

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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GOD'S DWELLING THERE

If I speak a kindly word
From this flimsy house of clay,
If my life's a shining light
To help some find the narrow way;
If I see some weary soul,
And I help his burden bear,
If this house is pure within,
It's because God's dwelling there.

If I'm singing VICTORY
While my foes attack me sore,
If each stabbing at my heart
Makes me love Him more and more,
If each trial and distress
Makes me cast on Christ my care,
If my house has stood the test,
It's because God's dwelling there.

—Donald Sharp.

The Christian Woman

The beauty of a woman is brought out in her daily conduct. The saying, "Beauty is only skin deep," can only be applied to the physical. According to the Scriptures, there is a charm to the Christian woman that lasts a lifetime and in many cases after she has gone to her heavenly home. The behaviour that is lived out like the Word reads is appreciated and coveted by others. In I Pet. 3:3, 4, we are exhorted to adorn ourselves inwardly, not with the wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel, but to attire the hidden man of the heart, which is not corruptible, "even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price," having also a gentle, submissive attitude.

This beauty cannot be portrayed by the best artist. Along with meekness, we are to exhibit shamefacedness and sobriety. The shamefaced woman cannot feel comfortable in the majority of styles today. She wants to be well covered, moderate, clean, and sober in her dress. As I Timothy 2:9-10 cautions, dressing with sobriety helps us to be very careful

what we wear. There can be a habitual temperance in our choosing of clothes, or even material. Dear ones, the Lord requires us to present His image in our dress and conduct.

In Titus 2:3 the aged women are admonished how to be so that they are able to teach the young ones. Then as younger saints, we must be teachable. Prov. 4:13 says, "Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: for she is thy life." The 23rd chapter and the 12th verse also gives us good advice. Folks, I am persuaded to believe that our only way to heaven is the humble route. We can find an excuse for anything we want to do, but that does not help us, it only hinders our progress with the Lord. But "The meek he will guide in judgment; and the meek will he teach his way." Psa. 25:9. Praise the Lord! He will beautify us if we yield ourselves into His hands.

This example is so rare now days that when it is manifested through the Christian life it glitters in the sight of the Lord. I am sure there is a beauty that surpasses all other. May He help us to present to view all the graces of a godly woman. I need your prayers that I will illustrate a better life in the future, than in the past. I mean by the Lord's help to prove faithful to the end.

Yours in Christ, —Vivian (Trotter) Hattley.

JONAH PRAYED

"Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God out of the fish's belly." Jonah 2:1. Jonah was a man called of God to preach the gospel to a sinful city. I believe he made vows to God like most people do when they first start walking with God. Perhaps in his young days he said something like this: "God, you have manifested your love to me and I shall never be able to pay you back, but this I promise, I'll do what you want me to do, and go where you want me to go. You have called me to be a prophet: now dear Lord, have your own way with me." No doubt it was one of these times when Jonah was telling God how much he loved Him, that God said to Jonah, "Go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me." But

fear rose up in Jonah's heart, and he fled unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord, and went down to Joppa. How it must have broken the heart of God for Jonah to turn his back on Him now, after walking by His side, after tasting of the good things of God, and after making vows to Him.

Jonah knew the voice of God. His vows and promises were not made unto man, but unto a living God. When Jonah first walked with God the road was no doubt smooth going, and he rejoiced and sang praises unto God. It would have been better for him if he had never made a vow or promised God anything than to go back on his word and lie. But Jonah had opened his mouth unto the Lord. I wonder how many there are today who have opened their mouths unto the Lord?

Jephthah opened his mouth unto the Lord in a day of battle and said, "If thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands, then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the Lord's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering." Judges 11:30, 31. He didn't have to make the vow, but he did. And when he returned his only child, his daughter, came out to meet him. How he was grieved, but he cried, "I have opened my mouth unto the Lord, and I cannot go back." He kept his vow, though it was a rash vow, and God gave him victory over all of his enemies.

What was the reason the storm came upon the sea where Jonah was hiding? We all might have trials upon life's ocean, but always the obedient of the Lord find a refuge under the shadow of the Almighty. Paul, the apostle, had a trial on the sea, but he was in tune with God, and when the men had given up all hope Paul stood up and with the power of God said, "Be of good cheer: . . . for there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve." A promise was given so that Paul said, "I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me." Paul was in obedience with God and could stand upon God's Word though the storm was raging. But it was different with Jonah, he had disobeyed God. When the storm came he had no refuge. How many today are like Jonah—in distress, trouble on every hand, nothing satisfies, fear, sorrow upon sorrow? They go from the storm tossed ship out into the roaring waves of the sea without shelter, refuge, or help. Why, why is it they have no peace? In Jonah's case it was disobedience. He went from bad to worse because he refused to stand behind his own word and pay his vow. God knows how many there are today who, like Jonah, have heard His voice but because of fear have refused to carry out their vows. Beloved, you don't have to go alone, have faith in God.

Dear reader, if you are one of those who is hiding or running away from God, turn now and pay your vows. You don't have to go on to the whale's belly. I don't know how long it was that God pleaded with Jonah, but the calling went with him. Jonah had opened his mouth, God had called him, but he

went down, down until at last he cried from the whale's belly, "I sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord. And the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land." Jonah 2:9, 10.

What have we promised God? May God help the disobedient to pray and say with a truthful heart, "I will pay that that I have vowed." Jonah disobeyed God, but he went as far as he wanted to go in his distress and sorrow and he prayed, and God delivered him. If you are in distress, you, too, can pray, obey His voice and He will deliver you. Turn now to Jesus. He will speak peace unto you. —Clarence Lankford.

----- The Church

Jesus was the first to use the word "church" Matt. 16:18. He said, "I will build MY CHURCH." This is the first it occurs in the Bible. Jesus came to earth to do the work the Father gave him to do. He said, "I and my Father are one." John 10:30. Also verse 37, "If I do NOT the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him." Verse 38. This teaches us that when Jesus said, "I will build MY CHURCH," he was doing the works of the Father. He was building the only true church of God. All other so-called churches are built by men and are false, for Jesus gave his blood for the one he built: ". . . the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood." Acts 20:28.

The church is entered by the blood. Jesus gave his blood as a great price for our salvation and redemption, as is stated in Heb. 9:12. "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." He also said he was the door of entrance: "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." People without having salvation can enter a sect that is called a church and is the work of man and has man for a founder. Also one can enter a sect by joining it. The church which Jesus has built and is adding to contains no one but the saved. In John 10:9 Jesus said, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." None but the saved, such as are born of the Spirit are in the church. John 3:5-7, "Except a man be born of water, and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God [church]. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

The body is the church. Col. 1:24, ". . . for his body's sake, which is the church." "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body [church], . . . and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." I Cor. 12:13, 18. Here the setting of the members into the body or add-

ing them to the church is ascribed to God, to Christ, and to the Spirit. Of course these are one. God is triune. God never takes men into a sect: therefore no sect is the church.

O for a people who have the apostolic saints as an example! Those of the early church did not enter the ministry as a profession. "The Holy Ghost hath made you overseers." Acts 20:28. They received their directions and leadings from the Holy Ghost. They did not seek training in theological seminaries in order to be fitted for the work. False teachers are they who go outside the Bible standard of doctrine and the apostle's example. The apostles were a real example of the power of Christ and of leadership of the Holy Ghost. Jesus produced a church of power with nothing more than common unlearned fishermen, that all would do well to follow. Jesus instructed and said, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." John 14:26. Jesus also said, "when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth." John 16:13.

Jesus then promised endowment with power from on high: "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." Luke 24:49. Jesus had this purpose in sending the Holy Ghost: that His believing disciples be established in the true doctrine of the true church of God. Paul knew that Christ was the head, builder, and founder of the church of God. He said, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, [How?] after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the WORLD, and not after CHRIST. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power." Col. 2:8-10. Verse 3: "In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." —Thomas Bowers.

Let The Beauty of The Lord Our God Be Upon Us, Ps. 90:17

To make thy lips beautiful, exercise them in truth, and offerings of the sacrifice of praise unto the Lord. Prov. 8:7; Eph. 4:15; Heb. 13:15.

To have a sweet, clear, and beautiful voice practice it and train it continually in prayer and thanksgiving. I Thess 5:17, 18; I Tim. 2:8.

For beauty of thought, receive a renewed mind, even the mind of Christ. Rom. 12:2; I Cor. 2:16.

To make attractive and beautiful eyes, cleanse them with tears of pity. Acts 20:19; I Pet. 3:8.

Strong and beautiful hands will be the result of performing many acts of charity. I Cor. 13.

For a proper diet to produce a well proportioned and beautiful figure (life), drink of the water of life freely and feast upon the bread of life and practice uprightness. Rev. 22:17; John 6:51; Mic. 2:7.

For a beautiful, spotless complexion, cleanse thy life in the blood of the Lamb. I John 1:7; Zech. 13:1; Isa. 1:16; Isa. 52:11.

