

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

## The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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### Peace And Safety

(Taken from a true incident)

In a large Southern city  
Located near the sea,  
A child of God was walking  
And singing happily.

"How can you be so happy?"  
Asked one in troubled tone,  
"Our lives are in great peril  
Here in this danger zone.  
You sing of peace and safety—  
Why, sir, how can that be,  
When war is fiercely raging?  
I can no safety see!  
You must be here a stranger  
And live quite far away;  
Tell me, where is a safe place?  
And I'll go there to stay."

"There is a place of safety,"  
The child of God replied,  
"A blessed place of shelter  
Where one and all can hide.  
Dread war can never trouble  
Subjects of this domain;  
Folks get into this kingdom  
By being born again.  
If you would dwell in safety,  
And of sweet peace would sing,  
Surrender your heart to Christ,  
The Prince of Peace, The King!"  
—G. Ray.

### — o o o — Peace To A Soul

In these days of wars and rumors of war, the saints of God should remember the words of the Prince of Peace: "See that ye be not troubled." Truly, He brings peace to troubled souls when they will forsake sin and are born into His kingdom of peace. It is then that the words of the angels are fulfilled, which they spoke when they announced His birth: "On earth peace, good will toward men." Praise God for His good will toward us, without which we would be doomed to utter destruction, without hope and

without God! May He increase our faith, trust and daily bring to our remembrance the words of the prophet: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he TRUSTETH IN THEE." Isa. 26:3.

Besides bringing peace to the soul, the Lord has in various ways given physical protection to those who put their trust in Him. It pleases the Lord for His children to have perfect trust in Him.

Following is a true story of how God protected one in former years. (This took place before God's people had the understanding of His will concerning participation in war as we do).

It happened that on Christmas Eve of the year, 1875, Ira D. Sankey (to whom God had given wonderful power to sing the Gospel, and who worked with D. L. Moody), was traveling by steamboat up the Delaware River. It was a calm, starlit evening and there were many passengers gathered on the deck. Mr. Sankey was asked to sing, and, as always, he was perfectly willing to do so. He stood there leaning against one of the great funnels of the boat and his eyes were raised to the starry heavens in quiet prayer. It was his intention to sing a Christmas song but somehow he was driven to sing the "Shepherd Song."

"Saviour, like a shepherd lead us,  
Much we need Thy tenderest care;  
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us  
For our use Thy folds prepare:  
Blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

"We are thine, do Thou befriend us,  
Be the Guardian of our way;  
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us,  
Seek us if we go astray;  
Blessed Jesus,  
Hear, oh, hear us when we pray.

"Thou hast promised to receive us,  
Poor and sinful though we be:  
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,  
Grace to cleanse and power to free  
Blessed Jesus,  
We will early turn to Thee.

"Early let us seek Thy favor,  
Early let us do Thy will;  
Blessed Lord and only Saviour  
With Thy love our bosoms fill;  
Blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast loved us, love us still."

There was a deep stillness. Words and melody, wending forth from the singer's soul floated out over the deck and the quiet river. Every heart was touched. After the song was ended a man with a rough, weather-beaten face came up to Mr. Sankey and said,

"Did you ever serve in the Union Army?"

"Yes," answered Mr. Sankey, "in the spring of 1860."

"Can you remember if you were doing picket duty on a bright moonlight night in 1862?"

"Yes," answered Mr. Sankey, very much surprised.

"So do I," said the stranger, "but I was serving in the Confederate Army. When I saw you standing at your post I thought to myself: 'That fellow will never get away from here alive, I raised my musket and took aim. I was standing in the shadow completely concealed while the full light of the moon was falling on you. At that instant, just as a moment ago, you raised your eyes to heaven and began to sing. Music, especially song, has always had a wonderful power over me, and I took my finger off the trigger."

"Let him sing his song to the end," I said to myself, "I can shoot him afterwards. He's my victim at all events, and my bullet cannot miss him."

"But the song you sang then was the song you sang just now. I heard the words perfectly:

"We are Thine, do Thou befriend us,  
Be the Guardian of our way."

"These words stirred up many memories in my heart. I began to think of my childhood and my God-fearing mother. She had many, many times sung that song to me. But she died all too soon, otherwise much in my life would no doubt have been different."

"When you had finished your song, it was impossible for me to take aim at you again. I thought: 'The Lord who is able to save that man from certain death must surely be great and mighty'—and my arm of its own accord dropped limp at my side."

"Since that time I have wandered about far and wide; but when I just now saw you standing there praying just as on that other occasion, I recognized you. Then my heart was wounded by your song; now I wish that you may help me find a cure for my sick soul."

Deeply moved, Mr. Sankey threw his arms about the man who in the days of the war had been his enemy. And this Christmas night the two went together to the manger in Bethlehem. There the stranger found Him who was their common Saviour, and Good Shepherd, who seeks for the lost sheep until He finds it. And when He has found it He lays it on His shoulders, rejoicing.

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." Psalm 91:1.

—Selected.

## SANCTIFICATION

"But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren, beloved of the Lord; because God has from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the spirit and belief of the truth." 2 Thess. 2:13.

The great work of salvation is not complete in us until our spirits are sanctified. Man's inmost being must be brought into harmony with the great God of purity. Therefore our spirits must be thoroughly cleansed, perfected, and preserved before we may be meet for the Master's use. This means more than consecration. Consecration is our part; His, the cleansing of our spirits. This He does gladly when the complete surrender is made.

A sanctification without cleansing is no more than the Old Testament sanctification. The priest of old could sanctify himself—set himself apart. This New Testament sanctification is not left all to man. But now we are sanctified by the Holy Ghost, with the blood, through the Word.

Some today are teaching a doctrine that they call sanctification in which the cleansing work or purifying is left out. But we must believe the truth.

Rom. 15:16 and Acts 15:8, 9 teach us that we are sanctified by the Holy Ghost. The Gentiles were sanctified and their hearts purified when the Holy Ghost was given them, and not before; because according to Acts 10:2, 31, 34-37, these Gentiles were saved, had been accepted by God (verse 35) and they knew the Word (verses 36, 37). Yes, they were saved, but their hearts needed purifying, which was done when, by faith, they received the Holy Ghost. as Peter tells us in Acts 15:8, 9. Heb. 13:12, "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood suffered without the gate." In Heb. 10:39 the apostle Paul is speaking of a man that had been sanctified with the blood of the covenant. How clear this is!

Dear ones, we need more believers than explainers and human reasoners. The Word must be believed and obeyed if we are to live pure lives here. Heb. 10:10, "We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." Yes, when He offered up His body on the cruel tree, He shed His blood for our complete salvation, which includes our sanctification. The Word also has its part. John 17:17, and Eph. 5:25-27. The church includes the justified saints as well as those who are saved and sanctified, so it was for the born-again ones that "he gave himself that he might sanctify and cleanse . . . with the washing of water by the Word." Then we are ready to be presented to him, having been fully sanctified by the Holy Ghost, with the blood, through the Word.

Praise our mighty Saviour, He came to do what the law could not do, because the law was weak through the flesh. Notice this weakness was in the flesh of man and not in the law itself. The Apostle Paul in Rom. 8:1-4, makes it plain that there was

sin in the flesh that made the flesh weak. He goes on to tell us that Jesus condemned this sin in the flesh. Notice that he did not say nor imply that the ones that had the sin in the flesh were condemned. No, but "sin was condemned." This sin that was in the flesh was condemned. How clear, praise God! It is because this inbred sin, or the sin principle, is condemned that causes a justified saint to seek to be rid of it. Then if we are walking in the light, all committed sins are under the blood and we are ready to offer all on the altar to receive the precious promise.

Yours for the whole truth, H. P. Huskey.

## HERESY

I believe that there are many people who do not understand the meaning of the word heresy, hence I am burdened to write on this subject. Many people do not take time to look up words in the dictionary, or may not even have one, so I shall give here the definition of this very important word, which is important for us to understand.

**Heresy:** An opinion or doctrine at variance with authorized doctrinal standards of a church or a people.

Now we can see that an opinion may be very small, but if it is at variance, or differs, or is against the old established doctrine of the church it is a serious thing and causes much trouble and grief among the children of God, and in most cases causes division. In this, God is not pleased; for according to the definition, this is heresy.

