

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup> VICTORY

## Church of God Servant



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### To The City Of God

O Thou fair and lovely Zion,  
Blest with truth and righteousness  
That doth flow in streams upon Thee:  
Waters pure with holiness.  
Stands Thy city on the mountain,  
Viewed by angels, saints, and men,  
From Thee flows the gracious fountain:  
Healing balm for strife and sin.

'Mid a world of strife, confusion,  
Is Thy tabernacle placed,  
All about Thee in profusion,  
Shines Thy glories pure and chaste.  
Robed with beauty from Thy husband,  
In the image of His face,  
Thou art standing for the mercy  
Of a lost and sinful race.

How I love Thee as my mother,  
Who my soul did sweetly bear  
Into Father's shining kingdom  
And the safety of His care.

Far above my dearest pleasure  
Is Thy welfare in my sight,  
And Thy glory is my treasure,  
And Thy shining is my light.  
Short of God's eternal purpose,  
Be Thou never satisfied,  
O Thou city built eternal!

For Thy joys the Saviour died!

Shine Thou forth, O blessed city!  
For Thy peace my teardrops fall;  
Lean Thou on the loving bosom  
Of Thy Saviour; hear His call.

O Thou Spectre of His glory,  
O Thou wonder in His sight!

See the treasures that are for Thee  
Shining in His precious light.

—Leslie Busbee.

### The Prayer-Life

Do we pray? Does our prayer-life measure up to the Bible standard of a life of prayer? Do we constantly carry that prayerful frame of spirit that a child of God should? We are not asking these questions to condemn, but to call attention to that which it is possible to neglect.

What is prayer? We mean real, true, acceptable prayer, such prayers as God will bottle up in heaven. For prayer to be acceptable to God it must arise to Him perfumed with the sweet odor of incense. When the Holy Spirit has kindled a fire on the altar of our soul, and then comes with the name of Jesus and lays on the fire our prayer will be saturated through with sweet incense which will insure its preservation in God's bottles in heaven.

Prayer is an attitude of consecration. The Greek word that bears this idea of prayer is found as often as one hundred and twenty-five times in the New Testament. It is the word of greatest common use in the New Testament as regards praying to God. Its root idea is consecration. It is compounded of two Greek words, one meaning "a vow" and the other, "turning towards." This means a turning to God in a full surrender or consecration. It is prayer in an attitude of worship. This meaning of prayer is found in Acts 1:14, and 10:9. But these texts are only two among many. In fact, this meaning enters into all prayer. It is turning to God with all the heart and soul. People are failing to get answers to their prayers because they lack consecration, and a turning of the fulness of the heart to God. There is too much cold formality. One of the essential secrets of prayer is a wholehearted consecration. It is a pity that this word has lost much of its meaning to many professing holiness. Many speak of consecration who are almost wholly ignorant of its meaning.

True prayer is a humiliation. Humility is another word whose meaning is not always fully understood. When we come to God as supplicants there needs be a

**Attend the National Campmeeting, July 22-31, at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo.**

clear consciousness of our being wholly without merit. If we feel that there is a bit of worthiness about us that puts God under some obligation to answer our prayers, we will fail of an answer. In many prayers today the spirit of reverence and humility is greatly lacking. There is not the removing of the shoes and that feeling of holy awe and righteous fear resting upon the soul before the awful majesty of God. It is true that God is our Father and we are to come to Him in the familiarity of childhood, which is another aspect of prayer, yet this familiarity must not become so unduly as to rob the soul of its deep reverential awe. There is a Greek word found in Hebrews 5:7 which is found nowhere beside in the New Testament. Here it is translated "supplications." We have the word "supplication" a number of times in the New Testament, but it is not translated from the word found in this text. This Greek word is found in Greek literature and is used in referring to an olive branch which a suppliant holds out toward the king from whom he desires some favor. Just as Jesus came before God as an humble suppliant in our humanity extending the olive branch of peace, so we, in our humanity, must come before God wholly in the merit of Christ—none in self—extending the olive branch of peace made through the atoning blood of Jesus. Except we humble ourselves and become conscious of our destitution of merit we hinder God from answering prayer.

Another beautiful aspect of prayer is that of fellowship. The thought of prayer being a fellowship is suggested by a Greek word which is found only twice in the New Testament. These are 1 Tim. 2:1 and 4:5. In 1 Tim. 2:1 it is rendered "intercessions," while in 1 Tim. 4:5 it is translated "prayer." It is true that words have changed their meaning some since our Authorized Version has been given us. The word "intercession" does not mean to us just what it did to people in that time. When we now speak of "intercessory prayer" we think only of praying for others. Three hundred years ago "intercession" did not have that meaning. In the original the meaning of the word is the meeting of two friends who talk together and receive something from each other. It meant a partnership or fellowship. This is one of the deepest and most precious aspects of prayer. It suggests the privilege of close friendship and intimate fellowship with God. It is just such friendship and fellowship as Enoch and Noah enjoyed when they walked with God.

—C. E. Orr.

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### Grow In Grace

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious." 1 Peter 2:2, 3.

A newborn baby desires milk. It will not grow nor develop without it. If it is past feeding time the baby becomes deeply touched and cries violently. He is in earnest. Why? Because he has tasted the milk and found that it satisfies his hunger. Just so the person who has been born into the Kingdom of God is

hungry after more of what he has. He has tasted and found that salvation brings a great blessing into his life and therefore he wants more of it. As he reads the Word and learns more about Jesus and begins to measure his life to the pattern set before him he begins to grow. Soon he finds that there is more for him. He seeks God to give him the Holy Spirit and oh! the new power and grace that flows into his life. Truly it is wonderful what God will do for that soul who seeks after Him.

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18. We do not want to ever lose that appetite for the Word of God and the place of prayer; nor the place of worship. Invalids die often amid plenty. Why? Not because there is no food, but because they do not have any appetite. Many people attend services where the preaching is going forth with anointing and the teachers are giving out the lesson upon their hearts with earnestness and the blessings of grace are abounding, yet they go away empty. It is there, and the table has been spread, yet they carry nothing away with them. They are no happier, and no stronger for the privileges they have enjoyed. Yet there will be others sitting beside them who are richly fed and go away rejoicing. Is it the preacher's fault? Is it the teacher's fault? No, the fault is their own. They just were not hungry. God wants them to receive food to their souls so they can grow, but the desire for spiritual food isn't there. Oh, how they should be stirred and awoken to their condition!

If you are listening to the Word of God and find the enemy is trying to cause your interest to wane, take a stand against it and bring your mind and soul in line with God's Word and be refreshed. Have an eagerness to get to the place where you can hear the Word of God read and your soul be refreshed.

"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God." Psa. 42:1. Keep the desire for God strong in your soul. Seek to learn more of His ways so you can grow. Pray often and read the Word of God. Store the Word in your hearts. Always be ready with an answer to those who may ask of you about the hope in your soul. Yield to God in the tests and trials of life and seek for the good in them. They are blessings in disguise. One has said that Trouble always brings a nugget of gold in her hand. Try to find that gold. It might be helping you to keep humble. It might be helping you to lean upon God and feel the great need of prayer. That thing you would want out of your life might be the very thing it will take to keep you in a place so God can talk to your soul and get you to heaven. Say from your heart, "Not my will, but thine be done."