For a pure heart that will never fail or to avoid heart trouble, have unfeigned love. John 2:15; I Pet. 1:22. Believe also in Christ, John 14:1.

For beauty of strength, lay aside every weight and sin, and put on the robe of righteousness and stand boldly before the throne of God, having your loins gird about with the Truth. Heb. 12:1; Isa. 61:10; Heb. 4:16; Eph. 6:14.

For a beautiful protection put on the adornment of a meek and quiet spirit, I Pet. 3:4, and the breastplate of righteousness, Eph. 6:14; the helmet of salvation wearing always the sword of the spirit. Have thy feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, Eph. 6:17, 15, for how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring good tidings of good things and prepare straight paths for your feet. Rom. 10:15; Heb. 12:13.

See how chaste and reverent you are. You are not to adorn yourselves on the outside with plaiting the hair and ornaments of gold, and changes of dress, but adorn the inside of the heart with the immortal beauty of a gentle, modest spirit which, in the sight of God is of rare value. It was in this way that the holy women who long ago hoped in God, adorned themselves. I Pet. 3:3-5 (Moffat trans.)

—Bro. Ralph R. Halladay.

The Sunlight

Ecc. 11:7, "Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun." Just as the sun has risen this morning and dispersed the darkness away, so it is with the children of light: God has risen in their hearts and the darkness just faded away. He that walketh in the light hath none occasion to stumble.

As I look out of my window this morning and behold the beautiful picture of the sunrise, it shows the handiwork of God. When we are saved the Lord Jesus' life will just be reflected in our lives. So dear ones, let us lift up Jesus in word and deed, and in our very action. We can even lift him up in thoughts. One writer said, "Our faces are mirrors. What we are thinking shows on our faces." Dear Lord, this is my prayer: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer." Ps. 19:14.

—Vera M. Hawkins.

HEAVENLY SUNLIGHT

Walking in sunlight all of my journey,
Over the mountains, thro' the deep vale;
Jesus has said, I'll never forsake thee—
Promise divine that never can fail.

CHORUS

Heavenly sunlight, heavenly sunlight,
Flooding my soul with glory divine:
Hallelujah, I am rejoicing,
Singing his praises, Jesus is mine.

—H. J. Zellej.

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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.

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Editorials

Saturday evening before Easter I had the privilege of performing the wedding ceremony for Bertha DeLois Eck of Covington, Okla., who was united in marriage to my grandson, Vernon W. Miles, the older son of Anna Marie and Carl Miles. They are both saved and are making their home here in Guthrie where he has a position with the Guthrie Daily Leader. On Easter Sunday quite a few saints from other places gathered in and the all day services were enjoyed by all. The ordinances of the New Testament were observed in the afternoon.

During the week's meeting held at Neosho, Mo., wife and I stayed on the National camp grounds with Bro. and Sister Allen who are care-takers of the grounds. They are true saints of God and look after the campmeeting grounds, keeping them up in good condition. We had the opportunity of visiting in the home of a number of the saints and also went to Carterville, Mo., and visited Bro. Merrill Williamson who is Pastor at Webb City, Mo. He had fallen twenty feet and fractured his back and broke one of his wrists. He was at home and was feeling better, thanking God for performing such a miracle in his behalf.

The meeting at Neosho was well attended and the interest was good. Most of the preaching was to the saints. Quite a few of the Webb City saints attended the services. The Lord gave good liberty in preaching the Word, and all seemed to enjoy the truth. We enjoyed the good fellowship of the saints there and will never forget their hospitality and brotherly love. Our prayer is that the congregation there prosper spiritually in the teachings of the New Covenant truth. Sister Artie Bowers is Pastor. She needs the prayers of the saints as her body is weak and frail and there is much responsibility.

Insomuch as some seem not to understand our position on the marriage and divorce question it seems good to the Lord for us to make some plain and clear statements as to what we understand the Bible teaches on the subjects.

In the first place we wish to say that for several years we printed and circulated the 24 page booklet written by Bro. D. S. Warner which also included the decision of the seventy ministers who met in session at Moundsville, W. Va. in 1901 to discuss the subject and give us their final decision on the matter. Both Bro. Warner and the counsel of ministers at Moundsville gave room and freedom to the innocent.

By printing and circulating this booklet we felt that we were giving to the saints the truth and that they should regulate their lives accordingly.

Later on some of the ministers thought that we should not print and circulate this booklet as they felt it was too loose in its teaching and would give room for adulterous spirits to creep in among the holy children of God. We took the matter before the Lord but could not get any definite answer from Him in regards to printing it and as we are strong against real adultery of any form we felt it good to be sub-

missive so we left off printing the booklet. Lately, some of our ministers express themselves that we should have kept on printing it, as they say Bro. Warner was a man of God and filled with the Holy Ghost, and the ministers at Moundsville, W. Va., were in favor with God at that time and for this reason they say the truth they put forth was given of God and should be a standard for the saints at all times. Personally I thought that some points put forth by these ministers would give room for adulterous spirits to take advantage of and cause trouble among the saints in light, and yet I find that they give Bible for every decision they made and also I know that we ought to have faith and confidence enough in God that He would take care of all situations that come up when we teach and keep the truth in harmony with His Word.

All ministers that have been taught of God know that light and knowledge rate our responsibility unto Him. The responsibility of those who have been reared in the teaching of His Word or in this "Evening Light" truth are vastly more responsible than those reared in darkness and having no parents or teachers as an example of righteousness before them. Young people in this dark state are under the influence of Satan and he drives them on to do many things contrary to the Word and in many of their acts they are ignorant of doing wrong and if the Spirit convicts them of doing wrong they know not why or what to do about it. When they do get to the place where they know what to do about it by the hearing of the Word and they repent with godly sorrow and confession, God through His great mercy blots out all their transgressions as a thick cloud and does not remember those sins against them any more forever, which includes the sin of adultery also.

We believe that all marriages are approved of God and are binding for life with the exception of adulterous marriages. It would be contrary to God's Word to bind any one to two companions for life, therefore any one that is living with a second companion while the first is living is living in adultery just as Paul tells us in Rom. 7:3, which reads thus: "So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress [not a wife]: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man." This is the New Covenant teachings which we are to go by.

When a boy and girl marry who have been reared in darkness, knowing not God, living in ignorance as to His will, and Satan, having them under his influence causes them to separate and get a divorce and marry other companions, if and when they get light and are convinced of their wrongs and become saved, I believe that the Bible way for them would be to separate from their adulterous marriages and go back together and rear their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. I believe that the first marriage is the only one that God recognizes as being legal; the second is an adulterous marriage, even if

the laws of the land recognize it as legitimate. God would not bind any man or woman for life to any companion who has a lawful God given wife or husband. It would be an adulterous marriage in the sight of God.

As the Scriptures are strong and positive in several places concerning any one separating from his or her lawful companion and marrying another, I am persuaded that the Scripture recorded in Matt. the 19th chapter and the 9th verse does not give a man a right to marry again even though he or she commits fornication and they are separated for that cause. To teach any other way is loose teaching and in time will bring on much trouble and complications amongst the saints of God.

We believe that God does and will forgive adultery just the same as any other sin that men and women commit when godly sorrow takes place and confession and repentance follow. In the case of the woman recorded in the 8th chapter of John's gospel, where the scribes and Pharisees brought the woman before the Lord who was caught in adultery, they wanted to stone her to death according to the law of Moses, but Jesus forgave the woman. He said he did not condemn her and told her to go and sin no more. I believe those that teach that God does not forgive the sin of adultery affiliate themselves with the Pharisees who wanted to stone this poor, ignorant, godly-sorrow-repenting woman to death. In the 4th chapter of John and the 18th verse there is another case of a woman to whom Jesus said, "For thou hast had five husbands; and him whom thou hast is not thine husband: in that saidst thou truly." This woman was no doubt reared in great ignorance and gross darkness yet she became convinced that Jesus was the Messiah that was to come and no doubt she repented and the Lord forgave her. Her acts following this conversation with the Saviour proves this very thing. She went to work telling others and others believed her story. They went to see Jesus and believed because they had seen for themselves. I do not believe that the Lord would approve of a woman or man either with such a record behind them being pushed forward to an exalted position in the church.