In 2 Peter 2:1, we read, "There shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies." Peter realized the great danger of them. The ones mentioned in this Scripture went so far as to deny the Lord; but I truly believe that there are degrees of heresies, as there are degrees of sin, but all have to receive their punishment. Some do not go so far as to deny the Lord; but however small it may seem, if it is contrary to the old time truth, it is a deception or a heresy. A man may steal only one apple from the grocery store, but this makes him a thief and he is a sinner in the sight of God as well as the man who robs the bank of thousands of dollars. There are degrees of sin—some great and some small—but all must be repented of. Peter calls these "damnable heresies," and we see in Gal. 5: 19, 20, 21 what will become of such. They are classed with thieves, drunkards, adulterers, and such like. How terrible to think of it! Just one small opinion, if against the Word of God and the faith that was once delivered to the saints (that which we are told to contend for in the book of Jude) is heresy.

Now come, let us reason together, as it is written in Isaiah 1:18. We know the Church of God is pure and holy. There is no deception, no division, no heresies, nor any such thing in it. Then if we accept, get into, or compromise with any deception or heresy, we must admit that we must go outside of the church to accept it, for it is not in the church. Then if we step outside to get it, the question comes: how can

we get back into the church, gain back the confidence of the saints, and restore fellowship with them? We well know that deception brings a division, and this breaks fellowship and confidence. There is just one way to get back into the church, and that is through the door of confession and repentance. You may try to climb up some other way, but you will only be called a thief and a robber. Dear ones, there is only one door. There is only one way of entrance through that door, that of repentance. My heart's cry and prayers are that God will be merciful and open the blinded eyes of those that are in this condition—in these terrible heresies that will damn their precious souls. I surely trust this article will be the means of shining light on someone's pathway, helping them to see their wrong and the way out. —Flossie Atha.

## How Beautiful Heaven Must Be

Today we drove over what is called the "Alpine Drive" from American Fork, Utah, through the canyons and over the summit eight thousand feet high. From the moment we entered the mountains, we were thrilled by the beauty and splendor of the different trees in their autumn color. The maples were in various shades of red, from a dull dusty pink to deep crimson and fuchsia. Aspen and poplar trees vied for top honors in yellow and golden tones. The oak trees, sometimes tall and sturdy, sometimes low and scrubby, were a mixture of green, yellow, and brown.

The forest was sparkling clean from a recent rain, and the air was cool and brisk. We walked about on damp carpets of twigs and yellow leaves. Above us the rocky slopes rose right up into the clouds, and were capped with the crystal white of recent snows. Throughout all these lovely colors and contrasts were the tall pines, in tones of deep dark green.

Our reaction to all this beauty ranged from awe, wonder, and excitement, to deep praise and a greater love for our God, the Creator of all the earth. Our only regret was that we could not share it with more of His children.

After several stops we continued on up the mountain, usually following the curve of the babbling brook, and literally drinking in all the beauty around us. Then the Lord seemed to reveal to me a most precious aspect of the hope of the righteous. **HOW BEAUTIFUL HEAVEN MUST BE.**

How **SHALLOW** all the beauties of this earth must be compared to that place in the heavens that Jesus has prepared for those who love and serve Him. How indescribably perfect heaven must be! Surely nobody wants to miss heaven. Still, God's Word contains many solemn warnings, which, if unheeded, spell certain disaster.

There is indeed, a place being prepared eternal in the heavens, but **only for the righteous. THE REGENERATED PEOPLE OF GOD WHO BELIEVE, OBEY, AND PRACTICE THE COMMANDMENTS IN HIS WORD.** (Continued on Page Eight)

**"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.)

**A Slight Change In Subscriptions**

We feel clear before the Lord to make a slight change in the subscription rates to the "Faith and Victory" paper for the convenience of the office girls in taking care of the subscription lists, and also to encourage three year subscriptions and trial subscriptions for three months.

Beginning with January 1, 1957 the subscription rates for the "Faith and Victory" paper will be as follows:

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

Single copy, three months .....	\$ .10
Single copy, one year .....	\$ .35
Single copy, three years .....	\$1.00
Roll of 4 papers to one address, one year .....	\$1.00
Roll of 12 papers to one address, one yr. ....	\$3.00
Roll of 16 papers to one address, one yr. ....	\$4.00
Roll of 20 papers to one address, one yr. ....	\$5.00
Roll of 25 papers to one address, one yr. ....	\$6.00
Roll of 30 papers to one address, one yr. ....	\$7.00
Roll of 50 papers to one address, one yr. ....	\$10.00
Roll of 100 papers, one address, one yr. ....	\$20.00

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.

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

**Editorials**

The contents of the last issue of "Faith and Victory" paper has proved to be a comfort and soul food for many precious souls, and that encourages us in the printing work. We are looking to the Lord to make each issue of the paper a little better than the former one. When we think of the millions of people in the world who have never heard the pure unadulterated gospel, it makes us have much concern and burden to get the truth out to them by the printed page.

We have a two-months subscription offer sent out with premiums for those who will give the Lord a little of their time and send ten names and addresses for only one dollar. By this offer we expect to get the paper into many new homes as a trial and forerunner for their future "Faith and Victory" subscriptions and the salvation of souls that may be hungering and thirsting after the righteousness of God. Remember, that one soul saved is worth more than the whole world. Just think of the cost heaven paid for your soul. Consider the sufferings and punishment that Christ our Saviour endured and the ugly death he died to purchase salvation for us. He resisted unto blood striving against sin, and won the victory for us who were in bondage to Satan-forces and were sinning against God our beloved Father. Quite a number of people have sent the envelopes back with the blank spaces filled out with names and addresses. The time expires the 12th of December, and we would like to have your list of names in before that date if possible, so the listing of them will not interfere with other work which the office girls have to do in connection with the Christmas and holiday season.

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Paul exhorts us in 1 Timothy 2:1, 2 to pray for all men, for kings and for all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and honesty. If there ever was a time when we need to pray for our rulers, governors, legislators, and others in authority, it surely is now, for the world is in a crisis and upheaval. Much innocent blood is being shed with starvation and misery for others. Someone said that they hated to see war for it made men's hearts so wicked. The fact is, the hearts of most human beings are unregenerated (they know not God) and the wars just give them an opportunity to manifest hatred and murder which is already there. It is true that many of them do pray; but as James says, "They pray amiss that they may consume it upon their lusts." In other words, they pray selfish prayers as a general rule, and God does not harken to such praying. In first Peter 3:12, we read, "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." When people have it in their hearts to injure or murder their enemies, they are possessors of evil and the face of God is against them. Oh, that men and women who profess Christ and also non-professors, would turn from evil and thereby remove His face from being against

them. If they only knew the joy and comfort of being in touch with God while praying and the Spirit of God bearing witness to their spirits that they are children of God, being born of the Spirit, born from above, and have His face shining upon them! Bless His holy name.

It will not be long until the 25th of December, the supposed birthday of Christ our blessed Lord. In the Bible we find that the angels of heaven made a great stir about the matter and sang songs: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace good will toward men." The wise men from the east also were stirred about the child King. They came a long distance to see the child Jesus and to bring gifts to him, and they had great joy.

In Esther 9:22 is the record of a time when the Jews rested from their enemies' attacks, being delivered by the big hand of God. They rejoiced and set a day apart each year to feast and have joy and show their good-will by sending portions one to another and gifts to the poor.

There seems to be an uncertainty as to the exact day of the birth of Jesus, but it seems good to have one day set apart for this rejoicing and the manifesting of a good-will toward all men. I am persuaded that real saints of God would have no relish or desire to carry on at Christmas time like the world does and like worldly-minded professors do. They should not allow themselves to get into any such spirit of revelry with Christmas trees and Santa Claus, of making sport and fun, and of lying to children about Santa Claus.

It is a wise thing to keep the fear of God upon your heart and to tremble at His Word and never look upon His Word as something to be lightly regarded.

In Psalms 66:18 we read, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." People who revel in fun-making with a make believe Santa Claus and indulge in surfeiting, which is iniquity in the sight of God, are out of harmony with heaven and the pure holiness of God. In Titus 2:12 we are exhorted to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world.