I have seen some babies that never grew and it made my heart sad. I also have seen some spiritual babies that seem to be very slow in growing strong enough that they could be a help to others or could take much strong meat from the Word of God, or stand much persecutions. This makes me feel very sad. I'm sure Paul felt the same way sometimes, when there were those whom he desired much to help carry

the gospel to others, yet they still needed help. Probably that is the reason he wrote the following words to them. "Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." Heb. 5:11-14. Are you becoming a full grown child of God? Keep the desire for God strong and a decision to make heaven your home and you will grow in grace and the knowledge of God.

—Sister A. Marie Miles.

### Obituaries

Vina Addline (Green) Hague was born in Morgan County, Missouri, April 2, 1883 and departed this life May 25, 1960 at the age of 77 years, one month, and 23 days. With her family she moved to Tulsa, Indian Territory in 1898. She met and married George Ora Hague March 12, 1899, who preceded her in death in 1955. To this union eight children were born, one daughter preceding her in death. They lived in Tulsa vicinity until moving to Neosho, Mo., in 1925.

In 1914 she yielded her heart to God—was saved and sanctified. In 1934, Bro. and Sister Hague affiliated themselves with the Church of God in Neosho. She never wavered in her standard of life. She made the remark, "I would rather lay my head at the chopping-block than to fail."

She leaves to mourn her passing six daughters: Retha Holeman, Tulsa, Okla., Pauline Wells, Cheyenne, Wyo., Zoe Gorham, Goodman, Mo., Hattie Staib, Neosho, Mo., Wanda Hague, Joplin, Mo., Mildred Wyatt, Kansas City, Mo.; one son Joe Hague, Drumright, Okla.; one brother; two granddaughters whom she raised after the death of their mother, Anna (Fetters) Swan, Ponca City, Okla., and Mary Mandeville, Okinawa; 25 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren, and a host of other relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were conducted in Neosho, Mo., by Bro. Charles R. Smith.

Effie May Roach, daughter of William and Rebecca Roach was born Oct. 27, 1882 in Dallas County, Mo., and passed away at her home in Webb City, Mo., March 21, 1960, at the age of 77 years, four months, and 24 days. In early womanhood she moved with her parents to Webb City and on April 16, 1903 she was united in marriage to William A. Hughes to which union were born three sons and six daughters, two daughters, Tabitha and Ella Mae Huskey, preceding her in death.

Those who survive besides the husband, William A. Hughes are the sons: Clarence of San Anselmo, Calif., Eugene of Webb City, Mo., and Wilbur of Duarte, Calif.; four daughters: Mrs. Thelma Edwards of Oswego, Kans., Mrs. Vivian Pace of Moorspark, Calif., Mrs. Hila Allen of Carthage, Mo., and Mrs. Mary Ann Graham of Englewood, Colo.; 21 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren; two sisters, a niece, other relatives, and a host of friends.

She was converted at an early age and loved the Lord until death, was a faithful wife and mother, and

patiently endured life's burdens and afflictions. Her heart and hands went out to those in trouble.

Services by Sisters Ersa Carrick and Margaret Eck.

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### ATTENTION, BOYS AND GIRLS

In my heart there is a love and concern for you boys and girls—especially you who are the ages of 8 to 12. At this age your minds are very alert and unmixed with the cares of life. Your hearts are yet tender and you are very easily influenced to either do right or to do wrong. I desire to help you, with the Lord's help, to resist evil and strong temptations which might overtake you, and I want you to make your decision to yield the rest of your life to the Lord. He needs your youth.

If the Lord permits us all to attend another Monark Springs Campmeeting, let us have a special meeting time just for you. Should it be possible for us to get a large tent, or sit on the grass in the shade, or meet in the dining hall, let us meet each day during the general afternoon service. Remember, we come to campmeeting to worship the Lord by being attentive in the services, so if we have our own meeting at this time, you must be just as careful to attend as you would the other service.

Let us each bring our own Bible, for we will need it if we study from it. There may be some pencil study in Bible quizzes, a true story read, and perhaps a song learned with different parts. Let us all come with the intention to learn to love the Lord and His Word with all our hearts, to be courteous and kind to one another, and to be attentive to the older ones who are instructing us.

Boys and girls, would you enjoy this?

—Sister Sylvia Forbes.

### REPORT OF NATIONAL CAMPGROUND WORK

To the saints of God in all places, greetings: I know you are all interested and concerned about God's work. I would like to make a short report as to how the Lord has blessed through His saints in supplying all the needs at Monark Springs, Mo. campground.

We have purchased fourteen new tents; thirty-one new benches have been made; an east-wing addition to the present tabernacle has been made; and the rostrum is being extended eleven feet on each end. We have also purchased a real good used riding lawn mower. The Lord has sent in workers to help with this work, for which we are very thankful. We have \$140.00 sent in to be applied on the purchase of a new cook stove, which we hope to get soon. We thank all the dear saints for their part in making it possible that we have been able to accomplish all that has been done. There is no indebtedness.

The National Missionary Fund is very low. The tent and equipment are now out in service. Bro. and Sister Sam Abbott and Bro. Leslie Busbee are using it in a meeting at Prestonsburg, Ky. They expect to have other tent meetings in the East before the National Campmeeting. Pray much for them, and remember that you can aid the tent work through the Missionary Fund. You may send your offerings to the undersigned treasurer of the Fund.

This leaves us well and encouraged to press the battle on for the Lord. Hoping to see all of you at campmeeting, we remain,

Bro. and Sister Ralph M. Beisly,  
407 Eldridge Street, Coffeyville, Kansas

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**"FAITH AND VICTORY"****16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY**

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

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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.

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

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

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

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The Church of God Chapel at Guthrie, Oklahoma is located on the corner of Sixth and W. Warner. The congregation welcomes you. —Bro. Ira D. Stover, Pastor  
1208 W. Mansur, P. O. Box 210, Phone BUTler 2-3244

**Editorials**

As this issue of the Faith and Victory paper will be the only one you will have to read until the September paper is printed we want you to know that we appreciate every one of you as lovers of the truth which is set forth in God's Holy Bible. We are exhorted in His Word to make our calling and election sure. The only sure way is to obey the word of God in its fullness and it will be as David said, "A lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

In the first verse of the first chapter of John we read, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." In the 14th verse we read again, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." Matthew, in writing of Jesus at the beginning of his preaching the gospel, said in the 4th chapter and 16th verse, "The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up." It is wonderful and an amazing thing to have the light of life in your soul and to walk in the light with Him as the Word of God to you. The Psalmist David in speaking or writing of those who were walking in the light said in Psalms 36:8, 9, "They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. For with thee is the fountain of life: in THY LIGHT SHALL WE SEE LIGHT." People who walk in the light of His Word will be able to see more light and will more and more be separated from the world and its ways and customs. Their lives and lights will no longer be of this world but will come down from God out of heaven into their souls. If the eye is single to His glory, the whole body will be full of light. Jesus declares to us in plain language in the 8th chapter of John, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the LIGHT OF LIFE."

When John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, began to teach the doctrines of the New Covenant, the gospel of repentance and baptism, the whole country of people around about was stirred and many believed and were baptized. He told them that "the ax [the gospel] was laid unto the root [heart] of the trees [men]: therefore every tree [man] which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." John was grieved with some who came to be baptized because they were not bringing forth fruit worthy of repentance. The Light and truth that John preached was too bright and light for some. In John 5:35, where Jesus was referring to John the baptist, he said to the people, "He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light." Jesus, the greater and brighter light, was getting too bright for them, for it was

showing up the evil in their hearts and rather than to confess and measure up to the truth they fell back and loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. In the 3rd chapter of John, verses 19 and 20 we read what Jesus says about the matter, "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved."

