

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



Volume 26, No. 3

Printed at

Guthrie, Oklahoma

25c Per Year

June, 1956

I Am So Glad Today

I am so glad today,
For God has had his way
In cleansing me from guilt and sin;
Within this heart of mine,
His light doth brightly shine,
And I have peace and joy within.

It is so good to know
That Jesus loved me so,
And gave His life on Calvary;
Though I to sin a slave,
New life to me He gave,
And blessed my soul with victory.

No merits of my own
Could for my sins atone,
I could not break the chains that bound,
But calling in despair,
He heard my earnest prayer,
And there His pard'ning love I found.

Yes, I will testify,
And laud His name on high,
For He has done so much for me;
His Word is my delight,
I love it day and night,
For it's the truth that made me free.
—Ulysses Phillips.

"And Jesus Said, I Will Come And Heal Him."

Heb. 13:8, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever." We believe that, do we not? Yes, we are simple enough to believe it in our hearts and prove it by trusting Him fully for all things, praise His name for ever! When Jesus was here on earth, he healed all who came unto him. There was a centurion who came unto him beseeching him to

come and heal his servant that was grievously tormented. The enemy had afflicted him with the palsy. And Jesus, who is the fountain of compassion for the troubled and sorrowful, said: "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered and said, "I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof; but speak the word only and my servant SHALL be healed." Oh, such faith! It pleased the heart of Jesus. He quickly said, "I will come and heal him."

There are none of us worthy that Christ should heal us, but when we love him and keep his commandments it delights his heart to do these things for us. It is strange that it is so hard for man to believe in God their Creator, One who loves them and does so much for them. It seems that men love their own ways more than God's way. It says in Proverbs 14:12, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." This means that man's way is not God's way. Yet they will say that one way is as good as another, we are all striving for the same place, serving the same God; what difference does it make if some are Baptists or Methodists, or any other of the many churches or ways?

I still say that it is blessed to be completely yielded to God to take his way and not our own. It takes the true love of God in our hearts before we can be yielded to the will and purpose of God. What is man that he should argue against God or His Word? If man is against the Bible, he is against God and His Word. How dare we take such liberties. We do so to our own hurt. We honor a watch maker, we believe he can make or repair a watch. Why honor a man, and not honor God for His power and ability to create and mend, or heal? It pleases our heavenly Father for us to honor him by trusting Him to heal our bodies. Why should we doubt him? That is the enemy's business to cause us to doubt our Lord.

Any deep need or sorrow only draws us closer to our Lord and increases our love for Him, and when we fully believe His Word which says He will heal us (James 5:14, 15), and we know that he heareth us, "we know we have the petition that we desired of him" 1 John 5:15.

Attend the National Campmeeting, Monark Springs, Mo., July 20-29, 1956

He also said, "If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments. 1 John 5:3, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments." If we do not keep his commandments, we need not say that we love God or that we are Christians. When one is ill and calls in a physician, and that one recovers, he praises the physician to all who will listen. The physician gets all the honor and praise. But the saints of the Most High God trust in Him only and can heartily recommend him to all. So let us give Him all the glory. God welcomes and invites his children (believers) to ask of him and believe in him and he never fails or disappoints them even when he is ready to take them home. His children are willing, ready, and happy to go with him to that place he has prepared for them. There comes a time when we are not healed, but are taken home, which is far better than to stay here in this world of trouble and sorrow. I do love him with all my heart to all my understanding and mean to obey him gladly and willingly. Truly it is my pleasure and delight to do so. I am so glad to be in that number that will praise Him through all eternity and can see Him face to face—the One who was nailed to the cruel cross for me, who ransomed me, washed me in His precious blood.

Oh, how honored was Simon of Cyrene, who lifted his cross from his shoulders and bore it up the hill of Golgotha! So let us take up our cross and go to the end of our journey following him, our blessed Lord. The way will not always be easy. Some will say hard and untrue things of us (falsely) and so they did of our Lord. And we will just thank him that we are counted worthy for his name's sake. May God bless all of his dear saints that they may trust him and be faithful till he calls them from labor to their reward, is my earnest prayer. —G. V. Morton.

—oOo—

Not What I Would

When tempted sore to turn aside
At some bypath; I have stood,
This thought has helped me to decide,
Not what I would, but what I should.

In daily life comes many a test
For those who purpose to be good,
For such: This motto I suggest,
Not what I would, but what I should.

Life's little span by God is planned,
I would not change it if I could,
My course is guided by His hand,
Not what I would, but what I should.

"Not my will: 'Father,' Thine be done,"
Said one who so supremely good,
Give strength to those who evil shun:
Not what I would, but what I should.

If in my heart; ought lurketh still
To keep me from thy highest good:
Cleanse every thought, control my will,
'Till what I should is what I would.

—Sel.

"Try The Spirits"

We are asked the question many times, "What do you think about so and so; they do great miracles?" By questioning closely, we find that the person asking that is only looking at the miracle and not at the spirit behind the person who is performing the miracle. The Bible teaches us what to do. "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." 1 John 4:1. This Scripture is proof that there are false prophets. False prophets are spoken of even in the Old Testament. All the old prophets of God met with them and had to deal with them. And as it is today, they had to deal with the problem of many being swayed by those false prophets. God told Ezekiel to prophesy against the false prophets. He said, "Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing! . . . They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The Lord saith: and the Lord hath not sent them: and they have made others to hope that they would confirm the word. . . . Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, saith the Lord God." Ezek. 13:3, 6, '8. They have a big story to tell and have seen many things, but it is not from the Lord.

Another test of a person being a false prophet is that the world has gone after him (or her). "They are of the world; therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them." 1 John 4:5.

One woman said she knew that — (a certain preacher) was a prophet of God because when he talked the spirit made the muscles in his stomach jerk. It is so sad how people will let something like that be a test. The Bible plainly says, "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." 1 Cor. 12:7. I do not see any profit in a man's stomach muscles jumping, do you? The Spirit of God in the true prophets of God will be manifested in a clean, pure, holy life first; then through the life of Christ being in them, Christ will be able to help others. Jerking, rolling on the floor, kicking around will not bring any profit to anyone. We do know the Lord will put a praise and shout in us, and some manifest the love of God bubbling up by jumping up and down or moving about, but all know when this is done in the Spirit. And if the Spirit is leading, it is done "decently and in order" (1 Cor. 14:40). That is another test if a person is a false prophet. Do they act decently and in order? At times blankets have to be thrown over some as a covering—they claimed to be under the power of the Spirit of God and could not help but kick up their heels. God does not work in this indecent manner. The Bible plainly tells us this. Let us "try the spirits" by the Word of God.

Some will wonder if a person is not of God because of miracles performed. Do you not remember that when Moses stood before Pharaoh and Aaron threw down his rod and it turned into a snake, that

the king called his magicians and they threw down their rods and they turned into snakes also? But do you not see the power of God over the false or power of the devil? Aaron's rod swallowed up the other rods (Exodus 7:10-12).

In Rev. 16:13, 15 it tells us about the spirits going out of the mouth of the false prophet. "For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame." Oh, dear ones, the Bible plainly tells us that false prophets will do miracles, but we should take warning and keep our garments unspotted from them. For surely God will come and we will not be ready, but will have a wrong spirit. In Matt. 7:21-23 we find some coming up before the Lord and wanting to enter into the kingdom of God, saying, "Have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

A person can be a prophet of God and not even perform a miracle. God places each in the body and gives him or her gifts as it pleases Him (1 Cor. 12:4-12). We read that John the Baptist "did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true. And many believed on him (Jesus) there." John 10:41, 42. John said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). And as we look upon Jesus, the Saviour of the world, even today, as all have down through the years, it will bring salvation to us as we believe. Surely John was a prophet of God.

May the Lord help us to look into the lives of these prophets. There are some claiming to be prophets of God, yet they have taken another man's wife and going about the country with her, when the Bible is clearly against divorcing and remarrying, even if the laws of our land permit it. The Bible says, "For the woman which hath a husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth." Rom. 7:2. Jesus says, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" Matt. 19:6. Let us "try the spirits" by the Word of God. —Mrs. Marie Miles

—:::—

Salvation or Religion, Which?

There is a vast difference between salvation and the many religions of the world. Religion is popular, but salvation is not. One can go hand in hand with the world and have a religion, but to have salvation one must deny himself of all ungodliness and worldliness and live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world (Titus 2:11, 12; Luke 74, 75). "Who-soever will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." James 4:4b.