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In the third chapter of Ezekiel God tells us that when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits sin or iniquity he shall die, and the true minister of God will also warn the righteous that they sin not. In Isaiah 59, 1, 2, we read, "Behold, the hand of the Lord is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither is his ear heavy, that he cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." There is nothing that separates a man from God but his own sins and iniquities. There is only one way by which he can remove those sins from his soul and that is by repentance and faith in the atoning blood of Jesus. You cannot remove them by mere reform or by any of your good works. The innocent blood of Christ atones for your sins. When Jesus hung upon the cross and his blood and life was leaving his body, the Father looked down upon this

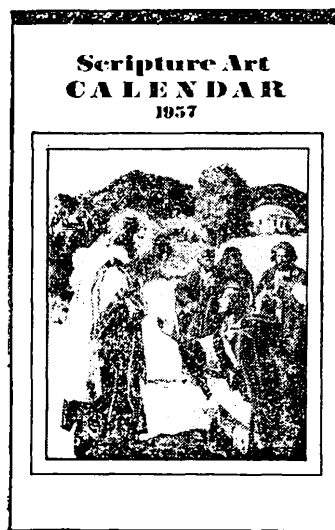
scene and accepted the sacrifice of his blood as an atonement for our sins. If man will repent and accept the sacrifice of Jesus' blood as an atonement for all of his sins, it will put man and God together and the man will have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Paul says in Eph. 2:8, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. Not of works lest any man should boast."

In Romans 10:9 we read: "That if thou wilt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in thine heart that God has raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Believing on him in thy heart will cause action on your part, and you will look to Him in prayer for grace and strength to keep his commandments and to always do those things that please the Lord. He says in Hebrews 7:25 that God is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto the Father by Christ. Will you come?

—:::—

"In six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day."

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Scripture Art Calendars

These wall calendars are ten inches wide by sixteen inches long, with a beautiful colored picture for each month and Scripture verses for each day. They are good to have in your home and make lovely Christmas or New Year presents.

Prices, post paid:

One calendar, .....	\$ .35
Three calendars .....	1.00
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Scripture-Text Folders with Envelopes, Sunshine Line

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Birthday, 21 folders, No. G1755, .....	1.00
DeLuxe Christmas, 21 folders, No. G8556, .....	1.00

## EVENING LIGHT SONG BOOK



The fifth edition of the "Evening Light" song book is printed and will be ready to send out by Dec. 1, 1956.

This book contains most of the familiar songs from the "Select Hymns" song book, and some choice songs from other sources. It contains 496 pages, shaped notes, with durable cloth binding that will stand much wear.

Because of the increase in the cost of paper, it is necessary to increase the price of the books. Books can be purchased here at our office in Guthrie for \$1.50 each. Following is the price when mailed to you.

Single copy, \$1.50 plus 15 cents for postage and wrapping. \$1.50 for each book in quantities of 12 books or more. The postal charges on one doz. books would be 84 cents; on fifty books it would be \$3.25.

Send Postal Money Order or personal check to:

FAITH PUB. HOUSE, Guthrie, Oklahoma

—::—  
PRAYER REQUEST

Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt and co-workers, Greetings. Please have special prayer for my daughter and baby who are in critical condition. They were involved in a car accident. Please pray earnestly for them.

—Sis. Laura Nichols.

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## WINONA, MO. WEEKEND MEETINGS

There will be meeting at Winona, Mo. in the little Brow Church house the second week-end of each month, starting Friday night, Dec. 7th to Sunday morning Dec. 9th. These week-end meetings will continue each month until the Lord leads differently. For further information write to Bro. Leonard Roberts, Rt. 1, Catoosa, Okla.

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## OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Oklahoma State Assembly meeting of the Church of God at Guthrie, Oklahoma will begin December 21, 1956 and will end December 30th. All are expected to obey God in helping to supply the needs of the meeting by free-will offerings.

The saints at Guthrie welcome all and will do their best to make you comfortable while here. Sleeping quarters will be provided. Those who live close should bring bedding and pillows if you can.

Address: O. C. Porter, Rt. 5, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

## CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly meeting of the Church of God will be held December 28, to January 6, 1957 on the saints' camp ground located at 12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, California (a suburb of Los Angeles). Pacoima is located between Burbank and San Fernando.

For further information and particulars write to Ostis B. Wilson, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, California.

WATER SITUATION AT MONARK SPRINGS  
TO BE CORRECTED

Since the National Campmeeting in July, the contaminated water well and sewage disposal system on the national campground at Monark Springs, Mo. has received careful study and ways and means considered for solving the problem. The septic tank has been pumped out in preparation for plastering or sealing it. After this work is completed, another test will be made with chemical dye to see if it is water-tight.

Late word from Bro. Beisly, the campground business manager, is that a geological engineer has been engaged to check the grounds with electronic instruments to determine the location of the underground rock formations. From these geophysical examinations the engineer will draw a map of the rock strata to be submitted to the health department for their consideration and recommendation whether to re-drill the same well or drill one at another location. If the present well is used, the hole will be reamed out to a much larger diameter and new casing cemented in, down to solid rock. In either case, the project will be quite expensive. We are soliciting the prayers and cooperation of the saints in order that the water situation will be corrected satisfactorily to prevent a repetition of the sickness that occurred during and following the last campmeeting.

Please send your offerings for this purpose to the undersigned, or to Bro. Ralph Beisly, R. 5, Coffeyville, Kansas.

—L. D. Pruitt, Sec.-Treas., 1116 W. Wash., Guthrie, Okla.

## CHRISTMAS

On a hillside cold and dreary  
With heaven's lights aglow,  
The shepherds watched their flock  
One night many years ago.

As these lowly men all huddled  
And the hills so still did lie,  
Their eyes looked suddenly upward  
Toward a great light from the sky.

Then their hearts with fear did quiver  
As an angel of God came down  
With glad tidings to all people,  
And the glory of God shown 'round.

And he told them that a Saviour  
In the City of David was lain—  
Born to save the sinful people,  
Over hell and death to reign.

And the shepherds left the hillside,  
Quickly left behind their things,  
Found Jesus in the manger—  
Born from above, the King of kings.

How I love this blessed story  
Of the Saviour's birth that day  
And I love to follow this Jesus  
Up the bright and shining way.  
—Leslie Busbee.

## FRIENDS

There's one whose love is always true.  
He loves ME; yes, and He loves YOU.  
He'll be our Friend in life and death,  
If we forsake, and our sins confess.—E. F. F.

## The Gates of Hell Shall Not Prevail Against the Church

In Matthew 16:18 Jesus says—speaking of the church—"The gates of hell shall not prevail [to win mastery or triumph over it—Dictionary] against it." By the word "IT" we know that God has only one church. Death, hell, and the grave shall never triumph over IT; neither shall the many humanly organized false religions, which could be termed the "gates of hell" prevail against her. Some of our older ministers in this reformation used to refer to the cold, dead sect church as the "gates of hell" in their preaching against Babylon. It would be quite reasonable to believe that, for Christ said, "I am the door" or gate way to heaven. If Christ and his followers were the gate way to heaven, then Satan and his followers would be the gate way to hell.

The greatest powers of evil and persecutions that Jesus had to go against while in the world were the different sects that claimed to be the people of God, yet rejected him and his New Covenant teachings. In the ninth chapter of John we read about Jesus opening the eyes of a man that was born blind on the Sabbath day, and the Pharisee sect people refused to receive him as the Christ. They found fault with him, saying, "This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the Sabbath day." They reviled the one whom He had healed. Verse 34 reads: "Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out." In the 39th verse Jesus said, "For judgment I am come into the world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind." The Pharisees said unto him, "Are we blind also?" Listen to the answer which Jesus gave them: "If ye were blind, ye would have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth." In other words, since they had seen him and the miracle which he had done, yet rejected him, they remained in sin. People who are committing sin are on the road to hell, no matter how big their profession is that they make. Since the Pharisees rejected him and his New Covenant teaching, they remained in sin. Jesus said in John 15:22, "If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin." By this Scripture we can plainly see that light rates our responsibility before God. Those who refuse to walk in the light that God gives them on the Scriptures will go into darkness and be lost. The people in Christ's day were clinging unto their sects and rejecting Christ and his New Covenant teachings, therefore were in a gateway to hell. Christ makes it plain in the tenth chapter of John that He is the DOOR or gateway to heaven, and all who climb up some other way "the same is a thief and a robber." By this we know that all those in the world today who abide in sects and humanly organized religious bodies—are thereby climbing up some other way—are counted by the Lord as thieves and robbers. We know that thieves and robbers are in the gateway to hell.

In Matt. 23:15 we read where Jesus was strongly opposing the Scribes and Pharisees—the sect people of his day—and he said, "Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, [Gentile convert] and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves." Surely their organized sect would be a gateway to hell with them and their converts being branded as children of hell.