When Adam and Eve had committed sin they did not want to meet with God, but hid themselves in the bushes. (In analogy, religious bushes.) They hated the light of God. The religious people of this world today do the same thing. They claim that they sin more or less all the time and they teach the people that it is not possible for any one to live free from sin in this world; therefore, this kind of religious people today will not come into the assembly of the righteous, but hide away in religious bushes or churches of this world and will not come where the blazing gospel of Christ is preached and practiced lest their deeds be reproved. Oh, shame on this generation of deceived people! How long will our God bear with your ill manners and deceitful ways? If you draw back from meeting with people where the full, blazing light of heaven is being taught and practiced, how will you stand before Christ in that great Judgment Day? I pray God that the true light will break in upon your soul and then your eye will be single to the glory of God and your whole body will be full of light.

Malachi, in prophesying of Christ, said in chapter 4, verse 2, "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall." In analogy, Malachi used the Sun as a symbol of Christ. When the literal sun comes up it lights up and warms up every nook and corner of the earth, and in midday it is so bright and piercing that ones' eyes are not able to look long at it in fullness. When John the revelator saw Jesus he described him thus, "His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength."

Truly, the Son of God, the Word of God, is a shining light in the world, but the religious world of people comprehends it not. In First John 1:7 we read, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." The trouble with the religious world today is that they do not walk in the light as he is in the light and therefore they do not get cleansed from that sin nature which causes men to commit sin.

There are some scriptures that refer to Christ as the morning star, but my opinion is that John the Baptist, with the light he had, could be included in this reference, for God was shining the gospel light

in and through him to a degree, and he said that He, Christ, must increase and he should decrease. In harmony with this I like to compare John to a morning star that illuminates the sky before the sun arises. You no doubt have seen that morning star and noted its brightness and how it causes other stars around it to grow dim. After a while you see a big red ball of fire appear and with its appearance the morning star begins to grow dim and in time the morning star and all others disappear. When a soul is really born from above all other lights in the world become as a second matter to them and Christ becomes their all in all. His light and truth attracts their whole attention and they rejoice in a Saviour's love and truth. Those who are truly born again—born from above—and walk in the light by practicing all the truth in their every-day living will be as stars of light in the world, but when Christ in a fuller measure appears on the scene as He often does at times, then our lights are so fully emerged into His that He is seen and He only.

Paul and Silas were put into jail with their backs bleeding and their feet in the stocks. The prisoners heard them in the middle of the night praying and singing and praising God. They were a light unto the prisoners and the jailer, but God went into action and sent the earthquake and shook their bands loose and the doors open. He became the greater light and power present and the jailer said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

We have a song that contains these words: "Let the lower lights be burning." Brethren, we are the lower lights. His ministers are symbolized as stars in the world. He also said in Matt. 5:14, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." We who are saved and walking in the true light are the City of God in the world.

"Dark the night of sin has settled,  
Loud the angry billows roar;  
Eager eyes are watching, longing,  
For the lights along the shore.

#### CHORUS

Let the lower lights be burning;  
Send a gleam across the wave!  
Some poor fainting, struggling seaman  
You may rescue, you may save."

o—o—o—o—o

There has been and there is a need at the Monark Springs, Mo., Campmeeting for someone to take the young boys and girls from the ages of eight to twelve years old and have meeting with them each afternoon. Sister Sylvia Forbes has a burden for these boys and girls, and will be there, the Lord willing, to call them into a meeting each day during the afternoon service. The parents of these boys and girls should see to it that their children be in this meeting each day with their Bibles. The instructions received at this age (just before going into teen-age) is so necessary to fortify them against the tricks of the devil. Parents should endeavor to give their children Holy Spirit instructions.

## NOTICE

Due to a busy work year we have been unable to reprint "Heavenly Life For Earthly Living" by C. E. Orr. Those of you who have ordered this book please notify us and we will refund your money, for we do not know when we can reprint it again. —Ed.

## Campmeeting Notices

## DATES OF OTHER CAMPMEETINGS TO BE HELD

Hoffman, Oklahoma	June 24 — July 3
Hammond, Louisiana	June 24 — July 3
Jefferson, Oregon	July 1 — July 10
Green Pastures, Oklahoma	July 8 — July 17

## CHURCH OF GOD NATIONAL CAMPMEETING

The National Campmeeting of the Church of God will be held, the Lord willing, July 22 to 31, 1960, on the camp grounds at Monark Springs, Mo. which is five miles east of Neosho, Mo. on Highway 86.

Those coming by bus or train will find it necessary after arriving in Neosho to either take a taxi-cab to the camp grounds or phone the Monark Springs grocery store asking for some of the saints to come and get you.

Meals will be served in the dining hall, financed by free-will offerings and donations of meat, fruit and vegetables as the Lord supplies.

The tents will rent for \$5.00 each, steel cot including mattress, \$1.00, and space in dormitories, \$2.50, which includes steel cot and mattress. Let none stay away who are unable to pay. Come and you will be cared for to the full extent of our ability. Those who can, should bring bedding, for the nights will be cool, especially if we have rain. Those desiring tents, cots or spaces in dormitories should send their orders AT ONCE to the undersigned.

For further information, please write to Ralph M. Beisly, 407 Eldridge, Coffeyville, Kansas.

## AKRON, OHIO CAMPMEETING

The Church of God in Akron, Ohio, located at 1325 9th Ave., will have their annual meeting July 1 through July 10. All are welcome to come.

For further information please write to Bro. Robert Jones, 676 Ardella Ave., Akron 6, Ohio., or Sister Dorothy Jackson, 474 Ardella Ave., Akron. Please pray for us.

## BAKERSFIELD, CALIF. CAMPMEETING

The annual Bakersfield, Calif. Campmeeting will convene Aug. 5 through Aug. 14. We extend a hearty and sincere welcome to all to come and enjoy a feast from the Father's table. It is located at the corner of Brown and Virginia (4th) Streets. Those coming by train or bus should call for someone to meet you. If possible, please bring bedding.

For further information write or call Frances Blackwell, 501 Monticello Ave., phone FAirview 3-2731 or the pastor, Bro. I. C. Chandler, Rt. 6, Box 37, Bakersfield, Calif., phone FAirview 4-9044.

## GUTHRIE, OKLA. STATE CAMPMEETING

The Guthrie, Okla. State Campmeeting is to convene, Lord willing, Aug. 5 to 14, at Sixth and W. Warner. We are looking forward to another gathering together of the children of God in these parts. We extend a hearty welcome to all who can attend this meeting. Provisions will be made to care for all. Expenses will be met by free-

will offerings. Send contributions or donations of food to Bro. M. A. Davis, Rt. 2, Guthrie, Okla. Come praying for lost souls. —Bro. Ira D. Stover, Pastor.

## MYRTLE, MO. CAMPMEETING

The Myrtle, Mo. Campmeeting will begin Aug. 19 and continue through Aug. 28, Lord willing. The campground is located one-half mile east of Myrtle off B B Highway two-tenths of a mile. Watch for signs. The meeting will be run on the free-will offering plan as usual. Please bring pillows and covering for the nights may be cool. We give an invitation to one and all and pray that the Lord will send ministers of His choosing.

For further information write Bro. and Sister S. E. Abbott, Box 223, Thayer, Mo.; or Bro. Earl Sorrell, Myrtle, Mo., phone WE. 8-2322.

