me of the injuries received from my fall. I was hurt badly, couldn't walk, but the Lord heard the saints' prayers. Thanks to the good Lord forever. It is so lonesome to live alone, but when the Lord is with us we are not alone. God is with us. I desire to always stand true, looking to Jesus for help, strength, and faith.

Oh, if more would see this wonderful way! Jesus has given his life to redeem us from all sin.

My daughter has eczema which bothers her very much at times until it seems she can hardly make it. One time it was itching so terribly that she got up from her sewing and said, "I don't know what to do." Her little girl went to her; looked at her so pitifully and told her mother: "I know what you can do. Make a big hole in heaven. Stack up chairs and I will hold them." She thought of her sister and herself, then added: "I will go with you, but Daddy has to watch the store." I desire again to request prayer for her complete healing. She is Sister Selma Williams of Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo.

Christian love from one who loves our precious Saviour.
Susie Hiebert.

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Ohio—I feel like going on for Jesus this morning. Praise his sweet name; he is all the world to me. He is so good to me, and I thank and praise him every day for salvation from sin. This old world of sin surely lost all attraction to me when Jesus came into my heart, saved and sanctified my nature. Since that day there has always been a song of praise in my heart to the Lord. I love him today above everything else in this world, for he has answered prayer for me so many times.

Last winter my little girl was real sick. Her temperature was 104 degrees. I fasted and prayed to my heaven-

ly Father and He healed her. I truly believe she almost had pneumonia. I promised God if He would heal her that I would testify to it wherever I had an opportunity. Please pray for my daddy. He has been afflicted with arthritis for quite some time. Also please pray for my unsaved loved ones. Christian love. —S. M. S.

o-o-o-o-o-o

Pa.—Greetings in Jesus' precious name,—Brother, I crave yours and all the saints' prayers that God will heal my wife of a cancer of the breast, also heal me of a sickness that I do not know what it is at present; but God does know and I commit it to Him, knowing that He knows and will hear and answer prayer. I thank Him for past prayers that you saints have prayed and God has answered. God richly bless all the saints in that part of the country for your labors of love. May he give you many precious souls for your hire. Thank God for your little paper. Surely it has been a blessing to me. Only God knows what good you are doing in this old dark world. I pray God's richest blessings to be on you and all the saints in that place. —Boyd M. King.

o-o-o-o-o-o

Ill.—I found a paper along the roadside, all wet. The first words I saw on it were: "Salvation is free to all." I picked it up, took it home and got it dry and found the address, so I want the "Faith and Victory" one year.

I will be sixty-seven years old March 9, 1955. I never went to school. I got my teaching from God through prayer and faith and trying to read the Bible. Peter tells us how to get it (Acts 2:38); and Jesus tells us where it comes from (John 14:26; 4:23, 24; 1 Cor. chapter 2). I have read the Bible through seven times since 1931. The people here are preaching that Jesus is God, but the revelation that was given to Peter's soul by the Father says that Jesus was the Son of the living God. I have a Bible that was printed in 1831. So I still hold up for the old time religion. It is good enough for me. Anyone that dwelleth in God has a hard time getting along with most of the people in these days (Read 1 John 4:12, 13).

—Ace Waggoner.

o-o-o-o-o-o

Mo.—Dear saints of God,—I feel like writing my testimony. My heart's desire is to live closer to the Lord than ever before. I want to tell how the Lord healed my baby girl who was very sick with a hot fever on Saturday night. In the night she told me she was going to die. I prayed the prayer of faith for her and told the Lord if it was his will to stop the fever and heal the child. I turned her over to Him and said, "Let your will be done, not mine." The next day the child was up playing as though she had never been sick. The next night she had a very bad nose-bleed. We thought she would bleed to death, but the Lord healed her again. Thank God, she is well now. We never can thank God enough for what he does for us.

My husband has been sick for several weeks, not able to work. Pray for his healing and pray that he will come back to the Lord and live a true Christian life. Pray for me and my family. May God bless each and every one, is my prayer.