There is only one pure religion, and if one has that he has salvation. You can't separate salvation

and pure religion, for both are the love of God in our hearts. It prompts us to do good and serve God and our fellowmen and shun evil. One can appear very religious without any salvation or love or fear of God in his heart. It behooves each and every one of us to ask ourselves the question and examine ourselves to see whether we really have salvation or only a profession of religion (2 Cor. 13:5). An empty profession is like a lamp without oil. It will find us as the foolish virgins when Jesus comes (Matt. 25:1-12).

It is easy, while we are in this world of sin and sorrow, trouble, and distress, sickness and disease, temptations of every kind, to get our minds off of Christ and on some of the things about us as Peter did when he looked at the waves about him and began to sink (Matt. 14:30, 31).

"The Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" Heb. 4:12. We need not be deceived about ourselves if we will examine ourselves in the light of God's Word. David said, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a lamp unto my pathway" Psalm 119:101. "The path of the just is as the shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Prov. 4:18. And Jesus tells us that the word he has spoken shall judge us in the last day (John 12:48). So let us examine ourselves in the light of God's Word and see if we really have salvation or only a profession of religion.

First, are we born of God?—Not "have been," but are we now born of God? If we are, we do not commit sin. 1 John 3:9.

If we are saved now we are free from sin now. "He that committeth sin is of the devil" 1 John 3:8. (Read the whole chapter, also the 6th chapter of Rom.)

Sin is the transgression of the law. Under what law are we? The law of Christ. Heb. 1:1, 2.

"Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith. Prove your own selves; know ye not your own selves how that Jesus Christ is in you except ye be reprobates" 2 Cor. 13:5.

Cora Brant.

—:::—

God's Promises

God is calling you, O sinner,
Come and see His fount of love,
Coming down to earth forever
From His heavenly throne above.

He is willing, ever willing,
To restore the lost one home,
If you'll only seek his favor—
Oh, dear sinner, come, don't roam.

Strength He'll give to solve each problem
That would loom like mountain heights,
If you'll only trust him ever,
He will work things out all right.

—Amos L. Porter.

"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.

(Entered as second-class matter June 30, 1930 at the Post Office at Guthrie, Oklahoma, under the act of March, 3, 1879.)

—SUBSCRIPTION PRICES—

| | |
|--|--------|
| Single copy, one year | \$.25 |
| Single copy, five years | 1.00 |
| Five copies to any address, one year | 1.00 |
| Twelve copies to any address, one year | 2.00 |

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. Co-operation 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

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

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY

"The Beautiful Way" a four-page leaflet for children is published quarterly in thirteen leaflets, one for each week. Mrs. 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 year. (Pay quarterly if you desire).

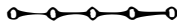
Editorials

The publishing work is moving along nicely under the directions of the big hand of our God. We can see the amazing grace of God when he lets his strong arm of power down between his people and those weapons which are formed to destroy. He has told us in his Word that no weapon that is formed "against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn" Isa. 54:17.

Many, many times in the past has Satan through religious people formed weapons to destroy this printing work, and it has caused us to be driven to our knees in prayer and supplications until God showed his mighty power and scattered the enemy while often bringing them to shame. Paul fought against the children of God at one time and when he was converted the Lord told him, "It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." Paul said that he did it through ignorance and unbelief. It could be that some are kicking against the pricks today because of a lack of light and knowledge. God sometimes uses severe measures in bringing us to light and truth. In some of the severest trials and sufferings we have learned some of the most precious lessons. If one is exercising himself properly in severe trial, God can then let light and truth into the soul as at no other time, and his words will be so imprinted upon your humble tender heart that they will never be erased.



The larger printing press is now setting in the Lord's Print Shop and we have it wired with electricity for running. We are putting the attachments on and getting it ready for printing this June paper. This substantial press will be a great advancement to the future of the printing work. We truly thank God and those that helped with prayers and means in making it possible to have a press like this in His print shop. This Press is something that will be used in printing and sending out the Gospel for years to come. It has been six months or more since we were contemplating the purchase of this press. It has been a long time of suspense with many burdens and with prayers to Him for counsel in locating and getting the right press; also making sale of the old one, which was a hindrance for a long time. We thank God for His goodness, and do appreciate the larger press. Rejoice with us.



Peter, in writing of the saints, says, "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:5-8. In the 6th verse there are three little words which weigh upon my mind quite heavily. The three words are: "IF NEED BE." There are manifold temptations

and severe trials and testings that come to us (saints) in life that are needful, not only for our own souls' welfare, but oftentimes to the good of many others. The one who has been humbled down in troubles and afflictions and has exercised himself in a godly manner all through them will be tendered in heart and easily touched by others in sad conditions, and will have gained truth and knowledge in those things so that they can be a comfort to others in trials and afflictions. The oak that grows up without any wind storms and without seasons of hot sun and drouth will be much more easily uprooted than the oak that has stood many hard winds and severe beatings with drouth and hot sun. The severe beatings of storms, hot sun, and drouth will cause the oak's roots to go deeply into the soil and it will be fortified against any sudden attack of hard storms and twisters. Just so with the saints, as we go through the storms and trials of life, if we exercise ourselves in a godly manner there will be a deeper rooting in God. Thus we become unmovable always abounding in the work of the Lord and a comfort to all that behold that settled life in God. There are many things that come to us in life which God in his mercy sees "Need Be." Let none of us ever murmur or complain while in the furnace of affliction, but continually say as Jesus did, "Not my will, but thy will be done."

Let us look through God's Book, the Bible, and pick out a few of the many faithful ones who endured some of these "Need Be" trials and afflictions, and thereby take courage.

Joseph was a young man of seventeen years, and he loved his father and home and his brothers, and we have no record that he ever did anyone any harm. Read the story through and see the many disappointments and afflictions he suffered because God saw that "It Need Be." He was taken from his father and home at that tender age, and by his own brothers sold. He was taken to a foreign country as a slave, then his master's wife lied on him and he was thrown in jail for four years. After that God brought him out and made him ruler over all Egypt. Through the knowledge and wisdom given him of God, he became a preserver of his brothers' lives and the lives of thousands of others during the famine. God put him through some severe "Need Be" trials and afflictions to get him to the place to be a preserver of life.

We could also mention Job, David, and Abraham who passed through many "Need Be" trials and testings that we today who read of them and the courage with integrity they manifested may be made more bold to endure with joy in our souls, for we are sure that God is doing all things well.

See what an example of courage is left us by the three Hebrew children who went through one of those "Need Be" trials. With boldness they told the king when he threatened them with the heated furnace, that "our God whom we serve can deliver us; but if not, let it be known unto thee, O King, we will not bow down to the golden image." The result was, they were thrown into the furnace of fire and the king saw the form of the fourth which was like unto the Son

of God, walking with them in the fire. It made a believer out of the king and he made a decree that every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing against the God of these men be cut into pieces and their houses be made a dunghill: "because there is no other god that can deliver after this sort." It took "Need Be" things to bring about that great change in the king's heart. If we saints would be more willing to go through some "Need Be" things in life, there no doubt would be more people converted to God.

We also think of Paul, Peter, and John and the many "Need Be" things they went through. One of the "Need Be" things that John endured was being cast on the Isle of Patmos, and there God gave him the wonderful book of Revelation which is such a blessing and comfort to our souls.

Think of the "Need Be" things that Jesus suffered in order to bring about and to complete a work of salvation for us poor mortals who had no hope and were without God in the world. We feel that it would please the Lord for us to enumerate some of the "Need Be" things that Jesus went through and endured for the salvation of souls. Paul says in 2 Cor. 5:21, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." In another place it is written that he was tempted in every way like as we are, yet without sin.

In Matt. 11:19 it is written that his enemies looked upon him as a gluttonous man and as a wine-bibber. This wrong accusation was one of the "Need Be" things, for he was suffering, the just for the unjust, that the glutton man and the drunkard, could also be saved through his blood. They also branded him as an imposter, a hypocrite, and a deceiver. This was one of the "Need Be" things, for the imposter, hypocrite, and the deceiver can be saved through godly sorrow and repentance and believing on the blood sacrifice. They lied on him, smote him, spit on him, and despitely used him. This was one of the "Need Be" things, so the liars, smiters, spitters, and despiser souls can be saved by humbling their hearts and confessing their sins in repentance. They blindfolded him, put a purple robe on him, a crown of thorns on his head, and bowed their knees in mockery as to a king. This was also one of the "Need Be" things, for people of that rude and ugly nature can be saved through his blood. Pilate scourged him and delivered him to be crucified. They hung him up between the thieves, robbers, and murderers as though he too were a criminal of the deepest dye. This was one of the "Need Be" things that rulers, thieves, robbers, and criminals of all sorts might also be saved through his sacrifice and atonement.