## BOLEY, OKLA. CAMPMEETING

The annual Church of God Campmeeting at Boley, Okla., will convene, Lord willing, Aug. 19 to Aug. 28. We are looking to the Lord to bless, that His approval will be on each service. Pray much for the success of the meeting in every way.

For further information write Sister Ora Spears, Rt. 1, Boley, Okla.; or Bro. C. A. Wallace, Boley, Okla.

## PACOIMA, CALIF. (STATE) CAMPMEETING

The California State Campmeeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, on the saints' campground located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif. (A suburb of Los Angeles), beginning Aug. 26 and continuing through Sept. 4, 1960. Anyone coming from the north who is not familiar with the area should come into San Fernando and phone for directions or for someone to pick him up if he comes by bus. If you should come from the east or south you should phone upon arrival in Los Angeles. Call either EMpire 9-3608 or EMpire 9-5836.

We would like for you who own a cabin on the campgrounds but will not be at the meeting, and who makes an agreement with someone else to use your cabin, to notify us in writing of such an arrangement so we will know to admit the parties to your cabin when they arrive. Any who plan to come and do not own a cabin here please let us know ahead if possible so we can have suitable arrangements made for you when you arrive. Also, let us know if you want a tent. They will rent for \$10.00 as before and can be comfortably occupied by four or five people.

However important all of these material preparations are to a campmeeting, the spiritual preparations are far more important, so let us all work diligently on that phase of it and by earnest prayer and humble submission in our hearts to the will of God prepare the way for God to work in a gracious and powerful way in this meeting. Come with a true purpose of heart to do good and get good. Hope to see you all at the campmeeting.

—Ostis B. Wilson, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif., Phone, EMpire 9-3608.

## DOVER, OKLAHOMA CAMPMEETING

The Lord willing the Dover, Okla. Campmeeting will be in session from Sept. 2nd, to the 11th, inclusive. Dover is on Highway 81 and the campground is one mile north and two and one-half miles east of Dover. Anyone coming by bus and desiring to be met, please notify us in time. Send contributions or offerings to Henry Caldwell, or Ulysses Phillips, Dover, Okla. Bring your sheets. We may have cool nights. Pray for the success of the meeting.

## Presumptuous Sins

In Second Peter 2:10 we can read how God looks upon those who continue in committing presumptuous sins. A presumptuous sin when first committed may not seem to be but a small thing, but when one is persistent in it, it will grow and harden the heart and dull the spiritual hearing until finally one will be left with a delusion from the Lord because he no longer loves the real truth of God's Word (2 Thess. 2:10, 11) and neither do they practice it only in a self-righteous way. Those who become self-righteous are obnoxious in the committing of presumptuous sins, and God looks upon them as he would filthy rags. (Isaiah 64:6.)

Webster gives the definition of presumptuous as one being venturesome, as one taking undue liberties. This would include the doctrine, "Liberty of Conscience" wherein many have made shipwreck.

Let us read in the 19th chapter of Psalms as to what David says about presumptuous sins, beginning at the 13th verse, "Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression." David knew if God would keep him from presumptuous sins that he would not be in danger of committing great transgressions. In the next verse he says, "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer."

Presumptuous sins would be the act of taking liberty to do things contrary to the principles of the teaching of the Word of God. For instance, there are many principles of truth taught in the Word of God which do not call the name of the things taught against. The word, tobacco, is not used in the Bible, for tobacco was not known to be used at the time of its writing; but the principle of its use as being wrong is taught against very strongly in the Bible. Yet, people who know better will take liberty to commit that sin. They presume on the mercies of God. In 1 Peter 2:11 we read, "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." Tobacco is certainly a strong fleshly lust, and one in the habit of using it will find their whole body craving for it and it fastens itself upon humans until they think they can not live without it. Tobacco-using is certainly a nasty, filthy habit in the sight of God and before all blood-washed clean-hearted men and women, and yet we find a host of religious professors using or upholding the nasty, soul-destroying stuff.

In 1 Tim. the 2nd chapter and the 9th verse we read, "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array." In this scripture some things are named out as being wrong in the sight of God; to wear or have these on your person denotes pride in the heart and is opposite of meekness and shamefacedness. Any article put on your person that is not necessary for covering would be an adornment, whether it be on women or on men, and to do so would be taking a

liberty not sanctioned by the Word of God. We are taught in the Word to abstain from all appearance of evil. Any thing that one does which is in any degree contrary to the teaching and principles of the Word of God would be evil in His sight. A multitude of professors in the world today are committing presumptuous sins by the wearing of gold and by putting on fashionable, flashy, and costly, decorated clothing.

In 1 Cor. 11:15 we read, "But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering." We find many religiously professing women ignoring this Word of God and taking the liberty of committing the presumptuous sin by bobbing off their God-given head of hair.

In the beginning of His created beings in the Garden of Eden, God set the example of putting on clothing to cover our naked bodies. When Adam and Eve got into sin they tried to cover their nakedness with fig leaves, but God was ashamed of them and he made coats of skin and clothed them. It is God's will that we keep ourselves well clothed so no bareness of the body will be on exhibition. Yet religious professors women parade the streets of today, showing their whole bare body except having on some short shorts and halter which amount to less than a fig-leaf covering. Shame on such nude dressing. With their hair bobbed, painted face, gold rings and earrings glistening, and often diamonds glittering on their person, they far outdo the wicked Jezebel. God's wrath was kindled against Jezebel and she died an awful agonizing death. Many young girls' downfall can be dated back to the way the mother half-dressed the children—putting dresses on them so short that they are unable to keep their nakedness covered. As they grow up that way their modesty and shame is destroyed and they become an easy prey to carnal, brute men. The Bible teaching is to train up the child as it should go, and to rear it with such nakedness is not the right way, but is a presumptuous sin if endorsed, and sorrow of heart will be reaped. The child is likely to bring its parents to shame later in life.

The sin of omission and the sin of commission, together with all the presumptuous sins which the people of our land are committing, are certainly kindling the wrath of God against this generation as it did against the evil-hearted people before the flood. Listen to what God said of those people before he sent the flood and destroyed them. We read about it in Gen. 6:5-7b, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth." He destroyed them with a flood of water that reached over the top of the mountains. This world is now due for destruction, promised by the Lord in Second Peter 3:10. In the last part of the 20th chapter of Revelation we have an account of the Judgment Day and the last verse reads thus: "And whosoever was not found written in the book of



life was cast into the lake of fire." Committing sin will blot your name out of the book of life and it will not be found there when the roll is called up yonder. People who ignore the teaching of God's Word are committing sin, and people who commit presumptuous sins are spiritually dead while they live. This world is cursed with nearly naked women who parade our streets without any shame. They are spiritually dead while they walk about showing their rebellion against the teaching of God's Word.

John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." In verse 23 of the same chapter it says, "If a man love me, he will keep my words." 1 John 5:3 says, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."

—Fred Pruitt.

### An Answer To Atheism

I was born of Christian parents. My mother died when I was only seven years old, and it was necessary to send me to an orphanage. Though recommended to my father as being a Christian home it was anything but Christian. Five years of incarceration in that home was more than enough to turn me against religion. I got started wrong and I became a God-hater instead of a God-lover. I embraced atheism in its entirety. I was convinced that God was a myth and that Christ was not necessary. I regarded the Bible as a Jewish "scrap-book" filled with absurd legends. To this day I believe my bitter experiences as a boy turned me toward atheism.