In Matt. 23:37, 38 it is written: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate." Desolate would mean without God or Christ. Surely people who are without God or Christ are in the gateway to hell. It is not surprising that he told Peter that the gates (these sects that were rejecting him) of hell would not prevail against the church, or triumph over it, for it looked like nearly all the people were cleaving unto their sects and rejecting Christ, and the disciples needed encouragement.

In the "Emphatic Diaglott" which shows the original Greek text with translations word for word, it reads thus: "The gates of Hades, not shall prevail against her." The dictionary says that Hades is a place of the dead.

We know that literal death would have no power to try to prevail against the living church of God, and we surely do not believe that the gates leading to the place of the dead would be big literal gates, therefore we would have to believe that the gates referred to would have to be something alive with force and power from the evil one, endeavoring to prevail or triumph over the church.

Adam Clarke writes in his comments upon this Scripture: "Sometimes the gates are taken for the troops that issue out of or from them—we may firmly believe, that though hell should open her gates, and vomit out her Devil and all her angels to fight against Christ and his saints, ruin and discomfiture must be the consequence on their part; as the arm of Omnipotence must prevail." You can see by this statement that he understood it would have to be living forces coming against the church for the purpose of trying to prevail against it.

It is not hell itself that Jesus said could not prevail, but "The GATES of hell shall not prevail against IT." Anyone (or a company of men) who would receive a hypocritical religious spirit in this world (and continue in it) would be in a gate way to hell, for such a person would surely be fighting or warring against the church of God and Christ, which is the gate way to heaven and to God.

May the Lord bless these truths to the good of souls everywhere, for there are surely many false religions and false ways in the world. Many are trying to climb up some other way instead of the way of Christ—the crucified, self-denying route. It is sad to know of anyone that will hold up for his



self life when a selfish life represents Barabbas whom the Jews wanted to be loose instead of Christ.

Brothers and sisters, let us love the crucified way with Christ, who is the door-way to heaven, and in that way keep out of the gate way to hell. Many broad-minded people in the world are in the broad way that leads to perdition. Jesus said that many would go in that way. Let us watch and pray and do as we are told in the latter part of Jude's epistle. Begin at the 20th verse and read the instructions of the Lord. Verse 21: "Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." This will be your way to heaven.

—Fred Pruitt.

### HOW BEAUTIFUL HEAVEN MUST BE

(Continued from Page Three)

We are all warned, "The day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night . . . Therefore let us not sleep as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Who died for us . . . that we should live together with Him" 1 Thess. 5:10. Another warning: "Look to yourselves that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a FULL reward." 2 John 8. As Paul warned Timothy, so let us all take heed unto ourselves and to the doctrine, and CONTINUE in them, for in so doing we shall save ourselves and those that hear us.

—Alberta Cook.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Calif.—Dear Saints scattered abroad,—Today leaves me still saved and sanctified with a deeper determination to live for the dear Lord. The Lord has been so good to me. I felt like he would be pleased if I told of his goodness and mercy. As some saints know, I have tried to live this life many, many times, but I failed. I began to do things that was not pleasing to my mother, saints, friends, and others I loved dearly. But the Lord knew my heart, and did not let me grow so hard, that I went out into great sin. It makes me so happy to realize and know that the Lord is standing at heaven's door. He knows your weaknesses and everything you do.

So many, many times while in sin I realized the need of prayer. I would pray with a serious mind and many times my prayers were answered. I would come to meeting and tell the Lord I wanted to be saved and live like this person or that one. The Lord let me know if I got saved, had faith to believe on him, trusted and obeyed, I wouldn't have to live like this or that person. I could live like He wants me to live. Many times I would come to meeting and want to tell the saints of God's goodness and mercy, but I began to think, "I'm not saved. If I told them of God's goodness they would enjoy it but not near as good as they would if I was saved." The devil could see I was growing weak. I lost sleep, and lost interest in everything I did. That is when the devil began to bring old memories back to me, but some how or other I said, "No! No!" Then I would feel better.

Another time the devil won me over. I would get back with the old bunch of "school friends," and spend

my time and money foolishly enjoying the pleasures of this world which would lead me farther and farther away. But out of it all, thank God, I never forgot the saints' prayers and requests. So many, many times I would hear different parents put in requests like this: "Please remember my children" and "Remember the saints' children in prayer." It would strike me so hard I could hardly keep the tears back. Out of it all I thank the Lord for those tears because that is what got me back to the Lord.

So many times Brother Chandler (our pastor) had messages which seemed to head straight for me. (I heard some saints say, "I don't want to be in a back-slidden condition when a message is preached.") It would strike me and make me hold my head down. He would preach his messages so plain and clear all I could do was sit stunned and afraid to look around for fear the people were watching me. I said, "Lord the truth is the truth, no matter how it is presented." During the close of Bro. Chandler's messages he would often quote "The Lord told me to talk like this, I know what I'm talking about, the Lord also knows when you need instructing." I said, "Oh, Lord! that's me again."

But I thank God. Now my soul is satisfied. I'm out of that pit now and I feel God is going to be my comfort and my guide. It makes me feel good and happy to know when I go to school, work, meeting, or the road or anywhere, the Lord has given me assurance to know "anywhere is home if Christ my Lord is only there."

Sometimes in life there comes a time when there's a misunderstanding between your friends or ones you love dearly. God let me know to pray on until the answer comes. I got more courage to know the Lord will make a way some how. It might not be what we would like, but only God in heaven knows what is best for you and me. I often think of the song which says, "Should oppositions come, Should foes obstruct my way, Should persecution's fires be lit, As in the ancient day, With Jesus by my side, His peace within my soul. . ." That's what encouraged me the most. I know with God by my side I can keep going on and on and never more turn back. Pray for me.

Christian love,

—Ruby Spirling.

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Kansas—Dear Saints, Greetings in Jesus' blessed name.—The title of the book, "How I Got Faith" caused me to think how I got my faith in God. It is wonderful to my soul to see how God worked in such marvelous ways. I was sitting, watching my darling son who was dying at five months old. I had never seen any one healed, but I believed God could heal. God sent a neighbor woman in whom I didn't know. She asked if she could pray for the baby. I said, "Yes, I believe; but I have never seen any one healed." She prayed a wonderful prayer and I saw the baby was breathing well. I took the baby and went to bed. All praise be to God! That was in 1912 and he is now a healthy man. Again in 1921 a darling girl 13 months old was stricken with double pneumonia and paralyzed in her bowels. We had four different doctors with her. The last one said she could not possibly live. I never knelt down, but looked up and said, "God, she's yours and mine; take her or leave her." God wonderfully healed her and she is in perfect health today and has six precious children. Oh, praise God for his goodness to me. I could tell of many other cases of divine healing. Truly I can say, "God is our



refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalms 46:1.

Yours in Christ,

—Sister Patterson.

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Ohio.—To all the dear saints, greetings in the precious name of our God,—I am still saved, sanctified, and encouraged. I thank the Lord for the privilege of testifying to how the Lord spared my life by healing my body. I thank each one of you for your prayers and your love. Truly the Lord was good to me. It seemed that I had dropsy. Both legs were swollen and water ran from them. Some men who saw my legs said I would never live to come out of it. One of them had a brother with the same trouble and he died.

I am thankful that the Lord showed mercy and came to my rescue through the prayers of the saints. One of our neighbors across the street died with the same complaint just before I was sick. Some of the neighbors said they were watching this house, for the doctor went to the house where the woman died but none came to our house. Others said they knew it was the Lord, for no doctor came here. Truly, I have gone through much suffering from different kinds of sickness, and while in some, it seemed that my life was barely here; but, oh, how wonderfully the Lord did bless my soul right in the depths of the suffering. I have been much strengthened by exercising faith in the Lord.

Sister Hudson, our pastor, called a three day fast. I asked for prayer for different ailments, and was anointed. After the fast I said to my wife, "It is raining." She asked me how I knew and I told her I could hear it falling on the house. It had been many years since I had heard rain. (That was one of the ailments). At another time she was popping corn down stairs and I heard that. I called to her, asking if that was what she was doing. She asked me why I said that and I told her I could hear it. So you see how the Lord did bless after the fast was over. The swelling left my limbs and the water ceased running. The congregation, old and young, were earnestly praying for me. It was the most loving agreement I had ever seen. We received some good encouraging letters. One minister said he could not sleep all night, for he must arise and pray for me. Other ministers wrote and told how they were holding on for my healing. Truly it was all a wonderful thing for me. I can say God is good to Israel and to all that be of a clean heart. Truly mine is clean, for God made it so.