Listen, dear friends, Jesus bore our sins in his own body on the tree. He was branded as a man that had committed every kind of sin that men could commit that all men, no matter what sin they have committed, might appeal to him for mercy and forgiveness of their sins. "For he was made sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness

of God in him." Every sin known to man and God has been piled upon Jesus, the Son of God, and he has borne them all away for us in his body on the tree. Oh, sinner friends, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and accept the washing away of your sins in his blood. He has paid in full the debt of sin that hangs over your head, and you may have salvation if you will only repent and believe.

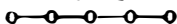
Then comes the "Need Be" agony of death, the burial in a rich man's tomb, as it is written, "And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth." Isa. 53:9.

Next was the glorious resurrection, which also was a "Need Be." The angel of the Lord descended from heaven, broke the governor's seal, and the brave soldiers fell down as dead men. The angel rolled away the stone and Jesus Christ came forth a conqueror over death, hell, and the grave, and is alive forever. He is our High Priest before God the Father today interceding for us (Heb. 4:14, 15, 16.)

His resurrection was one of the "Need Be" things, for Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 15:17, "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins." Verse 20: "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept." The blood sacrifice of Christ atones for everyone and all the sins that men commit. He, being yet alive, will succor us who really believe in Him. He will take us through all the "Need Be" things that come to us in life with victory in our souls. This is a glorious thought and is Divine truth. Brethren, let us come boldly to the throne of grace to find help in every time of need; for "Need Be" things that may seem strange to us will come to every one that will live godly in this world.

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; . . . Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." Eph. 6:13-18.

Remember that all things work together for good to them that love God, and if God be for us, who can be against us. Brethren, let us put a supreme value on eternal profits and lay up treasures in heaven.



Obituaries

Della Miles was born in Pickens County, Alabama, January 25, 1858. She was united in marriage to Mr. Ivory. To this union were born seven children. The religious background of Sis. Della Miles was the doctrine of holiness. It made a strong appeal to her under the ministry of dear Bro. Robinson. She readily embraced it, being associated with a people better known as the "Evening Light" saints. In the year of 1918 she moved to the state of Okla., after losing her first companion (Mr. Ivory). Later she was united in matrimony to one Mr. Miles and remained together until death separated them, he preceding her in death; also the oldest daughter and baby son.

Mother Della Miles maintained her Christian integrity in spite of her human weaknesses and difficulties on her pilgrimage. During her illness, which handicapped her very much over the period of seven years, she had quite a struggle in faith against the satanic powers. She would always be refreshed in the spirit when the people of God would administer to her in song, prayer and exhortation. Mother Della Miles lived in the home and care of daughter and son-in-law Rush Gunter until she departed this life. Three days prior to her departure, God blessed her with a song and prayer service that elevated her above the problem that confronted her. Mother Della Miles was blessed to see her 98th birthday and behold the fifth generation in her family link. She departed this life March 19th, 1956 at 2:30 a. m., Monday morning. She leaves four daughters: Ozella Jones, Lillie Hood, Della Harris, Rosie Gunter of Okla. City and one son Charlie Ivory of Stockton, Calif., together with her grandchildren down to the fifth generation there are 115 left to mourn her departure. As it is fitting for her to meet her appointment let us resolve and resign to God's will, not as one that has no hope, but as one having hope beyond this vale of tears.

Funeral conducted by M. Spears at Boley, Okla. Text: Job 26:5.



Sister Ocie Mae Johnson, daughter of Jenkin and Neicie Johnson, was born Nov. 18, 1905 in Kiblah, Ark. and departed this life at her home, March 17th, 1956 at the age of 51 years and 4 months.

From childhood she always lived a sweet and obedient life. On February 21, 1930 she was united in marriage to William Adams. To this union five children were born, two preceding her in death in their infancy.

She heard the truth preached and embraced it in Nov. of 1950, and lived true and faithful to God until death. She was always willing to help others. During the last three days of her illness she was partially confined to bed and bore her suffering calmly, and trusted God to the end. We'll miss her greatly, but we have a beautiful example left for us to follow. Our loss is heaven's gain.

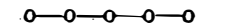
The bereaved are: her husband, William Adams, San Antonio, Texas; two daughters, Mrs. Frances Chandler and Miss Lillie Mae Adams of Okla. City; one son, William Adams of Okla. City; two grandchildren, Phillis Cecilia and Charles Leroy Chandler; a step-mother, Ida B. Johnson of Boley, Okla.; two sisters, Lillie Bell Stevenson of Okla. City, and Lucille Francisco of Bakersfield, Calif.; two step-sisters, Mrs. Rosie Lee Moreland and Mrs. Annie Mae Thomas of Bakersfield, Calif.; nine brothers, Mansfield Johnson of Berkley, Calif., A. C. and Milton Johnson of Okla. City, Menser, Roy and Willie Johnson of Boley, Okla., Raymond and Jewell Johnson of Wichita, Kansas, Leo Johnson of Caldwell, Kansas; a step brother, James R. Penny of Okla. City; seven aunts, one uncle and a host of cousins and friends.

Funeral conducted by M. Spears. Text: Heb. 2:14.

—o—o—o—o—o—

PRAYER REQUESTS

My husband fell the 7th of March and hurt his left arm and shoulder and he still suffers much with it at times, and I am ailing in body. Please pray and request prayer for both of us. —Sister Cora Brant, Mich.



Alice Wicker of Richmond, Va. desires the earnest prayers of the saints for the healing of a serious mouth affliction. She is trusting the Lord fully.

MEETING NOTICE

The Young People's Meeting in Los Angeles, Calif. will be held every second and fourth Friday night of the month at the Church of God Chapel, corner of Walnut and Naomi St. Phone Richmond 75793.

"These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." Revelation 3:15, 16.

National Campmeeting Notice

The 19th annual National campmeeting of the church of God will be held, Lord willing, on the saints' campground at Monark Springs (Neosho), Mo. on July 20 to 29th, inclusive. Monark Springs is located five miles east of Neosho on Highway 86, so those coming by bus or train will come to Neosho, then call the Monark Springs store for some one to come to get them. Watch for the highway markers leading to the campground.

All saints and lovers of the truth are invited to attend this meeting and will receive a hearty welcome. Meals will be served in the dining hall on the free-will offering plan. As in years past, the tents will rent for \$5.00 each. The cots, including mattress, will be \$1.00. Space in the dormitories, including cot and mattress, will be \$2.50 per person. Bring your own bedding if possible. Let none stay away who are unable to pay—all will be cared for to the full extent of the facilities. Please send your tent orders in NOW, or as soon as possible, and mail direct to Bro. Ralph M. Beisley, R. 5, Coffeyville, Kans.

Come praying and prepared to receive a blessing to your soul and be a blessing to someone else. Pray that God will send His ministers to preach the Word with the power of the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven.

The building work on the campground is progressing very well. We were there on Saturday, May 5th, and helped with the work on the second story above the rest rooms and storage room. This second story is to be the women's dormitory. The cost on this additional room may cause an indebtedness, but we feel the saints will respond for this need, also.

This is a national gathering of God's people, so let all the saints everywhere support this meeting. If you have an offering for the building project or the coming campmeeting, or desire further information, contact the undersigned or any of the following: Albert Eck, R. 1, Bartlett, Kans.; Sam Barton, 2264 N. Columbia Place, Tulsa, Okla.; Ralph Beisley, R. 5, Coffeyville, Kans.; Amos Porter, R. 2, Granby, Mo.

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

o-o-o-o-o

CORRECTION IN HENNESSEY, OKLA. CAMPMEETING DATE—The Hennessey, Okla. campmeeting will begin June 1st and end June 10th.

For information write Bro. Thomas Davis, Box 441, Hennessey, Okla., or to Willa J. Williams, R. 1, Box 113, Hennessey, or to Sis. Ada Davis, Pastor.