Determined to acquire an education I devoted many hours to studying and reading in public libraries. I was particularly interested in anti-religious addresses, and I read all the standard free-thought literature: Paine, Ingersoll, Voltaire, and others. Joining hands with other infidels, I soon became an active worker for the cause. While yet in my early teens I started delivering lectures against religion. This I did in a most blasphemous fashion. I referred to my general activities as "pulling Jehovah's whiskers" and I used other terrible blasphemous expressions which I now shudder to even think of, and hesitate to repeat. My tongue was tipped with acid when I spoke; my friends called me the "champion blasphemer."

I traveled over the country, lectured and debated in many of the large cities, distributed thousands of copies of infidel books and pamphlets, and waged a tireless warfare against Christianity. In Chicago I met a man who was to become my colleague and inseparable partner in atheism. A more zealous, blasphemous, hard-working team of atheists could not be found anywhere. In many parts of America we established infidel and free-thought societies. We founded the Godless Age Publishing Company, and printed and distributed thousands of copies of booklets and folders, as well as the official organ of the American branch of the International League of the Militant Godless, a monthly magazine known as *The Godless World*. Charles was the owner and editor of this magazine, while I was the associate editor and director of publication.

One day a great tragedy entered into the life of my friend Charles. The loss of his wife left him heartbroken and disconsolate. He soon lost all interest in our work and became subject to extreme melancholy. He started to wander aimlessly about the country in a vain attempt to find relief. He eventually reached the place where he thought of suicide as the only way out of his troubles. On three different occasions I intervened in the nick of time to prevent him from taking his own life; twice I found poison in his possession, and another time I found him unconscious from poison fumes in the garage. He had closed the garage doors and let the engine run, while he sat in the car awaiting certain death.

I decided to leave the city for a visit with my family in Oregon. I remained only a few days, fearing that I would find my friend Charles dead when I returned. And he had expected to be dead; so much in fact, that he had left instructions for me to dispose of his remains with a typical atheist funeral. He had instructed me to personally conduct his funeral and to permit no minister of the gospel, under any circumstances, to say anything over his body, or, he wrote, "I will get up and call him a liar." But when I returned Charles was far from dead. In fact, he was very much alive! Wonder of wonders, he had actually found God!

The evening of my return to the city I had conducted a street-corner meeting at the intersection of 10th and Broadway. Before a crowd of several hundred persons I launched into a blasphemous attack on religion, much to the delight of my godless listeners. But one of my listeners was not delighted. That was my friend Charles, who had spent most of the day searching for me after learning that I had returned to the city that morning. At the close of my address I went over to where Charles stood with his back to a store window, and I asked him how he liked my talk—expecting the usual reply.

I was surprised when he informed me that he didn't like it. He seemed to be steeling himself to say something very important and serious. And very shortly he let it out. I'll never forget the feeling of utter surprise and shock that came over me, when my friend told me that we were both wrong in our beliefs, that there was a God after all!

"Ralph," he said, "I know you won't be able to understand, but I have found God all over again; found Him just as I knew Him in my boyhood days!" No, I didn't understand. How could I understand; I had been steeped in unbelief from boyhood and had never known the heavenly Father. Mine wasn't a case of being a backslider. I had never had any knowledge of God in the first place. To say that I was thunderstruck at Charles' statement is putting it mild! I was left speechless. Such a thing was unthinkable. So I decided to humour him. If he insisted on being "saved," then I would let him be saved. I patted him on the shoulder and said, "Of course you're saved." But he knew that I didn't mean it and told me as much.

The days passed. I heard from the lips of my friend the old but ever new story of Jesus the Christ.



I had never heard it in just that way before. It wasn't as though I was hearing a prepared sermon dealing with what God can do, but I was hearing a man testify to what God had done! How wonderful it is to proclaim the glad tidings of salvation through individual witnessing! Charles exhorted me day and night. I often remark that he preached the longest sermon I ever heard. It lasted day and night for about ten days. I can thank God to this hour for his persistence. One day he succeeded in talking me into kneeling with him in prayer. I wasn't the least bit interested in his prayer. While he prayed for my soul I gazed at the wallpaper, bored to distraction.

A few days later Charles invited me to go to church. Of course I didn't want to go, but I finally consented, after much coaxing. I felt rather out of place in that house of God, and especially so when I saw a young man there who was the leader of a group of gospel workers who conducted street meetings on the same corner where I conducted my atheistic meetings. On several occasions I had so incited the fury of the street mob against him and his co-workers that they were driven from the street. But he always returned, sooner or later, wearing the same smile and displaying the same courage that I so secretly admired. He was an 18-carat Christian and had no desire to seek revenge; he was seeking souls for Christ.

As I stood there in that church hoping that this young man would not see me, he suddenly looked straight at me, and his eyes grew wide with surprise. Rushing down the aisle, he came toward me. Fearing for my safety, I looked around for some way out of the building. He grabbed me by the hand and told me how happy he was to see me. Several shook hands with me, some rather timidly. But not a person was the least bit offensive. For the first time in my life I was looking at people who lived up to the "love thine enemies" creed. At least it was my first contact with them, so far as I knew.

I can't recall the sermon that night; but I was beginning to suffer from an old-fashioned case of conviction of sin. And when conviction seizes upon the heart of the unsaved there is no peace or rest for that person until he seeks the face of God. I didn't sleep well. I was beginning to doubt my unbeliefs. It seemed that the very foundations of my atheism slowly crumbled and fell at my feet. A feeling of remorse was clutching at my heart. I could hear my old father reprimanding me for my infidelity.

My desire to know the truth eventually triumphed. One evening I went to church with Charles, and when the invitation was given, I went forward to the altar, dropped to my knees and tried to pray, but it seemed that unseen hands clutched at my throat. I could literally feel the pressure on my throat. The words that I tried to form were cut off before they passed my lips. At a late hour, almost midnight, I had still uttered not a word and I decided to go home, fearing that I was keeping others there who wanted to leave. So I went.

It seems that God spoke to two of the men who had been kneeling with me at the altar. They walked

out with me, and together with Brother Charles, we went to our rooms. At their suggestion we four kneeled on the floor and for nearly two hours those three men prayed earnestly for my soul, asking God to reveal Himself to my heart.

As the hour approached two a.m. I had a terrifying vision of myself standing before the judgment throne of God. Some will argue that my vision was purely imaginary; but to me it was real. I realized then the awfulness of my position and my immediate need for "outside" help. I could see myself standing there before God, my friends pleading my case for me, but myself uttering not a word in my own behalf. I suddenly had a great desire to speak for myself, and it was then that I commenced to pray, for the first time in my life. I needed no human help.

From the depths of my being I talked to God that night. And my prayers did not go unheeded! The first prayer I had ever uttered brought about the most wonderful experience I had ever had. That night I was gloriously saved! My doubts and fears fled like the wind, and from that hour to the present I have never wondered for one instant about my salvation.

My conversion took place in the headquarters of the godless movement. I was literally a "brand plucked from the burning." The experiences of Charles and myself was the most astounding thing that ever happened in the atheistic movement of the Pacific Coast. Today, I am combating atheism in every way possible, and trying by all means to win the lost to the Saviour.

—R. E. U.