Since we ceased to print and circulate Bro. D. S. Warner's booklet on Marriage and Divorce, the Lord has given us a 12 page booklet on the subject entitled, "Biblical Truth on Adultery." (It will be sent free to any one for the asking.) In this booklet we feel that the Lord has made it very plain on the adultery question inasmuch so, that none need to go astray in this matter. On page 11 of this booklet we make it plain and definite against any one mixing up in questionable marriage relationships. We will quote this much for your benefit which is as follows, "Young brothers and sisters and older ones as well, I want to warn you by the sacred and holy Scriptures to never consider uniting in marriage with any one who has been mixed up in questionable marriage relationships. If you want to keep out of trouble and clear before God, do not consider such a person as a life companion, or with any

one who has a divorce and a living husband or wife." This statement ought to keep any one who has the fear of God upon his heart from getting tangled up in an adulterous marriage. On page nine in this booklet where we are considering those who have, through Satan's wily works and being in gross darkness as to the Word of God, been deceived into an adulterous marriage, we give some instructions how they should sever all relationships with such and speak of the possibility in some cases where God would forgive and they would be privileged of God to have a lawful companion. This teaching would not apply to any one who had light and knowledge on the truth, but to those who in gross darkness and great ignorance have been deceived by liars as Satan's agents.

According to the Bible, saints should marry saints and never tie up to the unsaved or sectarian professors and even then they should be sure that God had picked the companion for them. If young folks are not careful, Satan will get them to tie up to the wrong companion even if both parties are saved. Since the question of adultery has been talked pro and con among the children of God in the last few years the Lord has given us understanding of these things more than in the past and it makes us strong against adulterous marriages and all should abstain from the very appearance of evil in such things.

Someone may ask this question, "Could you not say positively that no one under any condition would have a right to marry again who had a divorce, even though their previous marriage was an adulterous one?" Having received light on the Scriptures and knowing the righteousness of God and His great mercy, pity, and compassion on the ignorant and on those who are out of the way and being acquainted with the Scriptures that teach us that he judges us according to the light and knowledge; for "He that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" James 4:17; I could not conscientiously make a vow or statement of that kind, for I fear God and know that God would not be unjust in condemning the innocent with the guilty. I believe there are rare cases where His pity and mercy would grant justification. God's righteous judgment is to judge each individual according to their light and knowledge of Him and His Word and truth.

"The Harvest Is Past, The Summer Is Ended, And We Are Not Saved"

This Scripture is found in the book of Jeremiah, 8:20 and brings a sad thought to my mind about the terrible condition that the people of Judah were in. Truly, that is the way that many people are today. They are unsaved. God never did intend for one to live in sin, but man fell in the garden in the very beginning and after that a lamb had to be offered up as an atonement for sins in a way of sacrifice, but praise God, there is a better way now. Since Jesus offered His life on the cross and sacrificed Himself to put away sin, Heb. 9:26-28, man can be brought

back in favor with God through repentance. Rom. 10:9, 10 tells that with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. God wants every one to come to repentance, II Pet. 3:9, and obtain salvation.

Matt. 19:16-22 tells about the man who came to Jesus and wanted to know about what good thing he could do that he might have eternal life. Jesus told him to keep the commandments and he told Jesus that he had been keeping them from his youth up. Jesus told him what he lacked yet, and the Bible says he went away sorrowful—unsaved. Then in Luke 19: 1-10, Zacchaeus, who was quite interested in getting acquainted with Jesus, ran before and climbed up into a sycamore tree. Jesus told him to make haste and come down, and so he did. Jesus never had to ask him to make his wrongs right, but Zacchaeus told him that if he had taken any thing from any man by false accusation, he would restore him fourfold. Jesus said, "This day is salvation come to this house." Praise God!

It is truly the will of God for folks to repent and confess. In Matt. 23:37, Jesus was grieved as he thought about the people of Jerusalem. How often would he have gathered them together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens together under her wings, but they would not. Just so, it is my heart's desire for everybody to be saved.

Yours in the body of Christ,

—Mayo Mitchell.

Obituaries

Ivy Hiwiller, born March 12, 1898, passed away Feb. 17, 1958 in Distant, Pa. She had known the truth for years and desired to measure to its standards but was hindered by being isolated and severely afflicted. Great was her confidence in the prayers of God's children.

Washington Leo Daniels was born to John and Edna Daniels June 18, 1935 and departed this life April 4, 1958 at the age of 22 years, 10 months, and 22 days.

He was united in marriage to Mary Ruth McDaniel Oct. 21, 1955. He served in the Air Force in Africa for 18 months, and two and one half years in the States. After his discharge he resided in Wichita, Kans., until his death.

He leaves to mourn their loss a wife, Mary Ruth Daniels; a mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. John Daniels of Wichita; three sisters: Mrs. Velma Nave of East St. Louis, Ill., Mrs. Jonnie B. Arriaga, and Mildred Daniels both of Wichita; five brothers: Rasberry Daniels of Amarillo, Texas, Earl Daniels of Fort Eustis, Va., Osbie T. Pruitt of Fort Louis, Wash., Willie Daniels, and Curtis Pruitt both of Wichita, and other relatives and friends.

Ishemel Worth Howard was born to Mrs. Velma Nave April 19, 1934 and departed this life April 4, 1958 at the age of 23 years, 11 months, and 15 days.

He was united in holy matrimony to Francis Gutierrez July 4, 1954. To this union were born three children. One preceded him in death. He was waiter at the Broad View Hotel at his passing.

He leaves to mourn their loss a wife, Francis Howard; a son, Michal Ishemel Howard, and a daughter, Sherry Lynn both of the home; a mother, Mrs. Velma Nave; one sister, Geraldine Nave; one brother, Gerald Nave, all of East St. Louis, Ill.; a grandfather and grandmother, Mr.

and Mrs. John Daniels of Wichita, Kans., and many other relatives and friends.

Funeral services conducted by Bro. Lewis Williams, April 8, 1958. Text: I Cor. 15:51-55.

A REPORT FROM THE FIELD

The Church of God near Okeene, Okla. has reason for rejoicing, because one in the congregation made a start for heaven April 5, 1958—a soul many people counted saved, and yet he was lost.

This soul is an old man of 75 years. He is sick with dropsy in very bad form, and has been for 22 months, many times seemly near death. Even though he had been in the congregation of the saints for over 25 years, he became the victim of the foulest kind of self-deception, and many other kindred spirits. So clever was he that his wife (with many others) failed to detect the counterfeit. But thanks be to God for glorious victory! And thanks be to every dear, precious saint who prayed for him, either soul or body, or both. All were needed for the deliverance of his soul.

A mother in Israel,

—Ethel K. Miles.

Notices

CAMPMEETING DATES

Brief Particulars Later

Hennessey, Okla.,	—May 30 — June 8
Jefferson, Oregon	—June 20 — June 29
Hammond, La.,	—June 27 — July 6
Kalamazoo, Mich.,	—July 11 — July 20
National Cpmgt. (Monark Springs),	—July 18 — July 27
Guthrie, Okla.,	—Aug. 1 — Aug. 10
Bakersfield, Calif.,	—Aug. 1 — Aug. 10
Myrtle, Mo.,	—Aug. 15 — Aug. 24
Dover, Okla.,	—Aug. 29 — Sept. 7

Following are brief particulars concerning the church of God campmeetings scheduled to convene in the next two months. Others with later dates will appear in the next issue, Lord willing. At these campmeetings meals are served free of charge to those who attend, and expenses are met by free-will offerings of money, canned goods, and other provisions. Those who are interested in helping to spread the true Gospel of Jesus Christ realize that a good way to do so is to help support campmeetings. Please send your offerings to an address mentioned with each campmeeting notice, or take it in person to the campmeeting.

The HENNESSEY, OKLA. Campmeeting will begin May 30 and continue through June 8, Lord willing. Go east three blocks from the Hennessey water tower. Bring your bedding if possible.

Address: Bro. Thomas Davis or Sister Willa J. Williams, Hennessey, Okla.

The AKRON, OHIO Campmeeting date is from June 27 to July 6. The saints are praying for God to send Spirit-filled ministers. A cordial invitation is extended to all by the saints and their pastor, Cordelia R. Jones, 740 Roscoe Ave., Akron, Ohio.

Address: Sister Dorothy Jackson, 474 Ardella Ave., or Bro. Robert L. Jones, 676 Ardella Ave., Akron 6, Ohio.

The JEFFERSON, OREGON Campmeeting will begin June 20 and end June 29, if the Lord permits, on the saints' campground on Hazel St. in Jefferson. Anyone coming by train to Albany may call either Sis. Hilda Nielson, phone FA 7-2564, or Bro. Noah White, FA 7-2317. Sleep-in quarters will be furnished to all who come. We are

trusting God to send Spirit-filled ministers of His choice to preach the whole gospel and are looking to Him also to bless people physically and spiritually. Everyone is invited. Address: Sister Emma Busch, R. 2, Box 206, Scio.

A MEETING AT WICHITA, KANS.

The church of God at Wichita plan to begin their summer meeting July 4th to continue through July 13th. The chapel is located at 1701 N. Ash St.. We desire the presence of the Lord to be great in the meeting. There will be able ministers here to help you in the way of truth. There will be one service each day and night services. We are asking the saints to pray much for the meeting. We are looking for the Lord to save the lost, sanctify believers, heal the sick, and unify or gather in the other sheep that have been scattered in the cloudy day. Our purpose is to lift up a standard for the people.