HOFFMAN, OKLAHOMA

The Hoffman, Okla. saints are planning their first campmeeting this year, Lord willing, June 22nd to July 1st. We are looking for the Lord to stir the saints; also sinners to come to this meeting. Bring your bedding. Places will be provided for sleeping quarters. The meetings will be run on the free-will offering plan.

For further information write to Bro. Andrew Lignons, P. O. Box 64, Hoffman, Okla. or W. W. Crawley, Pastor. Your Sister in Christ, Lorene Payne (Sec.)

HAMMOND, LA.

The 49th Annual General Southern Campmeeting of the Church of God at Hammond, La. will be held on the saint's campground from June 29 to July 8. The grounds are located about one mile southwest of the Ill. Central depot. We have good Greyhound bus, train and also mail service. Highways 51 and 190 lead here to Hammond. To reach the grounds take highway 51 to Red Top filling station on the New Orleans highway, then go west to dead end, and there is the campground.

The meeting is run on the free-will offering plan. Sleeping quarters and meals served as the Lord provides. All saints from near by bring your bed linens and towels.

Come whether you can help financially or not and enjoy the meeting with us. All are invited. We are looking to the Lord to send ministers of His choosing. There will be three services daily. We want to see folks saved and healed.

Anyone having provisions and donations send to Max Williamson, Hammond, La., Phone 3007 or to Ray Key, Loranger, La., Phone 6730 Independence Exchange.

Yours in Christ,

Sister Katherine Key.

AKRON, OHIO

The saints at Akron, Ohio extend a hearty invitation to all to attend our annual campmeeting. It will begin June 29th and continue through July 8th or as long as the Lord leads.

For further information write to Sis. Cordelia R. Jones, 740 Roscoe Ave, Akron 6, Ohio.

Your Sister in one body,

—Cordelia R. Jones.

GREEN PASTURES, OKLA.

The Green Pastures Campmeeting will begin July 6th and continue thru the 15th. E. V. Sanders (Pastor), T. M. Hinton (Sec.).

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W. VA.

The West Virginia State Campmeeting of the Church of God at South Charleston, W. Va. will begin July 6th and continue through July 15th.

All lovers of the truth are invited to come. We are praying God to give us an old time campmeeting in which souls will be saved, believers sanctified, the sick sealed, and the Word of God preached with the anointing of the Holy Spirit. We are looking to the Lord to send ministers that will do this kind of preaching.

The meeting will be supported by the free-will offering plan. Sleeping quarters will be provided for all who come. Meals will be served in the dining hall.

Please all saints pray for the meeting and all come who can. For further information, write or call Bro. Thomas and Sister Beatrice Spaur, 151½ 10th Ave., So. Charleston, W. Va., Phone R. I. 45-339.

JENA, LA.

The Jena, La. Campmeeting is to begin July 13 and continue through the 22nd. Phone 2-2198 or write for particulars to Ruth Murphey, Route 1, Box 43, Jena, La.

Guthrie, Okla., August 3-12.

Bakersfield, Calif. Campmeeting—Aug. 10-19.

California State Campmeeting at Pacoima, Calif., Aug. 24-Sept. 2.

MYRTLE, MO.

The sixth Annual Campmeeting at Myrtle, Mo. of this year will begin August the 17th to the 25th the Lord willing. This meeting, as usual, will be carried on as the Lord provides. We are looking to the Lord to send ministers of His choosing to preach the truth.

All of you that plan to come and camp on the ground, if possible, bring a pillow and covering for yourself. Beds with straw ticks will be furnished free as long as they last. The saints started a building here last year to be used for dining room; also to serve other purposes in taking care of all that come to the meeting. We would like to have this building in readiness to use for this campmeeting. The oak lumber for the frame work is now being laid on the ground. We are praying for a good carpenter who can take the lead.

We ask the saints to get a burden on your heart for this work with us.

Send your offerings to Bro. A. J. or Earl Sorrell, Rt. 1, Myrtle, Mo.

JEFFERSON, OREGON

We, the saints at Jefferson, Oregon plan, the Lord willing, to have our campmeeting June 29th through July 8th. We are looking to the Lord for ministers of His choosing that can bring forth the Word with power. We extend a hearty welcome to all lovers of the truth. All come praying. The meeting will be supported by free will offerings. The meals will be without charge in the dining hall. We have some cabins and will try to care for all that come. Bring what bedding you can. We are expecting the Lord to give us a meeting that will long be remembered on account of His great blessing on us.

Those coming by Bus come to Jefferson. The chapel is one block south and half block east on Hazel St. Those coming by train will be met at Albany. Please let us know when you get there and we will meet you.

For further information write to Bro. Harry Davis, Rt. 1, Aumsville, Oregon, or to Bro. Noah White, Jefferson, Oregon, or to Emma Busch, Rt. 2, Box 206, Scio, Oregon.

DOVER, OKLAHOMA

The Dover, Oklahoma Campmeeting will begin, the Lord willing, August 31st and continue on through September 9th, 1956 inclusive. It is located one mile north and two and one half miles east of Dover. Dover is on highway 81. We will gladly meet anyone coming on the Bus if notified in time. We are expecting cool nights, so bring blankets. Pray much for the meeting.

Send offerings to Henry Caldwell or to Ulysses Phillips, Dover, Oklahoma.

Yours in Christ,

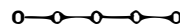
Ulysses Phillips.

Correspondence

Colo.—Dear readers of "Faith and Victory,"—Greetings in Jesus' precious name. I am still thanking God for His saving, keeping, and healing power. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalms 46:1. Last summer I injured my right hand pounding a padlock to close it. I did this repeatedly until it seemed that when I would touch my hand against something it would seem that an electric shock was going through my hand. At the Calif. State Campmeeting I was anointed and prayer was offered and it soon stopped entirely. During the long hard winter I had a cold most of the time and about the 27th of April I took what I supposed was the flu. It settled in my ears, throat, and chest, and it seemed my throat would swell so I could scarcely swallow anything. The pounding in my ears was so strong I could not lie with my ear on the pillow, and I coughed so and raised so much mucous I could not get much rest. I was so weak in body and would break out in perspiration when I would do a little necessary work. Some said I'd better see a doctor. One wanted to bring me her prayer cloth. But I told her I had an anointed handkerchief in my bedside table, which I would apply. This I did, and God relieved me many times, but as soon as I would sit in a draft in a car or bus or get my feet damp I would get worse again. Thank God, I am much better now, but my left ear is in bad shape and I cannot hear very well. God has healed my ears before, but this was the worst trial I have had with it. Please pray that God will heal me so that I may be able to attend some of the good meetings. Also pray for my brother who is in a state hospital where they have been giving him so much strong drugs that he has been almost paralyzed. I talked to them about it and they decreased the doses and he could talk to me the last time I visited him, though I could not understand much of what he said. Pray that he may be saved. I read and pray with him, but he has been so drowsy I couldn't accomplish much.

Your sister in Christ,

E. Coral Johnson.



Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints,—It has been quite a while since I've written a testimony for the Lord. I daily thank the Lord for so many blessings and for hearing and answering prayer. Although there is no church service to go to here, I have church by myself. And, oh! the blessing, joy, and peace that I get from the Lord is impossible to tell.

I am thanking the Lord for the way He touched my hip and leg and spine the last ten days. For months they have been giving me trouble. The trouble would start in the hip, go on down into my leg, and from the hip to my spine. I haven't been able to lie on that side for a long time, and this winter it just kept getting worse. A couple of weeks ago I began to feel that it had hurt long enough, and if I really went to the Lord with fasting and prayer he would heal it. So a week ago I went to the Lord, and had written my folks to be praying with me. So, praise the Lord, I surely feel he has healed it. I haven't had any pain since. It was sore at first, but even the soreness is leaving and I can lie on it. I just feel I can't thank Him enough for the way He answers prayer. Please pray that I will always be found doing His will and drawing closer to Him. Your sister in Christ,

Hazel Savage.



Okla.—Dear saints of God everywhere, greetings in the name of the Lord. I am yet saved and sanctified and satisfied and so happy this morning I just feel like testi-

fying through the "Faith and Victory." There are no other saints here in this place, but I thank the Lord that I am here lifting up a standard for the Lord. Every once in a while the Lord blesses by sending saints here from other places to have services with me, and that wonderfully revives my soul.

On April 11th, the Lord gave me this song:

Things Haven't Been the Same

When I was a sinner away out in the world,
Oh, how I did love worldly things,
But Jesus came and took away the shame
And things haven't been the same.