### Testimonies

Dear laborers at the Print Shop, workers, and saints everywhere,—Greetings in that sweetest name that angels sing. We are thankful to be saved and able to keep working in the vineyard of God, praise the Lord. Truly HIS service is our sweetest delight. Yet there are oftentimes many things hard to be understood. We read in Rom. 8:28 where Paul wrote the brethren, "We know that all things work together for GOOD to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Last November our house trailer broke loose from the car, rolled over twice, then dropped into a deep ravine. The wind was blowing hard which caused the trailer to sway wildly. The rear right wheel of the car ran off the pavement onto a muddy shoulder several inches below the road surface, bursted a tire and stuck in the mud. We could still hear the trailer rolling and things crashing inside, but our first thoughts were praising God to be alive and unhurt. Truly we could see his great protecting hand over us, for our car did not touch another vehicle and no one was injured in any way.

This could have been very discouraging, had we not known we are serving a MIGHTY GOD. Praise his name forever! We have not slackened in his service because of all this, but have preached the gospel in several states, visited many isolated saints, answered several calls to new fields, and are still in the battle today. When the dear saints learned of our trailer accident many from near and far wrote encouraging letters and sent of their means to help with repairs. A few letters were received with no name of the sender. Truly this was a manifestation of their love and concern for souls. Dear ones, our GOD, who is rich in all things that we have need, knows who

you are, and we are praying HE will reward each one an hundred-fold in this life, and with joys untold in the world to come. We deeply appreciate each one who has helped in any way toward this need. Remember, we are workers together with GOD. But if all our combined efforts result in only ONE being saved from that eternal lake of fire the sacrifice will not have been in vain.

In behalf of the trailer, it was badly damaged. Two repair mechanics considered it a total loss, another said there was a possibility of re-building it at the factory at a cost of between a thousand and fifteen hundred dollars which is hardly advisable, for the trailer is eight years old and has done extensive traveling. However, it is now at the factory where it was made and an itemized estimation is under way. God is still on his throne, and abundantly able for all our needs. Praise His dear name. We are living by FAITH and feel no alarm.

Pray with us and for us, that God will work out something in behalf of our trailer, for it is an essential in the new fields, and there are some new places calling for the gospel. We shall earnestly endeavor to answer each one if possible. Pray for us that we always live worthy of the saints' prayers, love, and support in every way, and let God have his way in our lives.

Yours for the saving of precious souls,

—Bro. and Sister S. E. Abbott.

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Oklahoma.—Dear saints, I promised the Lord several months ago if He would answer prayer for me, and deliver me out of a hard trial I was going through at that time I would testify to it. He worked it out for me, but I just kept putting the testimony off.

This morning as I was ironing the Lord brought my promise to my mind, and also how He had blessed us since then. One night the children woke up crying with their heads hurting. I got up to see about them and got awfully sick. My husband was sick too. When he got up the next morning he found we had a bad gas leak. The house was full of gas. We were all awfully sick from it. Sister Fern came by that morning and had prayer for us. We realize the Lord spared our lives. The Lord also blessed us in the storm the night before Easter.

I need your prayers for a closer walk with the Lord. I think a lot how the Lord has blessed us even though I don't say much. I am very thankful for the good health He has given my children and me.

I have some special requests I desire the saints to pray about.

With love,

—Sister Brewer.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Mass.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—I wish to thank all of you for your prayers and the anointed handkerchief. God has healed me of that pain between my shoulder and breast. Praise His name for evermore! May God's blessings ever rest upon all of you.

Your sister in Him,

—Elnora Ayers.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Ill.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints everywhere,—I have just finished reading all the saints' letters in the "Faith and Victory" for May, 1960 and also the precious Editorials. My, how strengthening all these precious children of God have been to me! I would read a while and pray a while. I really had a campmeeting here in the Spirit.

Our precious Sister Green gave me this May issue of the paper. Being on a farm and not having any way to go to church and no church of God near, I have, for eleven years attended a Free Methodist Church. We haven't joined a church but once, and that was in our younger life. I know there is only one church, and that

is the church Jesus built, and it is purchased with His blood through true repentance and turning to God with a whole heart, being born again through hearing the Word of God that we are lost and without hope in this world. Only Jesus can save us. We are born again of the Holy Spirit, and we must be cleansed and sanctified holy. Yes, we must walk in holiness and truth.

May the good Lord keep you and bless every one in Jesus' name,

—Sister Ana Schuman.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Oklahoma.—To the dear saints scattered abroad,—We greet you in the name of our Lord. We're glad for all the goodness of God that has been shown to us our life's journey through. We find him to be our sufficiency for both soul and body. We want to go all the way with Him. We know not where He will lead, but if we will follow, all must work for our good.

For some time we have been active in traveling evangelism, and enjoyed it very much. Of late God has changed our course of evangelism. The work at Shawnee, Oklahoma, needed help and we prayed often for God to supply the work with the help that was needed. We had no thought that God wanted to use us in this capacity, but, after much praying and fasting, God gave us definite leadings to accept the pastorate there, which needs our type of labor, at least for a while. Paul was an evangelist but there were times that he abode certain places. We feel much need of the Lord's help and the saints' prayers. This is a great responsibility and from no view was this our choice. We are having to make sacrifices from every angle to make this move, but we feel definitely led of God, and will follow.

We have had in plan for some time to start an old-folks home for the aged saints, and are making definite plans to start something soon. Many are magnifying the expense and also the confinement to something like this, but beyond all this we are looking at the need and are planning to move out in this work soon. It will be a work of faith and a labor of love. We will probably say more about this later.

We want to give our new address, so any that desire to keep in touch with us, may do so. Our new address is: P. O. Box 1853, Shawnee, Oklahoma. Also the address of the chapel is 207 S. McKinley. We give a hearty invitation to all to come and worship with us any time God permits.

Yours for the gleanings of souls, —Charles R. Smith.

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Ohio.—Dear saints,—Greetings of love to you in Jesus' name. I have felt for some time I should write my testimony from the time God saved me up until now. I will try and write a few things that the Lord has done for me and my family. I have much to be thankful for. The Lord has blessed and guided me in all truth and righteousness, and kept me from going back in sin. I had a wonderful experience with the Lord. I always had a desire to be a Christian. I had never heard of the Church that Jesus built and was in sectism, but wasn't satisfied. In 1919 I took very bad with gall stones and was operated on. They gave me up to die. They said gangrene had set in. In a few days the doctor came in and was very surprised to see me sitting up. He said it was wonderful, raising his hand and declaring that it wasn't what he had done, but that it was a higher power. He canceled our doctor bill. It wasn't long until I could be up and could walk around my bed. I thought I was saved and ready to meet the Lord. I was baptized and paid my dues. In a few days I was privileged to go home. I had lots of company and nearly all were church people, but no one ever said a word about the Lord to me. I was wishing

someone would talk to me about the Lord. I had never heard the Lord could heal our bodies. I was ignorant of God's righteousness and was miserable.

In January, 1920 we all took down with that awful flu. The doctor had no hopes of us getting well. My brother and daughter's illness went into double pneumonia. My husband was very bad. I was unconscious. When I came to, the Lord began to reveal Himself to me. It seemed I wasn't ready to die. The Lord knew my heart and let us live a while longer. Oh, how I did appreciate His love and mercy to us!

I began to trust the Lord and refused to take any more medicine. I told the doctor what the Lord had done for us, and that I didn't want any more medicine. It sounded foolish to him. He wasn't the first doctor I had. This one didn't believe in the Lord. He thought I was losing my mind. He tried to make me take my medicine. My husband lived a good, clean life. He told the doctor that he didn't believe I was losing my mind, but that I was having experience with the Lord. But the doctor still wanted us to do something. My husband told him he didn't need to come back. My folks weren't saved and they thought my husband was as crazy as I was because he wouldn't make me take my medicine.