A sister, Eathel Hill

o-o-o-o-o-o

Ga.—Just a few lines this day to let you know that I am so happy to give others the tracts and "Faith and Victory" papers you have been sending me. There is sickness in a home near by. I don't think there are any in the home that have their sins under the blood. God has blessed me to speak His name in so many places and give the literature. He has also blessed my husband and myself to pray. I'm praising Him this day for the way He blesses us to speak his name and not fear man. The sick lady has a cancer, so the doctor says. She said she

had more faith in us than anybody in this community, so I feel like we are a light to the whole family. I want to be a light wherever I go. Praise the Lord, He has helped me or I could not speak for Him. He will always give us something to say. I love Him this day.

I am asking prayer for our son in service who is unsaved. His name is Billy Brogdon. We have other children at home who need prayer also. And we need your prayers that we might be strengthened and be more about our Father's work than ever before, doing and saying something to help others. I am praising Jesus for what he means to us. Oh! he blesses us so much I don't see how we could get along without Him.

Your sister in Christ,

Mrs. Clem Brogdon.

o-o-o-o-o-o

Ore.—I feel I must send in my testimony of how God has answered prayer. I have prayed and requested prayer for several years that God would see fit to let my husband work days instead of nights. I never gave up hope and my faith did not waver, though about seven years went by. Recently a man with more seniority bid on another job and my husband was assigned to his place. It happened so quickly and in such a miraculous way I still can hardly realize it has happened. It surely doesn't pay to ever give up in prayer when you feel your petition is in His will. The saints have been praying I may get to move nearer some congregation for several years, and my faith has never wavered. I feel he will surely bring this to pass in his own good time.

Last month I attended an all-day meeting at Jefferson, and oh, what a glorious day we had, all rejoicing and feasting on the good things of God! It was a beautiful week end. It has been stormy ever since, so God even made the weather right. I wish the isolated saints and others would put their addresses with their testimonies. I have been writing to one who did, and though we have never met, we love each other and are much encouraged by one another's letters. My whole desire is to serve Him and do his will. All Christian love to those of the household of faith,

Sister Grace Jones.

o-o-o-o-o-o

Iowa—Greetings in the name of Jesus.—I desire to say something of the Lord's blessings. When I was quite young I had a mind to live for the Lord so much that these words very often came into my mind: "I want to be a worker for the Lord, I want to love and trust his holy word; I want to sing and pray and be busy every day in the vineyard of the Lord."

The Lord has wonderfully blessed me in health these many years; but for the past year or more I have been bothered very much with my eyes while visiting my daughter in California. Through the prayers of the saints I have been blessed and I am still looking to the Lord by faith for complete healing. "Faith is believing His promise is true, trusting in Jesus your strength to renew; resting so sweetly, secure on His word; shielded from danger with Jesus the Lord. Faith is believing, why longer remain, under the bondage of Satan's domain; see though all blood stained the banner unfurled; faith is the victory that conquers the world. Faith is believing, simply receiving what in His promise God has revealed. Trust Him forever, doubt Him no never, till thy petition His Spirit hath sealed." Your sister in the Lord, Mollie V. Love.

o-o-o-o-o-o

Okla.—Dear saints in Guthrie and abroad,—I desire to testify to the Lord's goodness and mercy to me. Truly to be saved is the greatest gift ever bestowed on a soul. Nothing means more to me tonight than being free from sin and the world.

Truly I can say as David of old: "He brought me up

and out of an horrible pit." He gave me a new life, old things were passed away and all things became new, even my associates.

Before I got saved I had been treated for a heart ailment and after I got saved, going to meeting so much, losing so much rest and all, at times it seemed I could hardly get out of bed in the mornings to go to work, I felt so weak—and this was most of the time. Lately I have been in meeting most of the time at night and working steady on my job and feel strong in my body. Oh, how I do praise the Lord for it. I also had trouble with my side. I had been operated on, but the ache was worse than when I went to the hospital, and many times we called for prayer and the Lord gave relief. Now we feel the Lord has surely given victory.

Many times, too, He has healed my little girl. She has said many times, "Mamma, I'm so glad we're saved." She yet remembers some of the things she went through before I got saved—I'm sorry to say; but I'm thankful the Lord had mercy and saved us before she got any older so we can train her in the way she should go. Prov. 22:6.