Chorus—Things haven't been the same,
No, things haven't been the same
Since Jesus found me
And put his arms around me,
Things haven't been the same.

Prayer changes things,
Oh, prayer changes things,
When Jesus my blessed Saviour came,
Things haven't been the same.

—Miss J. M. Matthews



Oklahoma.—Dear Saints:—Whom do we seek for in time of affliction? Yes, Christ our great physician. "The prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up." James 5:15. If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." These and many other promises in God's word assures us of God's mighty healing power.

If Christ were upon the earth today, I am sure different ones would travel many miles to be relieved of their sickness, if only they could but touch the hem of His garment. Can not we approach Him today as they did while He walked on the earth? Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever. Heb. 13:8.

Christ is stirred with great compassion and is willing to heal when we do our part.

I thank God for healing me of an affliction of late. I ever desire to be faithful to the end.

One who loves Christ, —Nina Classen.



Mo.—Dear Saints: Greetings to all in Jesus' dear name.—I feel that it would please the Lord for me to tell a few of my experiences that happened years ago. My husband was in the hospital and Ira, Edith and Ethel were at school. No one there but Arvel and I. He had taken very bad sick. He would get limber and then stiffen up. I laid him on the bed and sat down by him, laid my hands on him, and began to pray. It wasn't long until he moved a little. I looked at him. He grinned. I kept on praying and he moved again and that time he laughed out loud so he began to try to get up. He got off the bed and went out on the porch. I followed him. I surely was happy and thanking and praising God. He wasn't sick anymore. I still thank His name for what He has done for us in time of need. Arvel was in bed about three months. I thank the dear Lord he is up now and able to work. I thank you dear ones for your prayers. Fred is up and able to go but can't walk up straight as he should. Arthur is a lot better and able to work. Keep on praying for us all. I pray that God will bless and take care of you all.

A Sister in Christ, —Nancy Sweeza.

Ohio.—Dear Saints:—I am still thanking God first of all for saving my soul and giving me grace to be an overcomer over the tricks and plots of the devil.

I'm so thankful God is still in the healing business. A few weeks ago I caught the flu and was very sick. God wonderfully healed me and kept my little girl from catching it even though she slept with me. Oh, how I thank him for that.

I had a job but I was only off one Sunday a month, and so the saints and I had been praying that God would bless me with a job that I would be off on Sundays. About a week ago God answered that prayer. I got a job where I am off every Saturday and Sunday. It is at a place that recognizes God. They have a church service 20 minutes every morning before starting to work. On Fridays we have a prayer meeting in the afternoon. How I thank the Lord for that. The first service I attended they were singing "Take the name of Jesus with you." How that encouraged me.

I desire the saints to remember our campmeeting we plan to have from June 29th to July 8th. We want the Lord to save some precious soul. We also desire your prayers for our youngpeople's meeting and our Bible reading. We thank the Lord for the faithful older saints who take an interest in the young people. It is so encouraging to hear their wonderful experiences on how God has kept them saved through the years. It is most encouraging to see them living the life they are testifying of. So you pray that God will continue to bless in our meetings.

I also desire your sincere prayers that I will live up to the name of Christ in my daily walk of life so that others may see there is a reality in serving the true and living God.

Your sister,

—Dorothy Jackson.



Calif.—Dear Saints:—We thank God for all his blessings to us. God is showing us how we need to draw closer to Him and be about our "Father's business" instead of our own business.

A few nights ago He gave me a dream to show us our condition. In my dream, we and other saints had rushed to the scene of a fire to lend a helping hand. A large hospital was blazing, a hundred people were in the flames unable to help themselves out. On one side of the hospital was a veneer of very expensive material and we were all rushing around trying to save the veneer. I was standing on one side praying and wondering about it all. On one side I could hear the people screaming as the flames grew hotter and hotter—and on the other, saved men were so busy with material things that they seemed to never notice the cries and screams of those perishing lives. The men then loaded the material into a pick-up, hurried off to unload it and return for more.

Perishing lives were still at their hands to save, but they were too busy. Then I began to pray, "Lord, help me to be able to help those perishing ones." The screams could still be heard as the men drove away with all the earthly possessions they could save. The building crumbled and crashed to the ground.

Oh, dear saints, let us not be so busy about temporal things that we can't see the work that needs to be done for perishing souls.

We need to get cut loose from this world. Remember the prophesy of Christ? Isa. 61:1, "He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that

are bound." We may not be in a jail but we can easily be bound to the house-work, jobs or things we like to do; such as, reading, sewing, eating, sleeping, listening to the radio, talking, doing fancy work, etc. If you are doing anything that you are so interested in or so BOUND to that when God says, "Pray now," "Spend this time reading my Word," "You should write an encouraging letter to someone," "Go visit someone," you continue with what you are doing instead of doing what God wants you to—Satan has you bound to that extent! The thing itself isn't wrong but if you are BOUND to it it is coming between you and God and therefore is wrong.

The Lord has showed me where I was BOUND to many things and it was dragging my soul down into a lukewarm condition. Remember what he told the church of Laodiceans? "I know thy works that thou art neither cold nor hot, so then because thou art neither cold nor hot . . . I will spue thee out of my mouth." The Lord knows what he is requiring of us and so do we. Let us each one search our lives and see if we are BOUND to a few little things. —Mrs. Charlotte Huskey.

Va.—Greetings to all the Saints:—I am a new convert in the truth and am so thankful for God's way. I was hurt in a fall about three years ago. My hip was fractured. I stayed in the hospital for several weeks, and all my suffering and torture I went through only the Lord knows. I was living alone and working at the time of my fall. I was 71 years old. I could walk and work good as anyone at that age. The Lord was good to me but I didn't know him then as I do now, yet I always loved the Lord. I prayed and attended church and joined the Baptist Church when I was 12 years old. You know I was a real Baptist. I curled my hair and bobbed it and I loved to dress up. In my stay at the hospital I found I wouldn't be able to work for a while. All my friends stuck with me at first but when they found I would be a bed patient for a while they didn't want me. I worked with Sister Bessie Faudree for years but wasn't crazy about her religion. She came to see me. She said, "Florence, don't you worry, I'll take you in my house." Some of my friends said, "You won't be able to stay there for they have those meetings and roll and holler. They stay up half the night." Thank God, that wasn't true. I went. There God worked with me, healing my back of a bed sore (You could put an egg in it.) and restored my mind, healed my hip, so that I could walk with a cane.

One day while holding on to Sister Bessie in a store, the sweetest voice I ever heard spoke to me, "Put your cane in the other hand." I did and went on walking. I walked up and down the store praising God, forgetting what I went in there for. I told everyone. Only a few could understand. I was the lame one that God spoke to. I could understand now. Friends, all you who have been in sects and grounded and settled in it like I was, you can understand. I fought against this truth and felt like I would like to get away from it and never hear it any more but God didn't let me alone. I humbled my stiffened heart down and let the Lord have His way. I love the saints and I love God's way. If the Lord wills, I want to go to campmeeting and be baptized. Pray for me that I stay humble and low down at Jesus feet. He has done so much for me. Pray earnestly for me and all the saints here. They have been so good to me.

Love and prayers, :—Florence Chamberlayne.

Kans.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and Saints abroad.—I am thankful to say I am still saved and sanctified and encouraged to live for the Lord. I want to testify of some of the blessings the Lord has bestowed upon me. The Lord saved and sanctified me and has healed me many times. I know God is healing and keeping me saved today, just as He did yesterday. My life truly has witness to the song, "He is just the same today." If you have sickness of your soul or your body or if your heart has been broken or wounded in anyway the Lord has help for you. I would like to testify to the glory of God, He has a cure for all of you. We know that thru our lives and the Word of God it is all real. Along with our testimony, we have these Scriptures: Heb. 13:8, Matt. 10:8, Luke 4:18, Psa. 41:4.

Pray much for me that I will continue on by God's grace. Pray much for my unsaved companion and loved ones.

Your Sister in Christ, Juanita Watson.

Mo.—Greetings to the Saints:—It is with much praise and thanksgiving to the Lord that we still have our little boy David with us, healthy and normal, for it was one year ago today that he was run over, (May 2nd). We know only God could have kept life in his body. What a mighty God we serve.