I was going through some fiery trials, but I didn't fear the people; I feared the One that can destroy both soul and body in hell. The ones who took care of us never got the flu. That was a miracle.

God began to reveal His church to me; the one that Jesus built without spot or wrinkle. God gave me a taste of hell, too. There were devils all around me, trying to get me to bow down to them. That woke me up in my soul. I began to see we must obey God's Word, and worship God. That was one of the darkest hours in my life. God gave me a vision to show me how near the devil can imitate God and will deceive the very elect if it were possible, and how we need to watch and pray. That surely did increase my faith. I could see the oneness of God's people, and how we should obey His precious Word and love one another.

In June 1920 the Lord laid it on our hearts to go to Ohio to my uncle and aunt's. We obeyed the Lord. When we got there we found them both real poorly. We never met anyone that was so happy to see us. I never felt so welcome. They said, "We have been praying God would send someone to come and help us." We told them how the Lord laid it on our hearts to come. My husband went back and had a sale. We were just as happy as they were. We didn't like the city. We were all having a wonderful experience with the Lord. They were the first ones we had met that believed the truth. My husband and uncle and aunt all came out of sectism and began to trust the Lord for soul and body. It was more wonderful than I can tell it. My aunt soon passed away.

It was wonderful how we met the saints in 1922. They came and had meeting in our home. When they wrote and said they were coming we began to get things ready and invited our neighbors to come. We were like little birds waiting for our mother to come and feed us. They came and had meeting several times in our home. Saints came from different places and had meetings. We were so glad to hear God's Word preached and to hear the good testimonies. We told the brethren we would like to be baptized. They took us to the river and baptized us.

The Lord laid it on someone's heart to have the Faith and Victory sent to me. I had never read it before. That was a wonderful help to me. The Lord knew I needed help and encouragement.

My uncle passed away in 1929 and my husband in

1944. The Lord didn't permit one thing to come on me that I wasn't able to bear. Jesus is my companion and I cast all my burdens on Him and take all my troubles to the Lord. I have learned a good lesson never to take my troubles to the people.

I can still see the beautiful church that Jesus built without spot or wrinkle and the oneness of God's people, and how that we are to love one another with a pure heart. It is easy to be deceived if we look at the condition of things in the world. We have to keep our eyes on the Lord and follow Jesus all the way. Some of the preachers that profess to be God's ministers have failed to stay with God's Word and have not put on the whole armor of God. They have failed to take a bold stand against the evil doers and against the workers of iniquity. The devil can blind people and they can't see; they will have ears but can't hear. They have let false prophets come in amongst God's people which have on sheep's clothing, which have scattered the flock and caused many to leave the truth and go back in sectism and some back in sin. The backslidden leaders of God's people are the ones who will be responsible for it, because they have failed to stay with the Word of God, and have grieved the Holy Spirit. If they had obeyed God's Word in 1 Cor. the 6th chapter and Matt. 5:40, there would have been no division. They have done more harm than good. God is no respecter of persons. He only has one plan of salvation and we all have to come that Bible way. We are to love our enemies and love our brothers and sisters in the Lord. If we have the love of God in us we will speak the truth in our hearts and take a bold stand against the wrong.

I am not holding one thing against a soul; what they have said or done to me. What we do to the least of our brethren we have done to Jesus. He never murmured or complained. The devil tried hard to get Jesus to bow down to him, and that same devil is trying to get God's people to bow down to him. We are to love our enemies and do good for evil. When we come unto the Judgment, I don't want any one to say, "If you knew I was wrong, why didn't you tell me?" I can say as Jesus prayed on the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

My second husband passed away in 1952. He confessed his wrongs and said the Lord forgave him and that he was ready to go. There are many that won't be honest with their soul and confess their wrongs. If I have wronged a soul I would be glad to go to them and make my wrongs right. God has true saints. No doubt we have all made mistakes, but mistakes are not sin if we make our wrongs right and ask forgiveness.

I requested prayer for my body, and I thank every one that is praying for me. I am trying to walk in Jesus' steps and keep His commandments. I am praying that the Lord will work all things out for us and that God will be glorified. I am ready to go or ready to stay as long as the Lord can use me. I will soon be 77 years old. We can bring forth fruit in old age.

God bless every soul that believes on the Lord and has a desire to be saved.

—Lucy Lizar.

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III.—Dear Sister Marie,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I feel like I should write you as I requested prayer some time ago. I am so happy and thankful I want to rejoice for what the dear Lord has done for me. He undertook for me in every way I asked Him to. Praise His sweet name. I want to thank the dear Lord for it and also thank each and every one of the saints that had prayed for me. The dear Lord has been so good to me.

Please pray for me that I hold out faithful and pray that we will get to go to campmeeting this summer.  
Your sister in Christ, —Mrs. Iva Boling.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Ariz.—To all the saints scattered abroad,—I send greetings. I am yet saved and living for Jesus every day. I am very thankful that He counted me worthy to be His child. I mean by His help and grace to go all the way with Jesus. Although the tests and trials are many, I know His grace is sufficient for every test and trial for which I give Him all the praise. I am seeking for a closer walk with Jesus. Please pray for my unsaved family and for me.

Yours in Him, —Sister Bertha Slaughter.

Mo.—Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,—I feel like writing my testimony and telling what the Lord has done for me. On the 13th of May I got up with something wrong with my leg. I couldn't walk a step. It hurt so bad it would give way with me. That was on Friday. Saturday morning I still couldn't walk. I was lying on the bed when I decided to try to get up. My leg didn't hurt so I got out on the floor. It still didn't hurt. I began to jump up and down on it, but I knew God had healed it. I surely do give Him all the praise for I didn't put a thing on it. I was so happy I ran out on the porch and down by the well where my husband was. He came to meet me and wondered what the matter was. He thought I had been bitten by a snake, but I told him I could walk. I was so happy I shouted and praised God until I was satisfied. From that day on until now I could walk on my leg. It doesn't hurt now. I surely do thank my good Lord for healing it. He is so good to His own.

May God bless each and every one that reads this.  
A sister in the Lord, —Eathel Hill.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Calif.—Dear saints scattered abroad,—Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name, the sweetest name in heaven and earth. Praises be to the one who did so much for us; and is still bestowing blessings both seen and unseen that can't be numbered.

The Lord has done much for me since I last wrote to the little paper. He has kept me saved by His mighty power. Surely it was not by works or any other thing I have done or could have done, but it has only been by the power of God that I have victory in my soul tonight. I have passed through some of the darkest and hardest trials of my Christian life, but thanks be to God, I still have victory. There have been times I was at my wit's end, but that is where God begins to work. When we see we are helpless, utterly dependent upon God, and yield it all into His hands, then and only then can He make that way of escape for us. As long as we are struggling and trying to carry the load God can't help us, but when we say from the heart that we cease from our own works and give it to Him and REST, then the victory is ours.

I know, for I have complete victory tonight. The thing isn't worked out, but I have yielded it to God and have the assurance it will be. Now I'm resting. Praise the Lord. Surely I had a death to die first. I had to be willing to go through some things, if need be, that I knew I couldn't stand unless I died to them. But the dear Lord helped me to yield, helped me to be willing to go through them if, as I said before, it would come to that, and now I can rest in Him and let Him carry the load that was too heavy for me. It would have caused me to shipwreck both soul and body. Surely I am thankful tonight to know the Lord, and the way He leads is sweet to me. Though it be through dark, strange and rough places,

still I long to follow Him with all my heart.