For further information write Bro. Lewis Williams, 1536 Piatt St., Wichita, Kans.

The saints at South Charleston, W. Va. do not feel the Lord wants them to have a camp meeting this year. They are praying the Lord to send some evangelist with a tent to have meeting. They are few in number and desire your prayers.

The saints at Mansfield, Mo., plan on having meeting from May 5th through the 11th. Our annual all-day service is May 11th. We are looking to the Lord to send ministers of his choosing, and extend a hearty welcome to all who feel led to come. The services will be at the saints' chapel, 13 miles north of Mansfield on Bro. Edd Tombleson's place. —Murphy Allen and D. A. Gibson.

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PRAYER REQUESTS

Canada,—Dear children of God everywhere,—I have been advised to write to you as I am in great distress in my soul. I was saved for years and then I got into the Church of Pentecost and lost my salvation, and God's Spirit left me. That was nineteen years ago; and I have never been right since. I have almost cried myself to death and cannot seem to get right. I have a terrible stubborn spirit; and I cannot seem to get faith to believe and rest in the Lord and in his promises. I want to be able to rest in Jesus' blood. When the Spirit left me, my faith and love went, too. I have such a hateful feeling and this terrible spirit I have affects my eyes and causes them to pain. I want to be able to obey God and my husband. I never see a happy day and never have any peace or rest day or night. I get a little relief for a short time once in quite awhile, but I cannot find the Lord any time and do not have any witness. God says if we haven't the Spirit of Christ we are none of his.

Oh, dear ones, I want to be delivered out of this terrible condition and be set free and have peace and rest and joy in my soul and rejoice in the Lord again. I get very little sleep. I have to take a powerful capsule to get some sleep as I am in such agony in my soul. I am in very poor health also, as I have bad heart trouble, bronchitis, dropsy, and a bad condition of varicose veins. I will be glad to have all the dear saints everywhere pray for me; and will be glad to hear from them, too. Mrs. C. W. Gunn.

Join in prayer that a very dear one to me will be enlightened and come out of the World Council of Churches. He approves of it and the "new Bible" and just cannot see that it is wrong. Thank God for fulfilling this and thank you for praying.

—Mrs. F. H. Lehman.

Will every saint get under a burden and pray earnestly for the Lord to protect and defend a helpless person? Pray that they get back their possession and money which has been taken by fraud. Also pray the Lord to fix a matter for me completely and permanently. —A saint.

My brother in Ky., has cancer in his stomach. All the saints who read the "Faith and Victory" paper please pray that he be healed for Christ's glory. Also pray for my sister in Ky., who is heavily burdened and wanting deliverance. Pray also for me that I be led by the Holy Ghost and the New Testament. —H. L. Lemmons.

Corrupt Tree

Some months ago we had a lesson in the young people's meeting that we have here at the Faith Pub. House home every Friday night when the Lord permits, on the Corrupt Tree. We drew a tree and on each limb we wrote one of the works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21) and discussed it. It is important that we understand what God requires of us that none of the works of flesh are influencing our lives because the corrupt tree will be cut down and cast into hell fire. (Matt. 7:18-20) These are not our words, but the words of Jesus, who will some day be our judge and we will be judged by the Word of God.

On the 14th limb we will write envyings. Envyings means to feel a displeasure at the excellence or prosperity of others; to covet; to feel or exhibit envy; to be jealous or suspicious, desirous to possess. (Web. Dic.)

The wise man asks the question, "Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?" (Prov. 27:4) We read how Abel offered a sacrifice unto the Lord, which was a lamb in accordance to God's will, and Cain offered fruits of the ground. (Gen. 4) When Cain saw that God had accepted Abel's sacrifice, he was very angry and envious. God rebuked Cain for his feelings and told him that if he did well he would be accepted, but if he did not then "sin lieth at the door." But because Cain's works were evil, and his brother's righteous, he let envy and jealousy so rule him that he rose up and killed his brother. "Who is able to stand before envy?"

Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave because of their envy and jealousy of him. His father had made him a coat of many colors and this stirred them. They also saw the blessings of God upon him.

"And Saul eyed David from that day forward." (I Sam. 18:9) Saul tried many times to kill David because of the honor shown him, and because God's blessings were upon him. On and on down through the years these cruel monsters, envy and jealousy, have worked, bringing sorrow, heartaches and tears to many. It does not only affect the person to whom it is directed, but others who are close to that person.

Envy will cause a righteous person to be picked to pieces, so to speak. The righteous person will be accused of doing things or intending to do things they never even thought about doing. A person affected by envy will turn the words that have been

spoken around to mean just what their imagination wishes. "Who is able to stand before envy?"

Envy is "as rottenness of the bones." (Prov. 14:31) Little by little it begins to work and if allowed to continue it will possess a person's soul and mind. "Who is able to stand before envy?" It is like the poison herb which spreads nothing but death. An old proverb is: "Envy is the devil's eye, as hypocrisy is the devil's cloven foot."

God is able to help those who are envious to have deliverance. If you are troubled with not having complete victory, begin to look at it in this light: would you want to change places completely with the person that you are envying? I read one time about a general who was urging his men to hurry on in the midst of battle when they were very tired. One soldier spoke up and said, "It is all very well for you to talk of patience when you are mounted upon a fine horse; but for us poor wretches it is a different matter." The General was touched to think that his men thought him not willing to share their dangers so he said, "Here, take my place a while." The soldier very quickly mounted the horse but no sooner had he mounted when an enemy's bullet struck him from the hills and killed him. The General turned to his troop and said, "You see, my men, that the most elevated place is not the least dangerous." Can we not get a lesson from this? I'm sure that if one were put in the place of a person whom he had envied, he would quickly find it not so pleasant as the devil had made him think it was.

Joshua wanted Moses to forbid two men to prophesy. But listen to the words of Moses, "Enviest thou for my sake? would God that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit upon them!" (Num. 11:27-29) How beautiful that example is.

John the Baptist, in speaking of Jesus said, "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30) Can we feel the same toward that one God is blessing?

Peter in writing of Paul spoke of him as "our beloved brother Paul." (II Pet. 3:15)

May the Lord bless each one to search his own heart. Sometimes you cannot detect envy until you feel a wound and then it will show itself. Acknowledge it and get rid of it, because it is a work of the flesh and will be cast into hell fire with the corrupt tree.

—Sister Marie Miles.

BE

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord, Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain." James 5:7.

"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Phil. 4:6.

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

Testimonies

Calif.—Dear saints,—I still enjoy the "Faith and Victory" paper, especially the articles and editorials. I am glad that I am one of God's true children, filled with love from above, the love that loves everybody. There is no place close where I can meet with those who believe like we do, but I am satisfied to know that God keeps his own.

I am sending a small offering for the work to help send out the tracts and papers that souls may be saved.

Mrs. Effie Unruh

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Ark.—Dear Bro. Pruitt, greetings in Jesus' precious name,—I want to thank you for your prayers of several days ago when I was so sick with the flu. The Lord heard and answered the prayers of you dear saints in my behalf. I would cough so hard that it seemed I would not have much strength left. My right lung was in a terrible condition. But God healed me of that, praise His dear name! I have gained most of my strength back. It has been several years (if ever) since I have been so sick. The Asiatic flu does something to people and it is hard to get over it; many have permanent after effects. Of course no affliction of the body is too great or too small for God to heal.

I have been healed many times, also my family; but I am still asking you to have special prayer for the complete healing of an affliction in my right leg and knee. When I first got up from this spell of sickness I noticed that my foot and leg were numb, then there was a terrible misery in my knee joint. It seems when I bend my knee it is going to break. It stays as sore as a boil. I have suffered untold misery, but whatever it is, I know God is able to heal it. I am trusting Him for complete healing. He is a prayer hearing and answering God. I also have some requests for my unsaved children for their salvation and that some can have a happy home and their children can be with their father and mother. They are apart and the children have been scattered, but they are trying to make everything right between them. They want a happy home together, but they are going to need the help of the dear Lord. Also a very dear nephew has had a lot of heart aches and troubles and has taken to drink. So please remember each one of our six children and my nephew, also my husband. A sister, Mrs. Vernie Martin

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Calif.—To the dear saints and readers of the "Faith and Victory," Greetings of love in the precious name of Jesus.—For some time I have been impressed to reveal to you dear readers the wonderful blessings God has been bestowing upon me and my family. Truly God has been good to us. I hope that my testimony is sufficiently comprehensive to you to encourage you to continue on with the Lord.

In 1945 when we first moved to California my entire family was unsaved. My husband was a victim of alcohol. I can truly say that God works in mysterious ways.

In 1948 my husband was stricken with an illness which baffled the medical authorities as to its type or origin. He was in no pain, yet he was weak, bed-ridden, and slowly wasting away. During these perilous times God assured me that my husband would be healed and his precious soul would be saved. He was healed and is yet wondrously saved. Later my three oldest children accepted Christ as their Saviour. Praise His holy name!