David hasn't been sick except for a few colds and the mumps, but neither seemed to hurt him. One night he couldn't sleep for his ear bothering him. The enemy tried to paint dark pictures and discourage us, as we had just had a battle with the baby being sick for several days. We finally got some to help us pray and he slept good the rest of the night.

It is impossible for us to fathom the great power of God, but we want to always remember that He made all things and He holdeth the waters in His hand, everything is at God's command. If God be for us who can be against us? He can make even our enemies be at peace with us. Surely he has. We are so thankful that we can love those that spitefully use us and persecute us.

Pray for us that we will always be able to truthfully say "To know thy will is to do it," so that we may have that perfect love that casteth out all fear.

—Louie and Evodna Marler.

Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt. Holy greetings in Jesus' dear name.—I am writing to thank all the saints for their prayers in my behalf. The saints anointed and prayed for me during the Boley meeting and I haven't felt the misery since. I do thank the Lord and all the dear saints for their prayers.

Yours in the one body, —Mattie Ligons.

Okla.—Dear Saints of God; with greetings in Jesus' dear name to the saints.—This leaves me still saved trusting the Lord. I pray the good Lord will give you all grace to carry on His good work. We trust many will be saved through the printed pages that have been sent out to different ones. The little faith paper and tracts I trust will reach hearts that will be saved.

I really like the tracts you sent me they were really good and encouraging to me. I still need your prayers that God will help me in soul and body and have His way. It is really hard. There isn't anyone saved in our family and there aren't any saints in this town, just church people and sects.

Pray for me and family and may God bless you

all and keep you true to His Word, and may God bless the good work you are doing.

Your saved sister in the Lord, Mrs. Ben Harrison.

Okla.—Dear Saints, Greetings in the precious name of Jesus.—I want to send in my testimony how the Lord healed my body. Truly I can say I am still saved and much encouraged to go all the way with the dear Lord. I am living to all I know and understand.

About three weeks ago I had taken with a pain in my neck. It was swollen pretty large. On Saturday night I started suffering. I could not turn my head. I had to lie on the side where the pain was. The misery was so bad I could not stand to be turned over. I suffered from Saturday night until Thursday. Sister Robertson, Sis. Cornelious, Sis. Jordan and Sis. Ligans came over. They prayed for me and I began to feel better. Later on they had prayer again. I still felt better. In the evening Bro. and Sis Ligans, Sis. Alexander and Sis. Armelia came and had prayer with me. From then on I began to feel better, thank the good Lord. Friday the pain was still there but I could turn on my left side and rest better. Oh, how I do thank and praise the dear Lord for his wonderful blessings. I do thank the Lord how he came to my rescue, and how he keeps my soul each day. I thank all the saints for their prayers.

About two years ago I had an itching on my face under my eyes. I sent to Guthrie for an anointed handkerchief. It was sent to me. I placed it on my face and truly I can say the Lord touched my body and healed me. To him I give all the praise. I truly thank all the saints for their prayers.

I desire the prayers of all the saints to remember me in prayer that the Lord will give me more wisdom and better understanding to live for Him. Remember our unsaved children that the Lord will call after hearts before it is too late.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Fannie Taylor.

Ga.—To the Saints of God everywhere.—I am writing to say that I am saved, praise the Lord, from a miserable life of sin. I can testify I have been saved since 1925. The Lord is good to me. He heals my body from time to time, he keeps me clothed in my right mind. I can see fine without my glasses. I feel like I yet need a deeper consecration and I also can and will appreciate a better understanding about the Holy Ghost. I know Jesus lives through a clean life and a holy life. I have prayed for many sick ones and the Lord has healed. Sometimes I put my hands on them, and sometimes I just sit in the room where the sick are, and tell the Father in the name of Jesus to touch and heal and make well. In a few minutes the sick will say, "Oh, I feel so much better." They don't know that I prayed for them.

I praise the Lord for salvation. I praise the Lord for showing me the Church of God in 1939 and in an isolated way. My two sisters, the oldest and the youngest have accepted the truth. I was a member of a denomination. I thank the good Lord for the Church of God that our Redeemer bought with His own precious blood.

May God bless all, whosoever is worthy of a blessing. Pray for me.

—E. B. McNair.

Texas—Dear saints, I feel like writing my testimony that it might be of some help to someone.

We have been just barely getting by, not getting much work. My husband was worrying about what we

were going to do. As he worried, I was singing. He said, "You are the singiest woman I ever saw."

He went to town and got a job. He walked back home for his boots then to town again in a hurry and had a heart attack. They phoned the doctor, who gave him a shot and sent him to the hospital. They came by for me. He told them that we didn't have the money to go to the hospital, but the doctor said, "Well, you're going anyway for a few days." He stayed two days and nights. He was worrying about what we would do. I told him the Word says we are of more value than many sparrows and that the Lord would provide. The Scripture cannot be broken. I prayed for the Lord to supply the doctor and hospital bills. I had already been praying about the other bills. I thought of what Bro. Pruitt said: "The Lord can supply a big amount as well as he can a little amount." That was encouraging to me, and I am writing this because it might be of some help or encouragement to someone else. The Sunday before this happened on Tuesday I was singing: "And now I have flung myself recklessly out, Like a chip on the stream of the Infinite Will; I pass the rough rocks with a smile and a shout And I just let my God his dear purpose fulfill." The Spirit said, "Have you? or can you?" I said in my mind, "I believe I can."

The Lord has wonderfully supplied. All the bills are paid, praise His dear name forever, and \$97.00 over, also eggs, chicken, canned goods, potatoes. He is still supplying. My husband has to stay in bed for a week or two before he can sit up in a chair, and the doctor said it would be a long time before he could work, and I cannot do very much. I still think of the song: "Be of good cheer, the Lord is providing." The doctor said my husband could not dip snuff or chew tobacco or smoke, and said if he would follow his instructions he would be all right but if he didn't, he wouldn't. I want you to be agreed in prayer for his soul to be saved and for deliverance from the tobacco habit.

Christian love,

Nellie Lovell.

AN OPEN LETTER TO CHURCH MEMBERS OR OTHERS IN CONFUSION OR BABYLON

(Continued from the May Issue)

God the Father turned his back on Jesus as He hung on the cross because Jesus had the sins of the world on Him, and it broke His heart to do it; but this showed the Father's great love to usward. Yet we can hardly comprehend His great love for us only by the Spirit, for when we come to realize the Father's great love for us, then our hearts will swell with sorrow and our eyes run down with tears because of our sins which made it necessary for God to sacrifice His only begotten Son that we might be freed from the shackles of sin and the devil's power. Amen.

As it is plain to see, that while Jesus bore our sins, God turned His back on Him, we know by this that God's back is turned against any sinner who will not repent of his sins and forsake them.

Now go to 1 John 1:9 with me: "If we confess our sins," He forgives us our sin and cleanses us from all unrighteousness. Notice, it reads ALL unrighteousness, not just what we ourselves want to get rid of, for sin is sin and must be done away. We are to get rid of sin while in this life, and ready for heaven, living holy lives for Him. 1 Peter 1:15, 16.

To see ourselves in sin and being sorry we sinned against God and ask Him to forgive us is justification. But there is something more yet. We still have the old carnal nature or depraved nature, or the nature of the fallen man Adam that we were born with. This also we must have washed away—or rather I should say burned out. Even as we sometime need to sand-paper some articles to make it show forth its brilliancy, so God will cleanse us from all stain and stint that there be no contamination or any evidence left to show that we were sinners who seemed at one time—or not only seemed but were—unworthy of any effort on God's part to make any attempt to wash us with water and then purify us with fire to make us fit for the Master's use. We were actually unworthy. Now consider His love for you, my friend, and cease this mockery affair.

How many sects are preaching and teaching about this? None—true, they do not need it with the other things that they are teaching.

In going from one sect to another, I find by most of their lives that they still have it in their hearts. You cannot have that old carnal nature and be holy or sinless, and the Word says, without holiness no man shall see the Lord (Heb. 12:14). Turn to 1 Cor. 1:2. Now to get rid of the carnal nature, we have to humble ourselves and come to Jesus for that cleansing, and He will clean our heart of that, and we take it by faith when we ask.

Another proof of the fact that sin must be abolished is that Christ has no part with Satan—and sin is the work of Satan. So if sin is in the body, Satan must also be there. There can be no sin in the body of Christ, the church. Now if we permit sin to continually remain in our hearts, the Spirit of God will not enter (John 17:17; 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Thess. 3:13; 1 Peter 5:10).