Not long ago the Lord would bless me with a precious song every morning as I woke up. They were so precious to me. Then one morning the song No. 37 in "Evening Light" song book was on my mind so strong. I never did like that song—or the tune—and never had paid much attention to the words. But I remember this much came forceably, "The soul that on Jesus doth lean for repose, I will not, I will not desert to his foes; That soul, tho' all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake." As the day wore on I sort of forgot the song and then that evening late it seemed all hell was endeavoring to shake or take my soul; and the Lord brought the song back. Oh, how precious it was to me. As I ironed, I got my song book and laid it near and sang and received the victory, thank the Lord! Surely our God knows our needs before we even ask Him. The saints are so precious to me, and I love them every one, and I desire to be an example on my job, at home and everywhere I go. So remember us in your prayers.

A sister in Christ, Frances Perkins

o-o-o-o-o

Mo.—Dear saints,—Greetings in our dear blessed Saviour's name. I want to write my testimony this lovely morning as I almost feel isolated, but the dear Lord is with me. I want to praise and thank him for His healing power. I wrote in some time ago for prayer and the good Lord healed me, praise his dear name. Then the devil tried to bring another affliction, but the saints came to our place Sunday morning, we had prayer, and the old enemy is defeated again. I want to report victory in my soul over the enemy.

I have a very special unspoken request. Please pray for me. I want to do the Lord's will in everything I do, and what I say and where I go, that God's approval will be on everything. The old enemy is not wanting me to write this testimony, but I mean to go on and have victory over the devil. Please pray for the soul of my boy, age 18 years. And my two daughters need prayer.

One who loves truth, Berniece Rumfelt.

o-o-o-o-o

Wisc.—Dear saints everywhere,—Greetings to all in the blessed name of Jesus. I am sending a testimony which I should have sent in a long time ago. It is a year now since I had a bad ulcer on my leg and God so wonderfully healed me. I sent for an anointed cloth for myself and one for my little grandson who was so severely afflicted with laryngitis. My husband and I are the only saved ones in the family, so we applied the anointed cloth on the boy's throat with prayer of faith and he believed

God would heal him. He was instantly healed, praise the dear Lord. He has never had another attack since, and it is now a year since he was healed.

We applied the anointed cloth on my leg and did much praying and I was completely healed in a few weeks. Oh, how we thank God and give Him all the praise for his merciful goodness to us and our loved ones. What a mighty God we serve!

Now I have another ulcer on that same leg, also very bad varicose veins which cause those ulcers. I have suffered much this winter, and I am asking the dear saints to please pray for me that God will heal me again. This is the fourth ulcer I have had and God healed me three times and I know He can heal me again. Yes, we do love Jesus and put all our trust in him for all our needs.

Please pray for us that God will find a way for us to be relieved of the farm so we can be free to go wherever God leads us, as my husband has been called to go out to win souls. We are ready and willing to go wherever He will lead us. Thank you all for your prayers.

Your sister in Christ,

Matilda Klatt.

o-o-o-o-o

Calif.—Dear saints,—I feel like the Lord would have me to send in my testimony to the "Faith and Victory." I thank the Lord for being saved and sanctified and encouraged more than ever before to live for the Lord. Truly the Lord has been good to me. He has blessed me and helped me in so many ways, and answered so many prayers until I do not know how to thank Him enough for his goodness to me. I truly thank him for the stir he has put on my heart. I mean to be up and doing more than ever before in life. Truly the Lord has taught me many lessons lately about being concerned about the things of God and getting down to business about the things we want from God.

We had a meeting a few weeks ago. I wanted the Lord to save my husband, and I was really burdened for my grandfather. The Lord helped me to get down to business and quit looking at how things looked and to look at the power of God, so I fasted two days and two nights and the Lord saved my husband and really blessed me in my soul. A few nights later He saved my grandfather. I really desire the prayers of the saints that I be more like Christ.

Sister Vie Lener Ivy

o-o-o-o-o

Mich.—Dear saints and readers of the "Faith and Victory" paper,—I promised the Lord if He would go with me in a very severe testing I had to face, I would write my testimony for the paper in hopes that it might encourage others to trust the Lord, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever." (Heb. 13:8).