God has proved His healing power in the past years in our family. Three of my children were healed of pneumonia. One fell on a red hot oven door and left

the skin from the left side of his face on the door. The minister was sent for immediately. He prayed and asked God to heal the burned child and let there be not so much as a tell-tale scar left. Today there is no visible sign of a scar on my son's face. The same son has recently suffered severely with his feet and ankles. For some time walking was painful. The ministers prayed for him. I promised God that if he healed my son I would send in my testimony. He has surely heard and answered prayer. Oh, what a mighty God we serve! By God's grace, I mean to trust Him until I die. Please pray for us.

Your sister in Christ,

Sister Naomi Eddens

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Mo.—Dear saints everywhere,—I am still serving the Lord and trusting in His wonderful promises. I want to thank the saints for their prayers and other acts of kindness in behalf of my husband's health during the meeting at Monarch Springs last summer.

He has had very little discomfort from asthma since that time, and we are giving God the honor and glory for this improved condition. Several years ago he had pneumonia and was very ill. His temperature was elevated and he was delirious. The ninth day was approaching and I felt that I was losing the battle. Some friends came in and I went out to be alone with the Lord. I told Him, "Perhaps I have not been praying right, but Thou knowest the desires of my heart, and if it be thy will—and I pray that it may be thy will—restore my husband's health. Nevertheless, not my will but thine be done." When I returned to the house, the improvement was so great I was almost frightened. I had known of people who rallied and seemed better just before the end, but I soon saw that the improvement was real. I went out again to rejoice and thank the Lord for a blessing so great that I could scarcely contain it all. I thought of Malachi 3:10 and thought the windows of heaven had surely been opened. We are serving a wonderful God. Praise His holy name!

Dana Barton

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Wash.—To all the saints scattered abroad, Greetings in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord.—I am so happy to give my testimony for my Lord, for he has kept me from going into bondage until the day I found the saints. I praise the Lord for a dear saint who sent me the "Faith and Victory" paper.

My family and I had been from one denomination to another, trying to find a true people of God. But each one was like going into bondage. There was always a demand or a probation that was required. Some churches would try to rush you into joining their church to have a larger number on the church roll. We were snared by one, I am sorry to say, but not for long.

I first repented in 1937. Maybe I should say I just reformed a little, for I believed in a denomination, but the true light was revealed to my heart in 1948. From this time on I was searching for a true church.

We had nearly given up hope until last year when we saw the announcement in the "Faith and Victory" about the camp meeting in Oregon. We had been reading the paper for quite a while (It was the first religious paper we cared about reading).

My wife and I had to persuade ourselves to even go, because we thought that it would be the same as all the other churches we had gone to, and that there would be something that they would go overboard on concerning some point in the Bible.

After we had attended six or more services, I could tell they had more than the average church, and that they

were really saints. We did not have all the light to start with, but what we had was the True Light.

I am so thankful for the two verses in Matt. 5, where it says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for their's is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled."

I thank and praise the dear Lord for the light that has been placed in my pathway and my soul is rejoicing so that my soul can hardly contain it all. The kindred spirit of God's children bear record of God's Word and are so much alike, there is no confusion and it is such joy and comfort to serve the Lord in Spirit and Truth. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

Pray for us and for the Lord's work here, that He may have His way in each heart.

The Lord willing, there will be all-day services every first Sunday of each month at 814 E. Mead, Yakima, Wash. Phone GL 22953. This announcement may appear in later issues, the Lord willing. A brother in Christ, Gene Land.

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Ohio—To the dear saints scattered abroad, Greetings of love in Jesus' dear and wonderful name.—Truly we are serving a mighty God. I am glad this evening that I can report victory in my soul. I can say the Lord is my Saviour and Sanctifier, also my Healer. I wish to tell the wonderful experience I received from the Lord through the healing of my body.

I had been ailing for a long time, but of recent months I had been getting worse. At different times I would call the saints for prayer and would get temporary relief, but the Lord had not seen best to heal me permanently. I have not been examined by a doctor for I've chosen to put my case in God's hands. He made these bodies and knows every pain we feel. Different ones have told me that I had every symptom of a cancer. March 13 of this year I almost fainted. I managed to get into bed, and by evening it grew worse so that it bothered me to sit up or lie down. I called for prayer. Again on the morning of the 14th I called the saints for prayer because I was really suffering. Bro. McCoy and my son Donald came. They held on in earnest prayer for me and the dear Lord came to my rescue and gave me relief. They left around noon. Around 2 o'clock I started suffering again. My sons Donald and Earl came and prayed but I only got temporary relief. The saints decided to get together and have an agreement in prayer for my healing. Again I received temporary relief. Calls were made day and night when the suffering was so bad.

My son Melvin and his wife had gone to Mo. to stay until their little one was born, so Lois and Donald decided to stay here with me while I was so bad. Earl thought my other sons should know my true condition, so they were notified. Monday morning Lois called Guthrie, Okla. asking the saints there to agree with the saints here. Some time during the early morning hours of the same day this Scripture came to my mind: "Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?" Isa. 53:1; also the 5th verse, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." That was a prophecy of our Lord away back in Isaiah's time and what He would suffer to bring about our salvation: salvation to our souls from the power of sin; and through the stripes of our precious Lord we could receive healing of our bodies. I suffered all day Monday, but that evening while the saints were praying by my bed and in their different homes I almost dropped off to sleep for the first time. I asked for a

glass of milk and that was the last I remembered. I went into a deep sleep. When I awoke Donald told me that Bro. and Sister Abbott had been there. They said they had asked the Lord to put me to sleep. During my waking hours I suffered a lot and was very thankful for each time the Lord gave relief.

My mind goes to the words of Jesus found in John 15: 7: "If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you. God's words are true and faithful. If there is any failure, it is always on our part, not on the Lord's. He tells us that we must be abiding in Him and His words abiding in us. In other words, we must be born again and living to all the light we have. We must be born of the Spirit (John 3rd chapter). I knew the dear saints were living close to the Lord in order to have their prayers answered as they were. On Tuesday a number of the saints and ministers came and sang the hymn page 412, "Evening Light Songs," "He is Able To Deliver Thee." Bro. McCoy read the tract, "Christ's Atonement for our Healing." I told the saints if there was anything in my heart that should not be there I wanted the Lord to show me. I knew if there was, it would hinder prayer. It seemed my faith was at a very low ebb and without faith it is impossible to please Him (Heb. 11:6). While he was reading the tract, to my glad surprise I felt faith springing into my heart. Then they went to prayer. They were going to anoint according to James 5:14, 15, and Bro. McCoy asked me if I wanted to be anointed for relief or for healing. I said, "For healing." I felt healing virtue going through my entire body, and said, "If I had something to put around me, I would get up. Before I was prayed for I couldn't turn over in bed nor be raised up without severe pains. I got up and felt like a new person. Praise his precious name, who alone is worthy of all our praise! I wanted to know if the rest of the saints felt as good as I did and was overjoyed to hear that the Lord had blessed each one of them and even refreshed their tired bodies. I called Melvin and told him about it all and he was very happy. My daughter was quite excited when she talked to me on the phone. She said I sounded much stronger. She didn't know what to think when I told her I was in the living room. When Jesus raised Jarius' daughter he commanded them to give her meat; so I asked Lois to fix me something to eat. She fixed an egg, toast, and a glass of ovaltine. I was very hungry. The Lord does a complete work. It was not like my old self to want food, but I ate all that was fixed for me. It really was amazing. I was able to go to prayer meeting the next night.

Dear ones, our souls are much more important than these bodies. If the dear Lord can so heal us that all pain and suffering will leave us, how much more does he want us to give our whole hearts and lives to Him and let him deliver and keep us delivered from sin. When He healed my body he surely gave me a deeper experience in my soul. My heart is overflowing with praise and thanksgiving for what Jesus means to me. I am glad for the strait and narrow way that leads to life eternal.

If any of you who read this do not know that your sins have been blotted out, I plead with you in Jesus' name not to put it off. "Watch ye therefore; for ye know not when the master of the house cometh: at even, or at midnight, or at the cock crowing, or in the morning, lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, watch." I trust the Lord has helped me to say something to cause some soul to make a start for heaven. If we gain heaven we gain all that is good, but if we miss heaven, we miss all.

I want to thank every one of you for your earnest

prayers in my behalf. I am determined by God's grace to live true and faithful unto the end of my life, and to trust my precious Saviour the rest of my life. I would be glad to hear from anyone who wishes to write: 29 McKinley St., Dayton 3, Ohio. —Mrs. Maudie Sharp.