I will now explain or make the matter clear concerning the harlots or harlot daughters of sectism. These are not fornicators according to the flesh, but are spiritual adulterers and spiritual fornicators. Rev. 17:5; 1 Cor. 6:15, 16. These are not the children of God, but are of those who profess that they are the children of God while committing fornication with the heathen world. That is, committing spiritual fornication with the world. Example: They go to shows, have television in their homes, some even play bingo. They just go, go, and go everywhere in their cars, and do many, many other things even as the world—no difference. Of course, it is true that the people of God could do likewise, but it would be a shame and a terrible disgrace and would cause the whole assembly to mourn and be in great sorrow that such a thing should befall them to bring upon them such disgrace.

Yes, these are workings of these sectarian people, such as their dress, the wearing of jewels, using of lipstick—all these are enmity with God and cannot be tolerated in His church. James 4:4.

In the Word, the Spirit speaking through Paul concerning all truly saved or born-again individuals, said, "Now ye are the body of Christ." 1 Cor. 12:27. Now this means US. And as it was prophesied many

years before his birth in the flesh concerning his crucifixion that his body should not be broken, God was careful inasmuch that the regular custom of breaking the bones of those crucified was not carried out on Christ. This has a particular and vastly important sign for us in this gospel day, as we are the body of Christ or the true church of God. And again we are told in 1 Cor. 12:25 that there is to be no schism (division or break) in the body.

Now this means unquestionably that all the ism or schism (for schism is the English term of the Greek word ism) as found in the so-called present day religion, all of which have split off (which is the true meaning of the word schism) from the Mother whose church and are therefore her harlot daughters, and not any of them are the Bride of Christ. This includes such religions as the Mother Catholicism, her first daughter Protestantism, and the other daughters, and all the many granddaughters and great-granddaughters of sectism, denominationalism, and their step sisters, Communism, Hinduism, Mohammadism, Buddhism, etc.

If you would like anything explained that you do not understand, I would be glad to help you. I have written this with the aid of the Holy Spirit, not to hurt anyone in any way. And I have never sent tracts or booklets purposely to hurt any one's feelings, but to help them get deeper in Christ, and higher up the spiritual road.

There is only one true Spirit, and many false ones. That is why we have to walk slowly and carefully on this highway of holiness, for no one can err and remain on it. (Isa. 35:5-9). In the ninth verse we read, "No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon [that is, those with the greedy and beast-like nature as any before being sanctified wholly] but the redeemed shall walk there."

And now, my friend, we can know when we are cleansed from ALL SIN and stain, wholly sanctified and redeemed. A-men.

I trust that we understand what Jesus said to the people as recorded in John 6:44. "No man can come to me except the Father which hath sent me draw him." And in John 15:16, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, He may give it you."

Now, my friend, if I were still in any kind of worldly sin, I would be afraid. Many a young person just recently has come through here selling wares. They say they are saved, yet smelling of tobacco, and my heart just aches for them. They say it with their mouth and mind, but do not show it by their life, as Jesus says in Matt. 7:20: "By their fruits ye shall know them." Our fruits are the way we live and talk and dress. Read Matt. 15:8; 2 Tim. 3:5.

In Rev. 17:5 it reads, "And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATION OF THE EARTH." And in Rev. 18:2, the angel cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, "Babylon the

great IS fallen, IS fallen, and IS become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." Verse 3, "For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies." The kings and merchants are the priests and preachers of the Mother harlot and her daughters. Do you then wonder why the warning or calling as recorded in the 4th verse, saying, "And I heard another voice from heaven saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Her, or woman, is the word used for church whether it is the true or false church.

People are preaching today that Revelation (or most of it) is yet to come to pass; but the truth is, most of it is already fulfilled. Rev. 1:1. Now in Rev. 18:23 it reads, "The voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee" (Babylon). I say, praise the Lord, I have fled out of her (Babylon) and I pray you will see the true light and flee also. Read 1 John 1:1-8.

You can see for yourself that God is displeased with her. Now go with me to Jer. 51:6, Here see how God was warning Israel not to partake of her sins. Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul.

Now in this gospel day we take the Old Testament spiritually as well as the New Testament. Rom. 7:6, and not in the literal; for they (literal Israel) were as a shadow to show forth the coming of the spiritual Israel which we are. Turn now to 2 Cor. 6:17, 18. Warnings a plenty, and all plain to him that understandeth. Now read Eph. 5:7. Then read the 4th verse to see what we are not to partake of. Then read St. John 8:34, Jesus' own words.

The Bridegroom is Christ and the Bride is His church not having spot or wrinkle. Paul tells us in Eph. 5:25-27 in the 26th verse, "Sanctify [set apart, holy] and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish." Is this the picture of these sectarian churches? God's people cannot afford to trifle with anything that would appear like sin. It is much better to cast it aside (1 Thess. 5:22). Rom. 14:17, "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." Amen. That means not literal but spiritual.

Let all who read, take warning, as the Lord may not call again. Remember, God is seeking someone to worship Him in spirit and in truth. Is it going to be YOU? If so, you will also be seeking Him, for we read in 2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." What a wonderful God we have to be patiently waiting for sinners to make up their minds whether they will repent or not. Remember He is

waiting, so do not keep Him waiting too long, as your salvation depends upon your making haste. Come now before it is said, TOO LATE!

—Sister Catherine Helen Halladay, N. Y.

— o o o —

Why Condemn the Television?

"For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory." 2 Cor. 3:9.

There are certain things which God condemns, while certain things meet his divine approval. We may wonder why this is so. Preachers and gospel workers also condemn and approve as they use their God-given judgment. If we condemn what He has already condemned, our judgment will stand. But if we condemn what He approves, our condemnation will not stand and is unjust.

Our text teaches us that the ministration of God's condemnation is glorious. Yes, praise God, what He condemns, He condemns for our glory. Our God knows our weakness. He remembers our frame is but dust. In His divine wisdom He knows that we become like that which influences us as we pass through this life. We are all just human sponges, absorbing that which we let influence our lives, and we become full of that which appeals to us. Then we find ourselves acting in accord with that which has touched and influenced our lives.

Evil influences entrap and bind us until we become helpless slaves to their beck and call.

Our text also teaches us that the ministration of righteousness exceeds the ministration of condemnation in glory. God knows the influences and their source that will drag us down to a devil's hell. He also knows what will influence us and draw us heavenward. He also knows that in our fallen, depraved nature, we are helpless to rise above that which would drag us downward. Therefore in His divine wisdom He made a way for our escape through the precious blood of His only begotten Son. So by the way of the cross we become partakers of His divine nature. Being children of God, we naturally love the things that He loves and hate that which He hates because of our changed nature. That which we see and hear makes great impressions on our minds and causes us to become like that which impresses us.

Our children are born in sin (Psa. 51:5) with a sinful, depraved nature. Therefore the lust of the world naturally appeals to their minds and leads them deeper into the clutches of sin. Our children, praise God, nevertheless are born with a tender conscience toward God and his righteousness. Therefore if that which meets God's approval is constantly held before them, their little hearts will be kept tender so it will be easy to lead them to the Savior. But if we permit them to be exposed to all the lust of the world, such as is coming over the television daily, they will become calloused and hardened in sin until they will be helpless to break the power of sin that has them bound. Satan is advertising all his wares over the

television. Why? Because the sinful fleshly minds of the worldly ones want it so. And in order to be able to exist and keep in business the sponsors of television programs must feed the lustful minds of the worldly-minded or go out of business. If everything that comes over television would draw us heavenward, then television would be a blessing and not a curse. But as long as time shall last there will be those that grow rich by feeding the lustful minds of the world.

Television is dragging hellward ALL its devoted slaves. Therefore we must cry out against this great evil. Even a good moral man, one that loves his home and children, if rightly informed, would not permit a television in his home to lead his children into a degraded, dissipated, helpless condition, slaves to all the lustful habits that the devil is inventing.

True saints of God in this evening light, cry out against the evils that television is bringing upon this generation. —One who loves the truth, H. P. Huskey

:::
NOTICE

The saints at Webb City, Mo. have changed their prayermeeting to Wed. night.—Bro. and Sis. Williamson.

—o—o—o—

Some People

Some people make a profession,
Their tongue can say a lot
It says they are this or that, but
Their life—, It says they're not.