Wed. Feb. 16th, I called a dentist and asked him if he would pull teeth without the dope to freeze the gums (My teeth had been bad for some time.), as we felt this pleasing to our Saviour. He died on the cross and took no dope to kill the pain. He is the Victor over ALL, so we knew He could do the same for us. We asked different ones to earnestly pray. Thursday God gave the witness to our fast and prayers that He was going to take me through this testing. At the women's prayer service in the afternoon, we had a wonderful service, and the Lord gave me Isaiah 43:2. The devil really contested, but Praise God, He held me steady.

On Friday, Feb. 18th, at the time of the appointment, the devil tried hard not to let me get there, but God won. As we were in the waiting room, it seemed the roof of my mouth became cold. Sister Eva Wilkins (Mother) went with me. I told her about it and she felt God was doing something for me—and He surely was. The teeth to be pulled were the six upper front teeth. We believe almost everyone that has ever had upper front teeth pulled will

agree that these are usually the worst of all.

When I was called in, Mother went along to pray. When the dentist saw us, he said, "So this is the girl who thinks she is so brave." I told him NO, I was not brave but a coward if it weren't for God in whom I trusted. He said he would explain the proceedings as he went along. He pulled one tooth, then another, then sort of waited. He said he would pull the rest of the uppers if I could take it, but that one or two of these would hurt worse than the rest. In answer to prayer these teeth didn't hurt any worse than the rest, if as bad, praise God. Dear ones, God was there so precious. He kept us thinking RELAX in the arms of Jesus, and we plead His precious Blood—such calmness and quietness He gave us; not even one out-cry did we utter, by His grace. Oh! glory to God. I love Him more every day. (One of these teeth was badly decayed and could have easily crumbled apart if it hadn't been for God's mercy; but God, in His mercy, made it come out so easily.)

I believe the dentist was amazed at what God had done. He said there had been two or three others in there to get teeth pulled that didn't take anything before, but that he had never seen anyone take it like that. He had never before pulled that many without dope, either. We told him it surely wasn't I; it was nobody but the Lord, in answer to prayer. The dentist said he couldn't have taken it like that himself, and that I surely had grit. But I said NO, I was a coward in myself, but only God and He alone did this. We truly sang God's praises there in that office, and he said to praise God for helping him, too.

Oh! we truly thank God for keeping us quiet in this test. Pray for us that we will not fail God in any way. This dentist is the same one I went to when I used to take the dope. He could remember back there when I was such a coward. I never had this many teeth pulled before at one time. Three or four were the most he would pull with the dope. Glory to God, God truly witnessed the change in my life. He asked me why I didn't take dope when God had given him the training and skill and wisdom to do this type of work. I told him that God had given us salvation for our souls, and couldn't HE just as easily take care of our bodies? He said that we had something there. Mom also said that Jesus suffered and died on the cross and He didn't take anything, and we shouldn't take anything either. He agreed that there was something to that. So pray much that God will talk to his soul.

We thank the saints for their prayers during the sickness and at the death of our precious little baby, Deborah Anne, who went to be with Jesus December 23rd. Truly God has had His arms of love around us and held us up through all this. Though we miss her presence here, we know our loss is heaven's gain. "But He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Job 23:10. Yours in the one body,

Aneita Corteway, 744 Hawley St., Kalamazoo, Mich.

Editor's Note:—Sister Corteway called us March 15th to request an addition to her testimony. She had eleven more teeth pulled without having the nerve killed, and the Lord in a wonderful way stood by her as the dentist pulled each tooth. One was hard to pull, but she plead the Blood and asked Jesus to help her. All were pulled without one outcry. She said it was even more wonderful than the six she had pulled before. She was rejoicing and thanking the Lord for helping her, for she knew she alone could never have stood it. She also wanted us to pray for the dentist, as he seemed quite moved and amazed. She could tell that God was dealing with him and is burdened for his soul. Surely nothing is impossible with our God.