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Okla.—Greetings to the saints,—Today finds me still pressing on. I want to testify that the Lord has healed me of the distress I had for so long with my stomach. I can now eat without so much discomfort and my strength is coming back. I am very thankful for all your prayers in my behalf. I am having some trouble with arthritis, but God can heal that, so I am pressing my case to the one that never loses a case. If we fail to get healing, we can just move over into heaven where there will be no more sickness and we will gain healing forever over there.

Do remember Bro. Barton, for he has a bad rupture and can hardly walk or stand. It hinders him during preaching. Often he has to stop before he finishes a sermon.

I was wondering if the saints would help us cooks get a new hot water tank for our kitchen at Monark. Also we need another paint job inside the dining hall. Do pray that we have some volunteer cooks as we will be short handed this year. I hope to go early to help get things in order. We lost our leader and will all be new on the job this year. Pray for us. Sister Amos Porter will be our leader this year, but it will be new to her, so let us pray that we can all be well for that ten-day meeting. It takes weeks to get it ready. Many have to help in order to make it a meeting after God's own heart.

Your sister for the Gospel, Sister Barton.

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Okla.—Dear saints,—Greetings to you in Jesus' name. I wrote you to pray for me as I had a very bad throat condition. Sometimes I would have to swallow twice before anything would go down. It seemed as though my throat was closing, and it had begun to turn dark. Today I can say I have complete deliverance, thank the Lord. God is on the throne; heaven is open; and prayer changes things. Also my husband's eye feels much better. Thank you and may the Lord bless and supply your need.

Mattie Lee.

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Tex.—Dear saints of God,—Today finds me encouraged as never before to live for the Lord. I have been saved a year, and as I look back I can say it has been the happiest year of my life. I cannot say it has been the easiest, but the Lord has been faithful as He has promised to come to my aid in every trial and affliction.

I have had some precious thoughts recently on faithfulness, how God is faithful to us as he promised in Heb. 10:23. But most important is the faithfulness of the Christian to God. There are few today who will take this way and have an unmoveable determination to live for God and his truth regardless of what the path may be.

The enemy will tempt and afflictions and tests will come in like a flood. There will be rough places, but he who is faithful will receive his reward. In Revelation 2:10 it says, "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life."

A Christian life is like a mountain road. There are lots of ups and downs, but if we keep right on, when we reach the top, just one glimpse of the glorious view will be worth it all. Pray for me that I will be faithful.

Mary Dunavan

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S. C.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—Greetings in Jesus' name. I surely do enjoy the books you sent me. They are

full of truth of the Gospel. If every church would live up to the full standard of the Bible, there would not be so much sin in the world. I am glad to know that you are preaching the whole truth of the Bible. May God bless you and all the saints there. I am going to try to get the books in homes where they will be read. If I can help one soul it will mean much. I am sending a little offering to help in the work. May God cause the work to prosper and bring forth much fruit.

I desire your prayers that God will keep me standing upon the Rock and not shake.

Your loving brother in the Lord, Eddie Driggers

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Kans.—Dear saints,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name.

This leaves me saved, sanctified, and very much encouraged to live the life His Word demands. I am determined to hold up a Bible standard in my every-day walk of life. There are many right among us who seem to be letting down the standard. My mother was a genuine old-fashioned saint. She went to her reward quite a few years ago. I cannot remember anything she ever did that was not becoming to a saint.

It is almost summer again and I feel like making a few comments concerning sheer dresses. I say this with much love and in the fear of God. I hope I won't sound too bold, but it has been on my heart so heavy until I cannot hold my peace any longer. It grieves my heart to see so many sheer dresses among the saints. Some in the past were so sheer that one could see bare arms, backs, and almost everything they had on under them. And some of the dresses seem to be getting shorter and shorter. I am not saying not to wear nylon and voile dresses, but, saints, let us make sure they are thick enough to look modest. It is not becoming for saints to show their bodies. I also think fancy curls are very worldly. Everybody's hair is not long enough to make a bun or braid, but we with short hair (not bobbed, but some does not grow long) should not wear fancy curls. Let us wear it as plain as possible. We must hold up a standard for the younger saints to go by. We love God and our children too much to let worldliness creep in among us. When people get saved or some precious lost sheep find our fold, let us have a Bible standard among us so we will not cause them to err.

Isa. 62:10, "Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people." When Jesus comes. He is coming after a holy, humble, plain, modest, peculiar people. Dear saints, I want to be in that number, don't you?

Your sister in Christ, Jaunita Johnson

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Okla.—Dear saints,—I am so thankful for salvation, for what the Lord is to me. It is my determination to live for the Lord. I am thankful the Lord gives us power to live a saved life in this dark world. I realize it behooves us to "watch and pray" for the enemy has many secret devices in use to destroy our souls. It is my desire to learn how to live closer to the Lord as I walk this pilgrimage. The Lord says, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matt. 11:29.

One who loves the Lord, Sue Penner.

o-o-o-o-o

Okla.—Greetings in Jesus' holy love to all, Praise God! By his grace and power, I am keeping the victory in my soul; confident of always defeating the enemy, only if we stand our ground, trust in the Lord with all our heart, and wait on him.

God's mercies and blessings are unsearchable and un-

ending. Life, health, strength, and divine love are mine this morning through him. Many wonderful things He has done for me, but saving my soul from sin was the greatest miracle of all. And my sincere desire is that through this testimony someone might be helped who is searching for God's truth.

Many prayers reached God in my behalf, for it was contrary to my proud desires to walk humbly before God. But I am thankful for a dear saintly grandmother who prayed for her children and grandchildren, and for all the prayers of the saints who were burdened for my soul. I believe all these prayers had much to do with God extending mercy to me.

I thank God for a tender heart as a child, and though I didn't live for him, his hand was upon me without my knowing. When I would do wrong He would talk to my heart, and I felt so deeply hurt at his reproof.

At about fifteen I was saved and joined the Baptist church, putting my membership with them, because my mother did. I hadn't yet learned God puts our names on the Book of Life in heaven when we are born again (Luke 10:20) and only He can blot them out (Rev. 3:5). If our names are not on His book, having our names on a church book here will never take us to heaven. Let us not be deceived. God will surely blot our names out of His book in heaven if we do not watch and pray and measure our lives here to all His Word. God has always required obedience and always will. Isa. 1:19; 1 Pet. 1:14; 1 John 5:2, 3. This is God's eternal truth. We will lose our souls in the end if we are careless. "Be thou faithful unto death" Rev. 2:10. "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." 1 Cor. 10:12.

As much as I knew I tried living right, but could not with that "sin that dwelleth in me" (Rom. 7:20) as my master. Thinking I was serving the Lord, I was cunningly deceived and unaware of it—as hundreds of sincere souls are today. I had to serve the devil. I was in unmerciful bondage unto him. But thanks be unto God, Jesus set me free! He came to "heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised" Luke 4:18.

Dear reader, Jesus came and died and rose from the grave so we could be delivered from the bondage of Satan, and He gives us all grace and power to serve God and him only. We do not have to serve the devil any more, ever! Glory to God! It is true!

At about sixteen I promised God I would live for him the rest of my life. And although I did not keep it, God never let me forget that promise.

Thinking I could forget that promise, I went on my own way, giving up the Lord entirely.

Then I met the saints through my marriage to Gene Barton. My eyes began to be opened. These people lived by every word of God all during the week and on Sunday, too. There was love, humility, meekness, and kindness among these peculiar plain people, unseen to me before. To do anything that would displease God they refused. They honored His Word, and God in turn honored them (1 Sam. 2:30; 2 Chron. 16:9) by healing their sicknesses and manifesting his power among them when they called on him, as with the early Christians. They greeted one another with a holy kiss (2 Thess. 5:26; 1 Cor. 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:12), not indecent mixed kissing, but the brothers greeted each other with a holy kiss when they met, and the sisters greeted the sisters in like manner. Their worship was truly spiritual. They had no prepared program, designating certain preachers to preach, or certain members to pray and sing. The Holy Spirit burdened hearts for duty and

gave liberty as he desired (2 Cor. 3:17), giving anyone freedom if he or she felt led of the Holy Spirit. No one acted more important than the other, but rather "brotherly love in honor preferring one another" existed (Rom. 12:10). There was no confusion or doing of anything unseemly in their worship, but clear easily understood words were spoken unto edification and upbuilding.

However, I could not believe they lived a sinless life, and thought they professed something they did not possess. I watched so closely to find something to accuse them of (just as the Jews did Jesus). It puzzled me. I wanted to dislike them for their beliefs, but they lived such good lives God just led me to love them more.

They lived more spiritual than any people I had seen, and I began to enjoy being around them. They had something my inner being longed for; real soul peace and confidence toward God. It started me thinking where I stood with God, how I could obtain such happiness.

God was leading and burdened the saints to pray for me. My life was most miserable after that. God kept reminding me of my promise to him, and I could not find any escape from that voice.