I was off my job seven weeks. I was sick quite some time before I gave up to stay at home. When I returned to work I was walking through the plant and met the company doctor. We asked each other about our health. I told him I was all right now but had been sick. He said one of the foremen told him I was. He then asked me what hospital I went to. I told him: "None; you doctors can do nothing with dropsy." He did not deny it, but told me I must have some very good friends. I told him I surely did, that they were saint friends. I think different ones who work there are convinced about divine healing. The most wonderful thing about the sickness was that I received such rich blessings in my soul. The Lord knows our needs and knows how to get help to us—he brought it to me. Continue to pray for me that I will be all in this life He would have me be. I am truly encouraged.

Your brother in Christ,

W. T. Tomlin

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Ill.—Dear Saints,—Greetings of love to you in Jesus' dear name. I'm thankful this morning that I'm saved and encouraged to press the battle on. The Lord has

blessed us in many ways. We can never thank and praise Him enough. One day while I was cleaning house I found an old 22 shell so I threw it in the waste paper can. After I threw it in there I thought I shouldn't have done it, but I thought to myself that I would take it out soon—as soon as I had finished cleaning out the drawer. But it never came to mind any more to take it out; so later I took the waste paper out to burn it. My three little ones went with me. We stood there close watching it burn. While we were out there one of the little girls wanted me to tie her shoe. When I went over to her I heard a loud bang and looked and the 22 shell had gone off. It went by where I had been standing. I surely did thank the Lord for protecting me from it. His great hand just reached down and moved me out of the way.

The Lord has permitted us to start up a little prayer meeting here in our home. There are only just a few of us. The Word says where two or three are gathered together in His name He would be in the midst.

Do pray for us that the Lord will help us to stay in the center of His will. We want to be faithful and true unto the end.

A sister in Christ,

—Mrs. Lenard Marler.

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Mo.—Dear Sis. Miles, Greetings of love in Jesus' name.—I am encouraged and continuing to live for the Lord. I am thankful for salvation; that I sought to know the truth. We find there are few that really know what the truth means. I enjoyed the piece you wrote about the hair and how we should dress in modest apparel. I promised the Lord I would send an offering if the Lord would heal my mother. I'm sorry I haven't sent it sooner. I would like for it to be used in the Gospel work wherever you think is best. Hope this finds all well and those that have been sick getting stronger.

Sincerely yours,

—Eleanor Louise Parrill.

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Okla.—Dear Saints, Greetings to all in Jesus' precious name.—Tonight I'm rejoicing in my soul for I can truly say I'm saved, sanctified and satisfied in the Lord. Truly he is my all in all. I'm so thankful for how he is leading me along and teaching me how to live by staying on bended knees.

Since I last wrote my testimony, the Lord has seen fit to take my precious mother unto himself. I could not understand how it could be and why he would take her from me. But the Lord witnessed to me many times that she was at rest with him through his taking her. I made a final decision for heaven at any cost. Here I want to say also we thank the saints for their prayers and kindness extended to us during that time. Truly the Lord has been gracious to us. I realize his word is true for it says: "And we know that ALL things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

The words of this song express my sentiment tonight. "I've started for heaven, my heart filled with song, wand'ring is over, my sins all are gone; Thro' Jesus' own blood cleansed within and without. Oh, praise His dear name! He lifted me out."

I'm meeting many more trials and tests since making my decision. The Word says, "Yea, and all that will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecutions." So my daily prayer is for grace and strength from God for he says, "My grace is sufficient for thee." I want to thank Him too, for healing my body and teaching me how to swing out on him by faith. I had a bad case

of septic sore throat. I had to be on a liquid diet for about five days. I had quite a lot of fever and could hardly talk. My neck was so stiff, I could hardly turn it. Sometimes I choked so severely until it seemed that my breath would be cut off but through the prayers of the saints and our continual holding onto God, he blessed us and healed my body. We thank the Lord for it all. Pray for me that I will ever walk humbly and upright before Him and be a wife, mother, and sister that He would have me to be. My husband also needs to be saved.

Your sister in Christ, —Frances A. Chandler.

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Calif.—Greetings in Jesus' precious name.—I am thankful I can report victory in my soul. He has blessed me in body. He is so good to my family. I am still trusting Him to lead where He sees best, for his way is best I will not murmur. Ed is improving in weight more now since he became sick with typhoid. We give the Lord all the praise, for I feel he brought the boys through. The Lord was so real in the trying time; he stood by us. Eddie is still home with home teachers. He is feeling very well. The Lord is so good to us. I want to be all he would have me to be. We are so thankful for Vernon's testimony.

Ed and I traveled about 8,000 miles last summer and was in three meetings and the dear Lord led. I mean to trust him and do or go where he leads for his way is best. I mean to give him thanks for we find the Lord a present help in big or little things.

While on our trip the Lord permitted us to have a car wreck in Va. I was wondering why as we asked the Lord to protect us while traveling. He made me to know if we had not prayed we would have gone into eternity. I find it pays to trust the Lord. My mother was hurt so she wasn't able to walk. During fasting and prayer day at Monark Meeting the dear Lord touched her and completely healed her. Oh! what a mighty God we serve. He is a kind Father and does for us what is best. In my affliction I have been encouraged and feel so much closer to the Lord. In his great love to me he caused me to see my condition. I want the saints to continue to pray for me so that when he has proved me he will give me complete healing. I mean to go on until the crown is won.

Your sister in Christ, —Gladys Ewbanks.

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La.—Dear Anna Marie,—I feel like putting my testimony in the paper. Surely the Lord has been good to us. Gerd our little boy got his heel hurt in a swing about two months ago. It was very tender and seemed like it wouldn't heal. He couldn't wear a shoe for six weeks. I knew that winter weather was coming on and he needed his shoes. I told the Lord if he would heal it I'd testify to it. Within a couple of days he was wearing shoes.

I don't know what we'd do without the Lord. He helps us in so many ways in both soul and body. Pray that we'll live close to him.

Christian love, —Max and Virginia Mitchell.

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Greetings in the precious name of our Lord,—

Though the Lord saved me over seven years ago, this will be my first time to write my testimony for the paper. I promised the Lord before the birth of my last baby girl, our ninth child, (Dec. 16, 1955) that if he would deliver me soon I would testify of it through the "Faith and Victory" paper. He answered my prayer and performed a definite miracle. Praise His name. With my last four

children I put my full trust in the Great Physician ALONE. He delivered me and taught me things I did not know. My husband and I are grateful for the Heavenly Father's care. He heals each one of us.

Most of our children are still young and in our large family it seems there is one hurt or sick most of the time. But the dear Lord comes to our rescue over and over again. He knows just how to handle each case. Oh, how He knows and understands about the struggles of a family as large as ours. I have suffered at times but pressed right on, then what wonderful refreshings of spirit He has brought me. How thankful I always am that I have stayed true. What glorious joy He brings to my heart and soul. He has taken us through some hard things in the past. I just kept telling the Lord I was going to serve Him and love Him and keep on loving others regardless, if He would just go right along with me. Bless His name, He has, too. He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us. "Behold, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." The Lord is ever present to help in times of emergency, too.

We had gathered some plums. Many of them were not ripe and were sour. The children got salt and began to eat them. We cautioned them not to eat many because they would give them stomach cramps. Soon we saw that one of the twin boys, Keldon, was choking. His father pounded him on the back, but nothing came out. I reached my finger down his throat, but that did not help. We caught him by the heels and shook him head down, still no help. It looked like our boy was going to choke to death right before our eyes. We were in great distress. I laid my hands on him and began to pray: "Dear Heavenly Father—" That is as far as I got. What a mighty God we serve. He answered prayer so speedily it brought tears to my husband's eyes. My heart was filled with grateful praise. Up came a large firm plum. It sounded somewhat like the noise that is made when a cork stopper is pulled out of an empty bottle that has been sealed air tight. One of God's blessed promises to His trusting children is that "before they call, I will answer: and while they are yet speaking, I will hear." Isaiah 65:24. But there are times when the Lord needs to get us into a proper spiritual condition before He will answer our requests.

When we first moved here there were skunks under the house. Oh, what a terrible odor, and it clung to the house almost continuously. This made some of us very ill. We prayed, asking the Lord to make the skunks leave. They did. Only occasionally we would know of their passing near by and I would remind the dear Lord how He had answered prayer.