California—Dear saints,—Greetings in Jesus' name. The dear Lord has impressed me to write my testimony to the glory of God. The Lord gave me this testimony some time ago, but I neglected. One Sunday there was a message preached on neglecting to do the things the Lord wants us to do. Saints, it doesn't pay to neglect. Something came upon my body and it seemed the Lord was not going to hear my prayer nor the prayers of the saints in my behalf; so I promised the Lord if he would heal me I would not neglect Him any more. So He healed me, thank the good Lord. He is so good to me. This year I promised the Lord I would do better and be a doer of his word and not neglect my duty, and this prayer came to me: "Dear Lord our heavenly Father, it is I who walk in the dark valley of loneliness who call to you; it is I who feel forgotten of men with only hurt and emptiness in my heart. It is I who in my despair look toward thee as my strength and my help. It is I who beseech Thee to draw me near to thee in this hour of my need as thou hast promised through thy Son Jesus Christ thou wouldst do. Make me humble, Lord, take me by the hand again like a little child. Give me of thy loving strength and kindness. Help me to rest on thy promises.

Saints everywhere, pray for me. I am saved and sanctified and have victory in my soul. Your sister in the Lord, Ionia Moland.

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BIBLE STUDY

THE CROSS AND CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

April 3, 1955

Printed Portion: 2 Cor. 5:14-19; Gal. 2:20-21; 6:14-17

2 Cor. 5:14. For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

15. And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

16. Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

17. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19. To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Gal. 2:20. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

21. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Gal. 6:14. But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world

is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

15. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

16. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

17. From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

Memory Selection: But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. Gal. 6:14.

Practical Truth: Because Christ died for us, we must in return live a holy life for him.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

A disciple of Christ is a follower of Christ. Then it will naturally follow that he must take up his cross as Jesus took up his cross (John 19:17, 18). It is plain teaching in all the Bible that Christ so loved us that he died for us in our stead. We deserved to die for our own sins, but Christ had no sin and died in our stead, "The just for the unjust" (1 Pet. 3:18) "That he might bring us to God." Therefore when we receive Christ we have new life; old things are passed away; all things are become new. Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ." That is the predominant part for every one who belongs to Christ. Jesus made it very plain in Luke 14:27, "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple." Three times Jesus uses cannot in verses 26, 27, 33, which goes to show how important is the message he is trying to get to us; we must have a cross and we must bear it (Heb. 12:2). Real joy will come to those who can go through this experience. One in his own strength can never make it, "will seek to enter in, and shall not be able" (Luke 13:24). O, how sad the soul that is lost; those who are unwilling to pay the cost.

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OUR ASSURANCE OF ETERNAL LIFE

April 10, 1955

Printed Portion: 1 Cor. 15:3-10; 53-58

I Cor. 15:3. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

4. And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

5. And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

6. After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

7. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

8. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

9. For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meat to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

10. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

I Cor. 15:53. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written,

Death is swallowed up in victory.

55. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

56. The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

57. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58. 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.

Memory Selection: Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. John 11:25.

Practical Truth: Through his own victory over death and the grave Christ brings to those who trust in him an assurance of the same victory.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Many of the trees in Guthrie, in the year 1954, showed the effects of a dry summer, and a few died for lack of moisture; but there were some of them which were green all of the year. They put down their roots to a lower level for water. A good lesson can be learned from the green tree. When the Christian is at his best he is like the green tree in digging deep into the things of God; "O the depth of riches both of wisdom and knowledge of God: how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out" (Rom. 11:33). Just think of it; the Son of God had his home in glory with the Father; he had the angels attending for "he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich" (2 Cor. 8:9).

The Christian has two resurrections; "The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live." This is the first resurrection. John 5:29 says, "And they shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life" or the second resurrection. So, as Jesus died on the cross, the Christian also has a cross that he must bear, but Christ will help to bear it and the end is eternal life.

REHOBAM, KING OF JUDAH

April 17, 1955

Printed Portion: 2 Chronicles 10:6-17.

2 Chron. 10:6. And king Rehoboam took council with the old men that had stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, saying, what council give ye me to return answer to this people?

7. And they spake unto him, saying, If thou be kind to this people, and please them, and speak good words to them, they will be thy servants forever.

8. But he forsook the council which the old men gave him, and took council with the young men that were brought up with him, that stood before him.