Feeling I was still saved, I decided to take up where I left off, just attend a worldly church and start serving God again (Like the seven women in Isa. 4:2.) I wanted to be called Christian, yet I wanted the liberty of my conscience to do as I pleased; not caring at all about God's will. So I did attend worldly church services once in a while; but, oh, the difference manifested! Pride, self, worldliness, even jokes came from the pulpit—just a dead, formal, social religion; some truth, but mostly error. They were using the Word of God "having not the Spirit" (Jude 19), putting their own interpretation upon it to please themselves, preaching a sin-you-must religion. "The wrath of God is against all ungodliness and unrighteousness" of men who hold the truth in unrighteousness" Rom. 1:18. Invitation was given at the close of their services to come and be saved. "While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption" 2 Pet. 2:19. This is sad, but, oh, so true in the world today. God began to show me people "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof" (2 Tim. 3:5), honoring God with their lips, but their hearts being far from him (Matt. 15:8).

Being confused, I desired a clearer understanding of God's Word, and agreed to forget all teaching and interpretation I had ever heard; which was all God wanted. Going to God often on my knees, I would take the Bible and read and pray with tears, asking God what was right. I saw many ways, but I wanted God's way only, whatever was truth I had to know for myself.

When God saw my sincerity, He began to enlighten my soul and to pour such blessings upon me I cannot express. So you see I did not receive this truth by man, but by the revelation of the Holy Spirit.

However the devil was present, as always, to confuse and blind eyes to the truth. He tried his best to deceive me, but God brought his efforts to naught.

One night afterwards God absolutely convinced me I was lost. He awakened me from a dream where a little blind girl kept crying, "God save me." Then two dear saints came over to her. God showed me clearly, the little blind girl was I; blindly going along thinking I was saved when I needed to be saved again. "If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch" (Matt. 15:14). I was following the blind and headed for that ditch, but, thank God! He opened my eyes in time. Soon God gloriously saved my soul, and then cleansed my whole being from the sin nature. Praise His name forever! This is worth telling the whole world about! I had been baptized before,

but Jesus said to "repent and do the first works" (Rev. 2:5). So I wanted to be baptized again, thus obeying God's Word; to bury the old life of sin, and be raised up to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:4).

Dear reader, man has many forms of religion, but only God has eternal salvation. If you have an honest desire in your soul for a holy life, seek him for it. For He will never allow the devil to deceive a soul that is honest and sincere. He will lead you to his people and show you his church. Do not be deceived by all the so-called churches, or highly esteemed preachers in the world. God's church will not be found in visible humanly organized churches, because it is separate from the world. God's church is holy and pure; clothed in "fine linen clean and white, for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints," (Rev. 19:8). God's church is called by his name, and is universally composed of all truly born-again souls.

Eph. 3:14,15, "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named"—the church of God.

God has given me perfectly clear understanding of his church, and since finding it, I'll not be "carried about with every wind of doctrine" (Eph. 4:14), nor ever search any more; for my soul is satisfied. I have found the saints of God who live by faith (Gal. 3:11) and worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:23). And now, by the Grace of God, I, too, am one of these peculiar, plain people.

I need your prayers. Sister Mona Lee Barton.

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Ind.—Dear Brother Pruitt and saints of God,—I had been a heavy drinking man for twenty years, and for fifteen years I had ulcers of the stomach. I had vomited up blood and had a continual sore spot in the pit of my stomach, and internal burning spots. In February of 1957 I had hands laid upon me and the Lord was called upon for my healing. The faith and prayers of the dear saints and the little I could offer was sufficient for Jesus to heal me, and after six weeks time I testified to my wife of complete healing. The Lord let me know that the stopping of the habit did not do it, but He did it, for I drank until January of this year, when He took the desire from me in answer to yours and other saints' prayers. Praise Jesus!

My father-in-law was buried Feb. 12, 1958. A week before when we talked with him last, he said, "I actually believe some people want to go to hell." He prayed much for lost souls all over the world, and especially for his daughter and me.

The Lord was burdening my heart very much that week, so He opened every step of the way before me to let Him in. After the funeral the Pastor's parting words to me were, "You don't have to go to church to get saved. Get on your knees at home and ask the Lord to forgive you of your sins, believing He will." I do not attend church services, but he did not know that, for we are strangers.

When I got home, I repented of all my sins and the Lord sent a good full feeling into my heart. Three days later my wife asked me, "How do you know you are saved? Maybe you sinned a sin you won't be forgiven for." I told her my faith in Him when He healed my body and stopped my drink desire made me believe He would save me. There is only one unforgiveable sin, to sin against the Holy Ghost.

My wife anointed me and prayed the prayer of faith. We were sitting at each end of the davenport and I wondered to the Lord, "Am I really saved?" Jesus held me as though I were in a deep sleep, although my eyes were open, for about a minute. I could not think nor realize anything, when suddenly He lifted me upon my feet shouting, "Jesus!" His Spirit came into my heart, saying, "If I come into your heart" It was no shout, nor whisper,

but so soft, plain, and understandable. It was the same full, soothing feeling he gave me when I repented of all my sins. Praise Jesus' name for ever and ever!

Please pray that the Lord lead me on, unto perfection. I shall pray for the church and for lost souls to be given light everywhere. A Babe in Christ, Orval Gagnon.

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Dear saints everywhere,—We greet you once again this side of Eternity in Jesus' sweet and precious name. We are still saved and kept by the mighty power of God. He grows more precious to us each passing day and his service grows sweeter as we continue to work for him.

We are happy to report that we have found and bought a good slightly-used trailer house that fits our needs in every way. It is an all aluminum construction, light in weight and easy to handle on the highway. Mere words seem inadequate to express our thanks and appreciation to each of you who prayed about this need, and those who helped with their means. Truly we ARE workers together with God. Continue to pray for us; the need to carry the gospel is great, and by the help of the Lord we shall endeavor to spend and be spent in His service.

Bro. and Sister S. E. Abbott, Box 223, Thayer, Mo.

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S.C.—Dear saints, Greetings in the name of Jesus, and God bless you.—The dear Lord has graciously saved me from a life of sin. I have been baptized in water by immersion, have the experience of sanctification, am separated from the world and from the things of the world, and have been healed by the divine power of God more than once.

Twenty years ago the dear Lord healed me instantly of a severe kidney and bladder trouble. Twelve years ago the Lord instantly healed me of high blood pressure. These have remained permanent, so I praise the Lord for His saving grace and His great plan of salvation.

Dear saints, may God bless every one of you and supply your every need.

Your Brother in Christ,

—J. R. Hoxit.

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The Battle-Line of the Cross

Never in its history has the church faced more militant foes. The lines are being drawn more closely day by day. The church must utterly repudiate self and all self-efforts. It must rest wholly on the authority of the Word, sheltered by the Blood.

To live the life that will meet the challenge, the Christian must:

Keep himself in the love of God (Jude 21). This will exclude all strife, bitterness, selfishness, love of ease and desire for praise.

Keep himself from idols (1 John 5:21). Keep away from everything that denies, lowers, dishonors, supplants, or supplements the Christ. Keep thyself from everything that exalts self, that takes to self praise or honor due to God.

Keep thyself unspotted from the world (James 1:27). "Keep yourself." There is something for each believer to do. Personal responsibility cannot be avoided or shifted to another. "Keep yourself." Lay every plan, make every preparation, spare no pains to live a holy life, to make an impact on a generation that is blinded by terrible sin!

—Sel.

"The truth itself is not believed from one who often has deceived."

Mo.—Dear saints:—We have received so many calls, letters, and visits from the different saints, that I feel I should use this means of letting the different ones know how we appreciate their love and concern for us. It seems impossible to answer all the encouraging letters we have received in this time of need. Some have also helped us in a financial way, for which we are thankful. The saints of God are the dearest people on earth, and we have been made to realize this more fully since we have gone through some testing times of late, and to know the Lord is right with us and his precious children are standing by us to hold us up in prayer to the throne of grace. There are times when it seems easy to get hold of the Lord and to overcome the enemy and then there are other times when maybe we are suffering in our bodies and the enemy comes against us so hard, we just have to have help from the saints and maybe they even have to have faith for us. I have gone through those times and it has made me have a greater burden for those who are sick and afflicted. Maybe some of us are too ready to find fault with those who have been in the bonds of affliction for a long time and are "miserable comforters" to them instead of really getting under the burden with them. Even if they may have come short on some lines, if we would show more love to them in helping them out in a temporal way along with our earnest prayers for them, the Lord will soon get the lesson to them that they need. The Lord has surely taught me many precious lessons during my seige of sickness and I could see many places where I had failed; not intentionally, but thru neglect. Our unsaved neighbors and friends have been so kind to us and wanted to help us out in many ways. They even brought dishes of food when we were sick. It made me feel ashamed that I had not been more thoughtful of them when they were sick. Many of us get too busy with the cares of life and we look for some great thing to do for the Lord and pass up the golden opportunities right around our door-step.