Our life, it speaks so loud, my friend
They can't hear what we say
It's mighty hard to fool the world,
Our lives gives us away.

The life we live is better far,
Than all the words we say,
To prove unto this dying world,
Our sins are washed away.

—o—o—o—o—o—o—o—
Are You A Pilate?

Jesus was brought before Pilate's throne,
It was by no sin or fault of his own.
The Jews condemned him with very much vim,
Why? said Pilate, I find no fault in him.

Vehemently the Jews wanted him to die.
See, behold your Saviour, Pilate did cry.
Crucify him, all their voices did ring;
Pilate said, why crucify you your King?

A roaring mob they were getting to be,
Kill him, kill him, and set Barabbas free.
Pilate wished very much this mob to mind,
But in Jesus not a fault he could find.

The Jews of Pilate a choice made demands,
It was then that Pilate did wash his hands.
For he feared the Jews would start a revolt,
While in Jesus he did find no fault.

Ah, but Pilate did make a choice that day:
He chose the crowd, Jesus he sent away.
He did this just to please the people's whims,
Altho in Jesus he did find no sins.

Tho Pilate washed his hands to make him pure,
In this act he thought he was secure.
He wished very much himself to exalt,
He forgot in Jesus there was no fault.

Jesus stands before you as in that day,
Now, like Pilate, just what have you to say?
And would you, like Pilate, yourself exalt;
But still say in Jesus I find no fault.

The people and fashions I love to please,
To their ideas I agree with ease.
This way my conscience I do satisfy,
But Jesus I did willingly crucify.

If you are doing this, you are making your choice,
You surely give consent with Pilate's voice.
Beyond a doubt, your excuse is very thin,
And need the blood of him that knew no sin.
—Dolly Locker.

:::

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

BIBLE STUDY

NOTICE OF PRICE INCREASE

Beginning with the third quarter (July, Aug., Sept.) there will be a change in price of Sunday School literature. Primary Picture Roll will be \$1.50; cards 10 cents per set.

CLAIMING THE CITIES FOR CHRIST

June 3, 1956

—Sel. Printed Portion: Acts 16:6-10; 18:5-11.

Acts 16:6. Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

7. After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

8. And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.

9. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.

10. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

Acts 18:5. And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ.

6. And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from hence forth I will go unto the Gentiles.

7. And he departed thence, and entered into a certain man's house, named Justus, one that worshipped God, whose house joined hard to the synagogue.

8. And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.

9. Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:

10. For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee; for I have much people in this city.

11. And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Memory Verse: We preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. 1 Cor. 1:23-24.

Practical Truth: In missionary work the cities are strategic centers that need to be claimed for Christ.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The leadership of the Holy Spirit is very essential in our working for God and accomplishing things for Him. Paul, we notice in our lesson, was very sensitive to the voice of the Lord. Notice the words in verse ten, "assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel unto them." He took in all the surrounding factors: the fact that the Spirit did not let them preach in Asia as they wanted to, then the vision and possibly other incidents. Let us take note of this lesson. When God blocks a place, let us be careful about blundering right on over the block. Wait on the Lord. Before we can get the mind of the Lord we must be willing for God to have His way. Our ways, our thoughts, our opinions, our wisdom must be laid down. We must continually yield to the spirit of Christ, "Not my will, but thine be done." "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In ALL THY WAYS acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Prov. 3:5-6.

Paul was a daring man in carrying the gospel to the city as well as to the rural areas. He realized such methods would establish new centers for the advancement of the kingdom. You try it, if you think it is easy. Paul was not looking for an easy way. He was assured of God's protection. With this assurance we have courage to do what God wants us to do and promptly.

THE GOSPEL OVERCOMES PAGANISM

June 10, 1956

Printed Portion: Acts 19:8-10, 18-20, 23-27; Eph. 5:15-18.

Acts 19:8. And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.

9. But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.

10. And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

Acts 19:18. And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds.

19. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

20. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

Acts 19:23. And the same time there arose no small stir about that way.

24. For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen;

25. Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth.

26. Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:

27. So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth.

Eph. 5:15. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

16. Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

18. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.

Memory Verse: Ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light. Eph. 5:8.

Practical Truth: There is power in the gospel to overcome paganism anywhere on earth.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We clear our souls before God if we take the gospel to every soul, regardless if they accept or refuse it. We find in verse 9 of our lesson that many "were hardened, and believed not." Then in verse 18 we read, "many that believed." The gospel is "to the one we are a savor of death: and to the other the savor of life unto life." 1 Cor. 2:16. If they believe, it is life to them and if they do not believe, it is death to their souls. God does not tell us to make people be saved. But he tells us, "my word . . . it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." (Isa. 55:11) If we do not warn the wicked, their blood will be required at our hands. (Isa. 3:18-19.)

Paul later wrote some good instruction to the Ephesians. It is good for us today to "walk circumspectly." Circum is a Latin word meaning around. Spect means to look. So we need to watch all around us as we walk. We do not want to let the enemy slip one thing over on us.

If we are wise we will understand the will of the Lord and therefore we can redeem our time and keep filled with the Spirit. If the Ephesians had obeyed these instructions they would not have "left thy first love" as is recorded in Rev. 2:4. Let us take warning.

AMBASSADOR IN BONDS

June 17, 1956.

Printed Portion: Acts 26:2-8, 19-23.

Acts 26:2. I think myself happy, king Agrippa, because I shall answer myself this day before thee touching all things whereof I am accused of the Jews:

3. Especially because I know thee to be expert in all customs and questions which are among the Jews: wherefore I beseech thee to hear me patiently.

4. My manner of life from my youth, which was at

the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews;

5. Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

6. And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers;

7. Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews.

8. Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?

Acts 26:19. Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:

20. But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

21. For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me.

22. Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:

23. That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

Memory Verse: I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. 2 Tim. 1:12.

Practical Truth: Christians can afford to suffer if need be for Christ's sake.

THE COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Paul was a man that was not afraid to speak for God. He knew the Lord was with him and he was willing to suffer. Through his sufferings he was able to preach to the rulers of that day. The gospel touched the hearts of Felix and king Agrippa. But they did not yield because they feared public opinion. "The fear of man bringeth a snare." (Pro. 29:25) The fear of man has kept many from accepting the Lord and also has caused others to fall after they once knew the Lord. It will entangle and entrap a soul if yielded to. Paul was a man of conviction. He said often, "I know," "I am persuaded." Surely we need to get a know-so experience and then stand on what God has given us. Be bold for the Lord. He will stand by us as he stood by Paul. Trust God to use us and care for us. If he permits trouble to come to us; through that trouble others will be brought to the Lord. Do not question God's dealings with us. Paul knew God loved him and this made Paul loyal to God. He said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil 4:13. We, too, can tell the same story that Paul told. He told of Christ and the power of the gospel in His own life. Let us be bold like Paul, and we, too, can win others to God.

THE CONTINUING MISSION OF THE CHURCH

June 24, 1956.

Printed Portion:Acts 28:16, 23-31.

Acts 28:16. And when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard;

but Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him.

Acts 28:23. And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.

24. And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.

25. And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers.

26. Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive:

27. For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

28. Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.

29. And when he had said these words, the Jews departed, and had great reasoning among themselves.

30. And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,

31. Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

Memory Verse: Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Matt. 28:19-20.

Practical Truth: Even a prisoner in chains may win souls for Christ.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

As we bring to a close the history of the early church according to the gospel of Luke, we find that the commission given to the disciples in the first chapter has been fulfilled. The gospel has been preached to "the uttermost part of the earth." Today I do not believe there is any country that the gospel hasn't been preached. There are isolated places in countries where it has not gone, but all nations have had the gospel brought to their shores. Some of the once enlightened nations are now going into darkness. We are told that "Light versus Darkness" is one of the slogans for the new anti-religious drive in Russia. Of course, they think atheism is "light" and Christianity is "darkness." It is reported that they are stepping up their campaign against Christianity. The time will come when it will not be popular to believe in Christ. Let us fortify ourselves to defend the "faith once delivered to the saints."

His being a prisoner in Rome, gave Paul freedom from plots and persecutions he had had in other places. Though he was bound, the Word of God was not bound and it spread abroad to good results. Genuine converts to Christ were made even in Caesar's household. Let us not hinder God's plan for us. If we, like Paul, can be of greater use to the Lord a prisoner, let us say "Amen" to God's will. Are you willing to suffer for the gospel's sake?

—Mrs. Marie Miles.