9. And he said unto them, What advice give ye that we may return answer to this people, which have spoken to me, saying, Ease somewhat the yoke that thy father did put upon us?

10. And the young men that were brought up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou answer the people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it somewhat lighter for us, thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be

thicker than my father's loins.

11. For whereas my father put a heavy yoke upon you, I will put more to your yoke: my father chastized you with whips, but I will chastize you with scorpions.

12. So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day, as the king bade, saying, Come again to me on the third day.

13. And the king answered them roughly; and king Rehoboam forsook the council of the old men.

14. And answered them after the advice of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add thereto: my father chastized you with whips, but I will chastize you with scorpions.

15. So the king hearkened not unto the people: for the cause was of God, that the Lord might perform his word, which he spake by the hand of Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

16. And when all Israel saw that the king would not hearken unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? and we have none inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to your tents, O Israel: and now, David, see to thine own house. So all Israel went to their tents.

17. But as for the children of Israel that dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.

Memory Selection: If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. James 1:5.

Practical Truth: Important decisions may be very far reaching in their consequences and must be prayerfully made.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

To ignore God in any life is to bring defeat. Rehoboam did not do as his father had done when he took over in asking God for wisdom so as to rule well the kingdom of Israel. He even forsook the advice of the old men that had been with his father before him. We find that all of the kings who were good rulers of the people were, in some way, finding what God had to say about it. Although Solomon had asked for wisdom in the first place, his becoming rich and going after heathen gods that his wives brought with them, became a snare (I Tim. 6:9) to him, which was the kind of example that his son Rehoboam had before him. No wonder Rehoboam was vain in his imaginations (Rom. 1:21). He had learned it from Solomon his father. As Solomon had many wives, so Rehoboam "Desired many wives" (2 Chron 17:23). When one leaves God out of the life, there comes pride and selfish interests instead of giving their best to others that are around them. This is what happened to Rehoboam for after the ten tribes left him he still wanted to raise an army to bring them into subjection, but God had a man there to defeat him (2 Chron. 11:1-4). According to Deut. 17:17 a king was not supposed to multiply to himself wives nor silver and gold, but keep God's law (v. 18).

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ASA'S RELIGIOUS REFORMS

April 24, 1955

Printed Portion2 Chron. 15:1-12.

2 Chron. 15:1. And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded:

2. And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The Lord is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek

him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.

3. Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law.

4. But when they in their trouble did turn unto the Lord God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them.

5. And in those times there was no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations were upon all the inhabitants of the countries.

6. And nation was destroyed of nation, and city of city: for God did vex them with all adversity.

7. Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded.

8. And when Asa heard these words, and the prophesy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the Lord, that was before the porch of the Lord.

9. And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and the strangers with them out of Ephraim and Manasseh, and out of Simeon: for they fell to him out of Israel in abundance, when they saw that the Lord his God was with him.

10. So they gathered themselves together at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa.

11. And they offered unto the Lord the same time, of the spoil which they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep.

12. And they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul.

Memory Selection: - - - - The Lord is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you. 2 Chron. 15:2.

Practical Truth: The Lord remains with the righteous and forsakes the backslidden and also abundantly supplies the ones who stay true to Him.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In general Asa was a good king. The reforms he made were needed, "for a long season Israel had been without the true God" (v. 3). But notice how wonderful and gracious God is, "They in their trouble did turn unto the Lord God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them" (v. 4).

The war Asa had with Zerah the Ethiopian was not in his own strength, but he "cried unto the Lord his God, and said, Lord, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O Lord, thou art our God; let no man prevail against thee" (2 Chron. 14:11). "And the Ethiopians were overthrown, that they could not recover themselves; for they were destroyed before the Lord" (v. 13). A wonderful prayer in all humility and a wonderful answer. Too bad that Asa did not keep up his trust in his God all the way through his life as he had begun, but we find in chapter 16:7-14 that he relied on the king of Syria and did not rely on the Lord God. Then when God sent a man to rebuke him, he became "wroth with the seer" (v. 10). The last of his life he sought for the physicians for his disease instead of God (v. 12).