I want to thank the dear saints for their prayers and burdens concerning the affliction that came on my body in Jan. a year ago. It was a perplexing trial and one which I didn't seem to understand. But I gave up trying to understand and committed my case fully to the Lord and I say today, through the mercy of the Lord to me, that I believe the Lord has healed me. The enemy always tests me after I testify to it but I believe it anyway. I had been going to the doctor as I thought I was expecting. He told me I had a tumor and that it was definitely a surgical case. He was a very nice man and respected our belief. When X-rays showed tumor he told us he would give us time to decide for or against an operation, but I told him I did not need any time to decide that. He afterwards told us we had been a help to him in showing a calmness through the perplexities. We told him it was our faith in God that made us calm.

I have lost 16 pounds of the weight I had gained and am almost down to my normal size and feel better all the time. The Lord is surely good to us. I have learned many things through this test and I thank the Lord for bringing me through it. He came to my rescue each time that I would be suffering and called for prayer.

Our son broke his leg just a day or two before we received a phone call from Loranger, La. telling us of the sudden death of my brother. All of this was a terrible shock to us but, oh, how the Lord quickly came to our side and strengthened us! It seems we could feel the very presence of the angels around us. I kept thinking of the promise that he would never put more on us than we could ably bear, and "When thou passest through the waters I will be with thee."

A week ago last Wednesday, April 2, my husband was working on a window and fell twenty feet. Different ones came running to the scene and one man called an ambulance. He was taken to the hospital where the doctor pronounced a compound fracture of the back and broken right wrist. He was only in the hospital five days, because the saints prayed that he would be released, as he wanted to be at home. The Lord surely answered prayer and he was able to be at home with his parents and brother before they left to go home to La. the next day. His back has never hurt him and his wrist feels so much better. Now he is able to roll on his sides with the help of the rails on the hospital bed and is getting along nicely. We have surely felt the prayers of the saints. We know the Lord is able to heal his back where a cast will not be necessary, if it is His will. The Lord surely protected him from being instantly killed.

The saints here were so good to us, bringing in food and lightening my burden on that line. I was very worn out for several days, but the Lord has helped me and I feel more rested now and know the Lord will give me added strength. We appreciated Merrill's folks coming to be with us and helping us out.

Continue to pray for us that "After that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." "It takes the crushing to bring forth fragrance."

Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Williamson.

"Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Eph. 4:32.

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BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll, \$1.50; Lesson cards, 10c

GOD REVEALS HIS LAW

Sunday, May 4, 1958

Printed Portion:Exodus 19:3-6; 20:1-4, 7-8, 12-17.

Exod. 19:3. And Moses went up unto God, and the Lord called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;

4. Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

5. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

6. And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

20:1. And God spake all these words, saying,

2. I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

3. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

4. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

7. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

8. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

12. Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

13. Thou shalt not kill.

14. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
15. Thou shalt not steal.
16. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
17. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.

Memory Verse: If ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people. Exodus 19:5.

Practical Truth: The moral law which God commanded of old is binding upon all people of every nation and age.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lesson takes place three months after the children of Israel left Egypt. One of the promises God made to Moses was that he (Moses) would serve God with the children of Israel at Mount Sinai. I am sure he felt very thankful and humble as he "went up unto God" at the call from the mountain. Many things had happened since he last heard God speak to him out of the burning bush. Surely God did bear the children of Israel on "eagles' wings." He preserved them when they were faced with hunger and thirst. He sent them manna from heaven, also quails. He graciously caused water to gush forth from a rock to sustain them. When the Amalekites attacked them in the rear, Joshua was appointed general. He fought bravely and prevailed. (Deut 25:18).

When God saves us and forgives our sins, then we become a peculiar treasure of His. We will continue to be so as long as we obey His voice. If we do our part, God will do His. We are a "chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." 1 Pet. 2:9.

Four of the ten commandments set forth man's duty to God, and the remaining six his duties toward his fellow-men.

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Sunday, May 11, 1958

GOD'S PROVISION FOR WORSHIP

Printed Portion:Exodus 25: 20-26; 40:34-38

Exodus 35:20. And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses.

21. And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the Lord's offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments.

22. And they came, both men and women, as many as were willing-hearted, and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold: and every man that offered offered an offering of gold unto the Lord.

23. And every man, with whom was found blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, and red skins of rams, and badgers' skins brought them.

24. Every one that did offer an offering of silver and brass brought the Lord's offering: and every man, with whom was found shittim wood for any work of the service, brought it.

25. And all the women that were wise hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun both of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine linen.

26. And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair.

40:34. Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

35. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

36. And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys:

37. But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up.

38. For the cloud of the Lord was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

Memory Verse: Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts. Psalm 96:8.

Practical Truth: Worship is due unto God and it should help to make Him more real unto us.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Moses was commanded to make God a house exactly according to the pattern showed to him in the mount. This tabernacle (house) was to be a shadow of the true, which was to come. Within was to be the Holy place and the Holy of Holies. This was a type of the two works (justification and sanctification) in our souls, and the plan of God in the New Testament. The writer to the Hebrews, after giving a description of the tabernacle, says, "which was a figure for the time then present . . . But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands" (Heb. 9:9-11). This text and others make it clear that as a house and as the dwelling-place of God, the tabernacle typified the true spiritual "house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" 1 Tim. 3:15.

"Moses finished the work . . . and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle." God's presence dwelt there in reality. Today when we cease from all of our labors and surrender ourselves completely into God's hands, then, and then only, will the Spirit of God come into our bodies, which are the temple of God, and we can have real communion with God. It is easy to talk about communion with God, but conditions must be met first. God's people are distinguished from those of the world by His presence; thus it has been down through the years. A church where the Spirit of God comes in blessing and saving power is a church that is fulfilling its mission in the world.

-----:::----- GOD'S PEOPLE TESTED

Sunday, May 18, 1958

Printed PortionNumbers 13:30 to 14:3, 19-24.

Num. 13:30. And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

31. But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.

32. And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.

33. And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants; and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

1. And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.

2. And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!

3. And wherefore hath the Lord brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

14:19. Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.

20. And the Lord said, I have pardoned according to thy word:

21. But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord.

22. Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;

23. Surely they shall not see the land which I swear unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:

24. But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

Memory Verse: Wherefore, as the Holy Ghost saith, today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness. Heb. 3:7-8.

Practical Truth: Times when our faith in God will be tested will come to us all.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The first part of our lesson brings out the thought of a good report being brought by two men and an evil report by ten men. We find here the results of people believing the report of the greater number, when in reality the two men had God behind them; but the people were persuaded by the crowd or majority. We are living in a world now where the majority do not have faith in God. They are bringing evil reports to the people and the majority are believing those reports and are bringing the wrath of God down upon them. The devil is behind these evil reports. The devil will even try to work this upon the child of God. He will try to discourage you, when in trial and tests, and and make you forget the blessings God has bestowed upon you in the past and forget His power. If you yield to this, it will mean the destruction of your soul.

The children of Israel gave way to discouragement until they sinned. Moses prayed for them and asked God to forgive them. But God had been put to the test through their complainings and their direct disobedience. (Ten times is an indefinite expression meaning a considerable number.) God punished them by not letting them enter into the good land; but because Joshua and Caleb were men of faith and courage, they entered into the Canaan land. When people complain and disobey God and yield to discouragement, they miss many blessings from God.

LIVING BY GOD'S LAWS

Sunday, May 25, 1958

Printed Portion:Deuteronomy 6:1-3; 11:18-21; 26-28.

1. Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord your God commanded to

teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it:

2. That thou mightest fear the Lord thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.

3. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.

11:18. Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.

19. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

20. And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates:

21. That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the Lord swore unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.

26. Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;

27. A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day;

28. And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

Memory Verse: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. Deut. 6:4-5.

Practical Truth: Our highest welfare consists in living in accordance with God's laws.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lesson first brings out the thought that parents are to fear the Lord and have God's Word in their own hearts and then they are to teach it to their children. Our children are great imitators. Unless we first keep the Word of God with sincerity and humility we cannot expect our children to receive a vision of what it means to live in accordance to the Word of God and our instructions. If parents fuss and quarrel they cannot expect their children to obey them when they tell them to live peaceably.

Children can understand truths about God, when simply presented, about as soon as they can understand anything. A child should not be turned away when he asks questions about God. We should work with our children when God is working with them. Do not miss those golden opportunities. Impress them deeply that they will be blessed when they obey God.

The family altar should be made interesting and important. Each child should have a part. The home should have a Christian atmosphere. The conversation should be according to the Word of God. Parents should not discuss the shortcomings of others before their children, and should correct the children for doing so.

T. V. has crowded out the family get-togethers, the warmth, laughter, happiness, and all the precious things that bring family love, also devotions to God. One mother writes that TV took over their periods of devotion and conversation and soon they had lost contact with each other and became strangers. How sad! —Mrs. M. Miles.