Later, the mice were very bad. I sent a request for the saints at Guthrie to be agreed with me that the Lord would cause the mice and rats to leave. (We figured there were rats, too.) For awhile I was tested sorely. They kept staying on and on, and would make me very nervous. At night I could not even turn the light out and kneel to pray at the arm chair or the mice would run over my feet or around me, making much noise. They were even bold in the day time and with the lights on. Bunches of them would run back and forth. One could hear them sliding down the walls and squeaking from almost every direction. We began to hear heavy thuds on the floor and see signs of rats. Then we saw big rats. My husband would say he hadn't seen any mice leaving yet and he thought I said the Lord was going to make them leave so fast, that they were even getting thicker if anything; Oh, it did seem that every mouse in the town had come to

our place, especially right after I requested the saints to pray with me. My husband got several small traps and he and the children caught about nine mice then quit. We did not want to put out poison.

One morning at 2 a. m. I heard one of my twin girls scream out. I ran into their room. Blood was gushing from her finger. A rat had bitten through the fingernail, crushing it. I had prayed before retiring for the Lord to watch over us and keep us safe from harm; but there was something between me and the Lord, hindering my faith. The Lord was merciful and healed the child's finger. A few weeks later I got up to prepare breakfast and saw that this same girl's face or mostly her forehead was covered with blood. We thought her sister's nose had bled on her for we had not heard her cry. But we saw it was another bite on her forehead when we washed her. The changing of rooms made no difference for the same child was bitten every time. The third time the rat bit her when she was lying beside me. I heard the rat's jaws snap. They popped so loudly it woke me. A neighbor had told me about hearing a rat's jaws pop when one bit her, so when I heard that popping sound I knew what it was before she broke out with crying. It bit her on a different finger this time. Thank God, that was the last time she was ever bitten.

During all this the Lord made me to know what was hindering my prayers, first it seemed vague, then became more distinct. When I was first saved the Lord showed me that it was not profitable to my soul and that he was not pleased for me to read funnies nor comic books. Many of the things I used to enjoy reading were repulsive to me after the pure divine love of God came into my heart and soul; but somehow later one strip caught my eye and interest and I wanted to see how it turned out. It kept going on and on. I kept thinking I would break off, then I began to look at others. The Lord showed me that too much of my time was taken up in reading other parts of the paper, too. I knelt down and tearfully asked forgiveness. I begged the Lord to do something about the mice and rats. I had more tests, seeing some wicked looking rats around that could have badly injured any of our children; but though they crawled over us and all around us, the Lord gave me assurance in my soul that we would be safe now that everything was clear. So quickly the mice began to disappear. Some died in the attic and walls. Nothing is too hard for God to do if we ask in faith and keep his commandments.

I have been very ill with something that seemed to be abscess of the lung. I was close to death's door, but God in his mercy brought me back to permit me to rear my children. I still suffer from weakness, but keep going on by faith day by day and trusting God for complete healing.

I wish to thank the saints for their prayers.—V. Ellis

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Va.—Dear saints,—I want to send my testimony about how the Lord healed my ribs and put them back in place. They were fractured and I suffered untold agony. I told Sister Foudree to pray for me and she told Sister Powel and other saints. They began to pray for me. Different ones tried to discourage me about trusting the Lord. Some told me it could be ruptured, and Mother told me it could cause me a lot of trouble, but I still believed the Lord could heal me, and He did.

I have been trusting the Lord for five years without taking any remedy. He is able to do all things. Pray that I will surrender everything into His hands. Sometimes I feel like I just don't let go of myself as I should. I want to get my self on the altar. That old word "self" is a great hindrance to me, and I want the Lord where

self is. I feel like the Lord is letting some afflictions come because I am not where He would have me. Pray that the Lord will help and heal me. I am 29 years old.

Yours in the Lord,

Alice Wicker.

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Ia.—Dear Friends in Christ, Greetings in the name of our wonderful Lord.—I rejoice in him today because I know he is mine and he gives me courage and hope. He is to me a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. I am happy because I know he will be with me always. He is the all-sufficient one who cleanseth me from sin and healeth all my diseases. I cannot praise him enough for his goodness to me. My prayer is that I will be the humble, useful Christian he wants me to be. Please remember me in prayer. —Mrs. Harvey Sorensen.

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Okla.—To all the saints scattered abroad, greetings—This morning finds me still living for my dear Lord. We have been through many trials and burdens since our last writing. It seemed for awhile that the Lord was through with Bro. Barton, so we bowed our heads to his will.

It seemed hard for awhile for me to be reconciled to his going away, as we had been together forty-eight years and over (I was only a child of fourteen years when we started on our life together.) But God can help us to put all things in His hands.

One night while he was sick (very low) I had fallen asleep, for I was weary in body. I awakened suddenly with the Scripture on my mind where Jesus asked the disciples if they could not watch with him one hour. I got up and went into his room. He was sleeping, but I sat there in the dark by his bed, searching my life to see if I had him on the altar. Of course, the devil appeared on the scene. My heart was heavy and I was weeping. The devil said, "Now, see how you have always lived such a life of sacrifice, always free to give, and now your husband is going to die and you have no money to bury him." But I said, "I did all my alms for the Lord and I'm not sorry I didn't bank all my savings. I'm glad I can say, God's way is best." Then the Lord began to comfort my heart. He told me that I had been banking all of my savings in the "First National Bank of God," and that I could never live up my interest on the savings account with God, for it had "compounded." And before my husband was able to get up, the Lord began to send in some of the interest on my savings account with Him. It came in as far away as California. It seemed every saint would come in and say, "Here is some of the Lord's money." What a mighty God we serve! I want to say that when I left the room where I had been taking inventory, I had victory over the devil and I fully had my husband on the altar—and I left him there.

We are in need of prayer about our water system at Monark Springs. We have spent three or more weeks and do not seem to be any nearer toward getting something done. The Health Department gives us new plans, then they don't seem to work out. We have made several trips, which seem useless, so we expect to go and stay on the grounds till we can work out something.

All quilts, and mattress covers have been washed and sterilized, and candles will be used to disinfect all mattresses. Pray for us that have to go ahead in this project, especially Brother and Sister Beisly. We need funds, as the things required of us are costly. —Sister Barton.

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Okla.—Dear saints and young people,—It is good to greet you once again in the name of Jesus.

I hope this finds you with a greater determination than

ever before to spend your time pleasing the Lord. He surely has been good to me. I just can't thank him enough for all He has done for me. I often thank the Lord for good health, eyesight, and hearing; some things many take for granted, but I feel they are special blessings from God. There are so many little things which we should praise Him for that may be easy to forget.

I am encouraged about how the Lord has been dealing with me. I often pray that He will give me that longsuffering and patience with others as He has with me. I feel so small, yet the Lord is mindful of me and answers my cries. That in itself encourages me more than anything.

A few weeks ago our little boy Robbin (then 16 months) pulled a boiling hot cup of postum from the breakfast table and spilled it down his chest and stomach. It burned badly. He just kicked and screamed, and pulled at the burns, peeling off the skin. We prayed, then called for prayer. Several saints came and prayed also. Then Bro. Pruitt and Bro. Foster came. They anointed Robbin as the Bible teaches us in James 5:15. Still he suffered, but we had obeyed the Lord and knew He would not fail to fulfill His promises. Then Robbin went to sleep, and we thanked the Lord for relief from the awful pain he suffered. After he awoke he played outside as if nothing had ever happened. He had a little fever that night, but I don't believe he ever suffered pain from the burns again. Within a week one could hardly tell where the burns had been, and there isn't even a scar left now. Truly that was a miracle. If we had called a doctor, no doubt he would have been put in a hospital and had several weeks of much suffering to go through, as badly as he was burned. I am so thankful we have the privilege of serving such a mighty God!

In many other ways the Lord has definitely answered prayer for me lately. It just increases my desire to always live in a way that the prayer of faith without doubt can be prayed. I make many mistakes, but how can we do better except the Lord shows them to us? In the past they were a great discouragement to me, but now I am thankful the Lord lets me see them so I can pray for Him to give me grace to overcome and thus step up another notch with victory over them. These things are only stepping stones to heaven. The Lord is a wonderful teacher. He only teaches us as we have ability to learn, as long as our heart is honest with Him.

I desire to learn more of Him that I might be able to please Him more fully. He is a good Master, and I love to serve Him—He never breaks a promise when we do our part. Pray for me. Wilma Meek.

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Dear children of God,—I feel like it is the Lord's will for me to write my testimony. Surely I do want to do all that I do for His glory. I want my entire life to be just what God would have it to be. I realize it is thru Him I live and breathe, and I surely want my life to count for Him.

He has been very gracious to me—has made a way for me when there was no way. The greatest thing he ever did for me was when He brot me to the place where I saw a need of Him. Right here in this little home one night I went to bed but could not sleep. I had to get up and pray. Praise the Almighty King! I will never forget that night, the experience was so very real. As I took a strong stand for God, trials and tests came my way, but, thank Jesus, I am still standing on that Rock Christ Jesus. Oh, glory! I never want to turn back to this old miry clay of sin. Nothing of the devil entices me.

I need the prayers of the saints that I will live a life that will be worth living.

I thank God for making a way for my sister and me and our children to attend the Monark Springs Campmeeting this year. We both really did enjoy ourselves in the Lord. The food from the Master's table which we received there was enough to last awhile in this isolated place. The saints here are pleading to God for a shepherd. My heart goes out for all the isolated saints everywhere. My prayer is for each one to keep encouraged in the Lord. Keep looking up and never cease praying and studying the Word. Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to each one of you. We all need each other. When one turns back in sin, it weakens the army. If we stay true to God, he will stay true to us and will see us all the way to heaven. I love the Lord. Elnora Clayton.

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W. Va.—Dear saints everywhere, I send greetings to one and all in Jesus' dear name,—May God richly bless each one and supply every need, great or small. I am glad I am in this good way. I have read the "Faith and Victory" several years and am glad for all the good truths in its pages. I am pressing on and expecting to reach home some day where the burdens of life will be laid down. There'll be no more tired bodies.

I want each one that reads this to hold me up in prayer. I am trusting God to bring my lost ones in.

I want to thank God for every blood-bought saint. How Satan tries to wreck and ruin! So saints, be careful, watch and pray. The golden morning is fast approaching.

A Christian sister, Mrs. Betty Robbins

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Ind.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all,—I want to write my testimony, thanking the Lord for what He has done for me. I was a mental patient for the past few years, but the Lord came to me late in the evening on October 10th and healed me completely. Thank the Lord, and I want to thank you all for your prayers, letters, and tracts, and for helping me through my sickness. I want to ask everyone to pray for me that I will hold out faithful to the end. Edna Hammond.

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Pa.—Dear Ones,—It is with sorrow that I let you know of our dear sister Martha Beer's departure. It is hard giving her up, but we know she loved the Lord and enjoyed nothing more than God's service and His Word. God's Word was her greatest hope and comfort. It was through His Word that she had an understanding in April, and perhaps before, that her time here was short. She wrote a letter to us, at that time, to that effect.

Our frail life is in the hands of our heavenly Father, mighty God, and Creator of all men and of things seen and unseen. Praise God, He loves us and cares for us. The Scriptures, Isa. 45:5-19 and Isa. 49:13-16 were a comfort to her.

Our hope and prayer was that God would spare her life to us a little longer, but God's ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts, than our thoughts. We miss her sweet fellowship. It is heaven's gain, and our loss. The Lord silently took her, Sept. 16 about 2:00 p. m. to a better, brighter world above.

Bro. Charles L. Houck officiated at the funeral Sept. 20, 2:00 p. m., using for his text Heb. 9:27. It was a good message, and sound words for the living.

Whenever we visited her she took time to pray and have sweet fellowship in the Word and Spirit. She enjoyed the songs of Zion too. The Lord doeth all things well, so we only want to live closer to Jesus and be a faithful witness for Him. —Julia Llewellyn.

N. Y.—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, our present King, to every one everywhere who love the Lord and to sinners who know Him not. God loves you all; we love you all.

God's Word teaches there is but one church and that church was established, built, and named by God through His Son Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit. This church was built, named, and established before any of the organizations of man, which are called churches by man but called Babylon or confusion by the Lord. The overseers (ministry or shepherds) of this church are established and sent by the Holy Spirit (Acts 20:28). Its members are set in it by God (1 Cor. 12:18). And I would like to say to every sinner friend, whether a church member or not, that he need not ever be joined to any of these earthly religious organizations to be saved. Nay, God's Word directs all who are God's sheep to flee them. All you need to do is to come to Christ with a humble and contrite heart, beg forgiveness, and be washed clean in His life blood (1 John 1:7, 9). Learn God's will and way for your life by close fellowship with Him in earnest and sincere communion by the Word (1 Tim. 3:15 and 2 Tim. 2:15). Then by God's help continue to walk in all the light and truth set forth by God and presented to you by the Holy Spirit, hungering and thirsting after righteousness (sinlessness) and ye shall be filled. This is God's promise to all who obey His Word, and God never fails to keep His promise. Dear ones, you can have wonderful peace and joy and righteousness in the Holy Ghost, which is the kingdom of God right here in this life (Rom. 14:17). I've found it so. Praise the name of Jesus.

I would like to give a little personal experience to show how God does direct his own. My greatest desire is to serve my King faithfully and acceptably in His sight, for I'd rather be a door keeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

For some time I sought to know the truth. I sought in all the pens (denominations) of men. At last—O glorious day!—God brought me out of the deception of sec-tism into the clear evening light. He sanctified me wholly, giving me a new nature and translated me (rooted me up out of this world). Now I draw all my strength and nourishment from heavenly places in Christ Jesus, for I abide in the Vine that comes down out of heaven (Send for booklet about the true and false vine). If you will let God root you out of that little cut-off division you are in and transplant you over into the garden of the Lord, the kingdom of heaven, then you will begin to grow as you receive true nourishment from above.

Time went on and God kept talking to me. He healed me many times in answer to prayer. He told me to declare the whole counsel of God round about, which I did not shun to do. I met much ridicule, persecution, etc., especially from the religious people who love His promises but do not seem to believe He means the rest of what He tells us in His Word about separation from the fleshly things and such things as television, sports, fashionable and indecent dress, selling of tobacco, etc. It is so sad to see how deceived they are by their human leaders. One poor man, after seeing his need of being saved, made a profession, took active part in the religious program of the local organization, put a sign in one window saying his business would be closed on a certain night for prayer meeting and filled the other window with signs advertising the wonderful qualities of a certain tobacco and cigar. That is the way the blind leaders are leading God's lambs who would be born into Zion, if left to the care of the Holy Spirit of God.

As I said, God kept talking to me in every tract, booklet, or tape I read or listened to, and by His Word, until I became assured He had a work for me to do and desired for me to sell the farm and leave. For over three years he kept impressing this upon me until finally it became so clear, I knew if I failed to obey, God would be displeased. He led the way. The farm was disposed of and all other property. Then one evening it seemed to get rather dark. God was letting the devil try me and so exercise my faith that it might become strong. A very dark picture was presented to me (Let me say that God will give you many more wonderful pictures than you can ever get on television). I began to wonder if I had made a mistake. But I knew God had spoken and that He never makes a mistake. (Remember now for three years we had spent much time in prayer and meditation before making this step toward God). I was restless all that night, looking to God. Not much sleep came. Finally in the morning as I was milking I was still looking to God and said, "Give me some evidence of your approval that I may be sure of your direction in this step. Give me light from your Word." I went to the house, opened my Bible, and my eyes rested at once upon Ezek. 12, which begins in the middle of the second column in my Bible (evidence of God's directing hand). I read, "The Word of the Lord—" I said, "Oh, Lord, Amen! That's what I want." Then I read: "came unto me, saying (Yes, now God was speaking) Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not; for they are a rebellious house. Therefore thou son of man prepare thy stuff for removing, and remove by day in their sight; and thou shalt remove from thy place to another place in their sight: it may be they will consider, though they be a rebellious house." I said, "Oh, Lord, thank you! If even just one might consider and believe the truth, I gladly leave all to follow Jesus and count it all as but dung."

Saints, pray for me and my family (we are all in the Lord). We need strength in body and the Lord's protecting and sustaining hand. We have severe trials, and we want always to love, honor, obey, serve, and please the Lord and prove a blessing and help to others that we may be true servants of God. I am ready to go wherever God calls or leads.

Pray for the people of this neighborhood that they may be set free from the bondage of the precepts, doctrines, and cages of man. It seems that those who follow men, taught in the schools of men or of sects, cannot understand that old literal Israel (the Jew) is no longer God's chosen people but they were cast off because of unbelief and that the true Jew, the chosen nation of God, the seed of Abraham, is now all who have a circumcised heart (Rom. 2:28, 29; Phil. 3:1-3); for we are the circumcision (Jew or Israel) which worship God in spirit and rejoice in Jesus Christ. And again in Gal. 4:28: "Now we, brethren as Isaac WAS ("we") ARE ("now") the children of promise." Also 1 Peter 2:9. "But ye, (speaking to saved people) are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an HOLY NATION. . ." This is God's word, but rather than believe God's Word they create for themselves a deception about a literal restoration of Israel and a literal kingdom, thus bringing the fulfillment of the Scripture which says they will believe a lie rather than truth. God's Word is truth. —Bro. and Sister Ralph Halladay and sons.

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When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. Matt. 2:10.

## OBITUARY

Sister Anna Bell Myrick, one of eleven children of Mr. and Mrs. William Duddley of Nolensville, Tenn., was born Dec. 31, 1900, and departed this life on Oct. 29, 1956.

She was married to Charles Lee Myrick in 1918. To this union one son was born, Charles Herman Myrick of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Sister Anna Bell embraced the truth in 1954, and lived a good life.

She leaves a husband, one son, one sister, one brother and a host of relatives and friends. Funeral rites by Bro. Sam Barton, assisted by Bros. Leron West and Gene Hardman. Scriptures: Matt. 9:27; Rev. 5:1.

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### THE BEAUTIFUL WAY

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

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### BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll will be \$1.50; cards 10 cents per set.

#### LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED

December 2, 1956

Printed Portion: .....John 14:1-14.

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

8. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

9. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

10. Believeest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

11. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

12. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

13. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

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

Practical Truth: To have fellowship with Christ is the best antidote for a troubled heart.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

What comforting words Jesus spoke to his disciples! And he speaks these same comforting words to us today. In the previous chapter Jesus had been speaking about his going away and no doubt it caused the disciples to be very much grieved. They could not fully understand why Jesus, who was in good health and was doing so much good in the world, should speak of dying. Jesus wanted them to not let their faith waver, but to hold steady through the events that were to take place ahead. Today, we are facing many perplexing problems and are living in a world of unrest. God has permitted man to hold the H-bomb and many other destructive weapons in their hands. We know not what the future holds for us. The forces of the enemy are closing more and more around the children of God. Truly we are just pilgrims and strangers in this world traveling to that home—that mansion that Jesus has prepared for each one of us. "Let not your heart be troubled" is like music to our ears, especially when we know who has spoken those words. Then comes the comforting that that Jesus, the Son of God, personally will come again for us one of these days and we will meet Him in the air and will forever be with him throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. Our finite minds are too small to comprehend the grandeur of heaven, but our souls cry out with joy at the thought of being forever with Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer.

#### MORE THAN CONQUERORS

December 9, 1956

Printed Portion: .....Romans 8:26-28, 31-39.

Romans 8:26. Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

27. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

28. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:31. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

32. He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

33. Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

34. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

35. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36. As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,



39. Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Memory Verse: Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. Romans 8:37.

Practical Truth: Life through the Spirit means victory in this world and glory in the world to come.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The eighth chapter of Romans is a very precious chapter to the child of God. Seventeen times the word Spirit is mentioned. Paul was bringing out some precious truths concerning the soul that had been freed from the bondage of sin completely and was being led by the Spirit of God. What a precious thought, the "Spirit helpeth our infirmities." Our earnest desires and the very longings of the soul are carried by the Spirit to the throne of God. The unuttered words and groanings of the soul are formed into words by the Spirit and intercession is made "according to the will of God." How precious to know that everything that touches our life is to work for good to us, or for someone else or just for God's glory. Notice it says, the working together of ALL things.

Six questions are asked in the last part of the lesson, and answered. The sixth question is, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" Then we have the list of things that we may have to face, but Paul says that we will not only barely conquer through Jesus' name but will be MORE than a conqueror. Praise the Lord! As long as we keep ourselves in the love of God we are safe even if our bodies are killed, for that means heaven's bliss for us. "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

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#### THE WAY OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

December 16, 1956

Printed Portion: .....I Corinthians 13.

I Cor. 13:1. Though I speak with the tongues of man and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

2. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

3. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

4. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

5. Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

6. Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

7. Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

8. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

9. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

10. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

11. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

12. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

13. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Memory Verse: Now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three: but the greatest of these is charity. I Cor. 13:13.

Practical Truth: Love is the supreme grace which should characterize every child of God.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

This chapter is one of the greatest chapters in the Bible. It is often called the "Love" chapter. In looking into different commentator's versions on the word charity, we find that most of them feel the word should be used as love, since charity today means nothing more than almsgiving. We know that it is generally not done unless we have love in our hearts, which is all that counts for God. One definition for charity also is universal love.

"Love is properly the image of God in the soul; for God is LOVE. LOVE is the fulfilling of the law; but this is never said of faith or hope. By faith we receive from our Maker; by hope, we expect a future and eternal good; but by love, we resemble God; and by it, alone, are we qualified to enjoy heaven, and be one with him throughout eternity. Faith, says one, is the foundation of the Christian life, and of good works; hope rears the superstructure; but love finishes, completes and crowns it in a blessed eternity. Faith and hope respect ourselves alone; love takes in both God and Man. Faith helps, and hope sustains us; but love to God and man makes us obedient and useful. This one consideration is sufficient to show that love is greater than either faith or hope." Clarke Commentary.

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#### THE WORD BECAME FLESH

December 23, 1956

Printed Portion: .....John 1:1-18.

John 1:1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2. The same was in the beginning with God.

3. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

4. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

5. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

6. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

7. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

8. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

9. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

10. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

11. He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

12. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

13. Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.



14. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

15. John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

16. And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

17. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

18. No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

**Memory Verse:** The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John 1:14.

**Practical Truth:** The eternal Son of God took upon himself all things essential to true humanity.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lesson today is not of Jesus as the babe in Bethlehem, but as the Christ which was the Word that became flesh and dwelt among men. Christ was in the beginning with the Father when the world was created. God is the originator of creation, but he works through the Son. "In him was life; and the life was the light of men." Through Christ is our eternal life. This natural life is nothing in comparison with eternal life that we receive through Christ. One minister said that eternal life was wrapped up in that "little package from heaven." In that package there is light. What a wonderful thought—light replacing darkness, the soul facing eternity without hope, facing eternal damnation and despair, then hope, light and eternal life with bliss beyond expression flooding that soul—what a change!

There is Power in that "package from heaven;" the "word that was made flesh and dwelt among us." We are not ashamed of Jesus or the gospel of Christ for "it is the power of God unto salvation." When we receive Jesus, he gives us "power to become the sons of God." As we keep loving Jesus, we have power to live without sinning and witness for Jesus in this sin-cursed world. Truly this should be a time of rejoicing as we think and meditate on all that was wrapped up in that "package from heaven," "the unspeakable gift." —Mrs. Marie Miles.

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#### THE NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH

December 30, 1956

Printed Portion: .....Rev. 21:1-8, 22-27.

Rev. 21:1. And I saw a new heaven and new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

5. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold,

I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

6. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of water of life freely.

7. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

8. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Rev. 21:22. And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

23. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

24. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

25. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

26. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

27. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

**Memory Verse:** And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Rev. 21:2.

**Practical Truth:** Part of heaven comes into our earthly bodies when we are born into the family of God.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In the foregoing Scripture we have lessons of truth that are taught to us by figurative and symbolic language. In the 2nd verse this New Jerusalem came down from God out of Heaven. He could not be referring to anything in Heaven. We must look for the answer here on earth where we dwell. He undoubtedly refers to his saved people here, the Church. When we are born again or born from above, that new life comes down from God out of heaven into our souls. That life from above is part of heaven in the soul. As a body of believers in Christ we could easily be symbolized as a new heaven and earth, for we live in earthly bodies.

To further carry out this truth the next verse says: He heard a voice out of heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men." In several places in the Scripture God's people are referred to as House or tabernacle. Read Eph. 2:21, 22, Hebrews 3:6 and Hebrews 8:2. The rest of verse three makes it plain that he has reference to his saved people here on the earth.

Soul weeping ceases when we are fully saved in Christ. Jesus says, "Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." John 11:26. There shall be no more sorrow, crying, and pain for the former "shadow of good things" has passed away and we live in Christ, the true Rest-giver, which brings quietness and assurance in the soul. Christ will give the fountain of the water of life freely to everyone that thirsteth for God. He that overcometh sin in this life shall inherit all things. We will be the sons of God.

In the 8th verse he speaks of those that will be cast into the lake of fire; none of which are members in the true church of the living God. —F. P.