Dear ones, be encouraged. If you are facing some things that seem more than you can bear and the death seems too great to die, that is the enemy of your soul, keeping you from receiving a blessing that you cannot explain or conceive until you meet the death. It is so sweet when all is yielded. Then you can say as Paul, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Cor. 4:17, 18. As Peter was, so are we, if we look at the waves we will sink; but if we look to God we will make it through.

My heart is greatly encouraged tonight to press on, and I do thank the Lord for His dealings with me. I'm thankful He placed me where I could receive help from His ministers. This is such a wonderful blessing to me. You who are isolated will realize what I mean, or if you have been isolated at some time. After being isolated so long it is most precious to be with God's helpers. Many times I have had to go to Bro. Trotter since coming here, and he has helped me to know how to get help from God. Many times God has given him the words to relieve me of my burden while talking to him. But when I was isolated, I would struggle and carry heavy burdens a long time, or until God could get help to me, either through the Word or His minister, so now I can't cease to thank Him for blessing me so. If you are isolated saints, God will help you as he has me and will get help to you just when needed. Just keep encouraged and looking up.

I desire all the saints' prayers, that I ever be true and faithful, and that I will always do God's will and keep yielded. It is my heart's desire to be a vessel, meet for the Master's use.

Your sister in Christ,

—Lavern Moles.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Calif.—Greetings to the saints everywhere,—This morning finds me saved to sin no more and encouraged to press the battle to the end. I take this time and opportunity to write and thank the saints of God everywhere for their prayers for my son who was in a mental hospital. Some time ago I wrote and requested prayer for him. Dear ones, our prayers have been answered. His mind is normal. I write for our encouragement and to let us understand to keep trusting in God. He has been hospitalized for seven years. Many times it looked as if his case was hopeless, but I never gave up hope and I prayed day and night and requested prayer time after time. Today I am thanking God for what he has done. Now, pray for him, that he, himself, will accept Christ. May God bless His people everywhere is my prayer. Also pray for me.

—Your sister in the one way.

Mo.—Dear Anna Marie and all the saints,—God bless you all. We want to report victory at Webb City. The Lord is truly blessing us. Bro. Murphy Allen held five nights of meeting in March. It was a great encouragement to the saints. We are thankful when God burdens His ministers to come our way. The intense cold weather hindered outsiders from coming and cut the meeting short. This Sunday, April 3, Bro. Charles Smith felt burdened to spend the day with us. We had two services and dinner with the saints from Neosho and other places. The Lord truly blessed in the Word.

Sister Margaret Eck has planned on being with us Sunday night the 10th and thinks or hopes most of the Coffeyville congregation will come.

My husband was able to attend both services Sunday and really enjoyed the Word. He has improved much, but still needs more help from the Lord. Because of the condition of his arms he cannot help himself at all. Pray with us, all you saints, that God will completely restore the use of his arms and leg if it can be to His glory.

Your sister in Christ, —Ersa Carrick.

—o—o—o—o—o—o—

Wis.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the dear saints,—Greetings to all in Jesus' holy name. I have another testimony to let you all know what the Lord has done for me again. About four weeks ago I got an ulcer on my left ankle which was very painful, and infection set in. I wrote to Faith and Victory and also to Bro. and Sister Eck and Bro. and Sister Abbott requesting prayer, and in about five days I got so much relief I knew the saints were busy praying for me. I can truthfully say, "Praise our dear Lord!" I am almost completely healed. I feel like shouting to the whole world what a mighty God we serve and what a wonderful physician we have. We never have to take medicine for the healing of our bodies. I want to thank all of you dear saints for your prayers. It is wonderful how we can pray for one another and God is always ready to hear and answer prayer!

God bless every one of you and may we all meet together at Monark Spring again. It is our great desire to be there and if it is God's will. Our love to all the dear saints.

—Bro. and Sister Klatt.

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Mo.—Dear saints of God,—This is a beautiful morning. I felt cold so lit my oil heater, but it will soon warm up. The garden and flowers are so pretty this morning. I enjoy the beautiful flowers so much.

Bro. Leslie Busbee came to Bro. Edd Whipple's and, thank God, we were privileged to have meeting for a few nights. How I enjoy being with the saints of God. Bro. and Sister Whipple, Bro. Leslie, and Sister Wilson came Sunday morning and we went out to visit a precious woman. She was very nervous and pitiful. She needs our prayers. Then we came back and she came with us for awhile, but she thought her daughter might come while she was away so Bro. Edd and Bro. Leslie took her home. I fixed food to take home with her. She has lost much weight.

I thank God that your dear boy, Sister Marie, came back to the dear Lord. God bless him. How I enjoy your letters and all the saints' letters.

I was anointed and prayed for, for the affliction on my face. It is worse, but, thank God, I believe He is going to heal it. Oh, praise God for His healing power! It is wonderful how the dear Lord helps the aged saints to labor and work for Him. You wrote and told me how your daddy worked until one o'clock one night. Oh, thank God for grace and strength He gave him.

It soon will be time for campmeeting. If the good Lord wills, I will be there.

I know all of you have much to do. God bless you all for His labor and love to Him.

I love Jesus. I love to pray. —Sister M. Whitmore.

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Mich.—Dear saints,—How I do thank the Lord for saving me when He did. I thank Him that I heard the truth preached according to the Word of God. If I hadn't heard it then, how would I know the way now? When I got saved the Word of God was preached in all its fullness. How glad I am that I heard it as it was! It has been let down now by many, so that you wonder where the true saints are. I will admit that I didn't get the experience

that some got, but many started as I did and have fallen by the wayside. But the dear Lord kept me in the sweet way. I love Him and His precious saints. I am very hungry for the Word of God. I used to go to Oklahoma City about twice a year to hear the Word preached as it was when I got saved, but rheumatism in my knees hinders me from getting around so well. At that, what have I to complain about? I do believe you saints at the office are praying for me. Some days I am so afflicted I can't get around. Even this morning I went back to bed, but the dear Lord so graciously helped me I got up and cooked dinner for daughter and cleaned the kitchen. So I thank the Lord for it all.

Sometime ago I had a dark spot come on my arm. I wrote into the office and asked for prayer. How I thank Him for hearing the prayers of the righteous. The enemy surely tries to bring it back, but I know His grace is sufficient. I had both arms fractured. Oh, I thank the Lord for healing. I don't know the day nor the year I have had a doctor.

As for T. V., it would be a good thing if they would build a fire and get every one and burn them up.

Please pray for my daughter and me. How I earnestly pray for those in the office who have given up everything to work for the Lord! I have done very little and the Lord has done so much. Pray the Lord will take this stiffness from my body and that I will get to some of the meetings.

—Sister Jenkins.

## God's Plan For You

My friend: I am asking you the most important question of life. Your joy or your sorrow for all ETERNITY depends upon it. The question is: Are you SAVED? It is not if you are a member of some church, but, are you SAVED? It is not how good you are, but, ARE YOU SAVED? No one can enjoy the blessings of God or go to heaven without being saved. Jesus said to Nicodemus in John 3:7, "YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN." God gives us in His Word the only plan for salvation. The plan is simple, you can be saved TODAY.

First, my friend, you must realize YOU ARE A SINNER. "There is none righteous, no, not one." Rom. 3:10. "For there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Rom. 3:22, 23. There is no chance to be saved unless you come to realize you are a sinner.

Because you are a sinner, you are condemned to die. "For the wages of sin is death." Rom. 6:23. "Sin, bringeth forth death." James 1:15. This means separation from God, in HELL, FOREVER. How terrible. Yes, my friend, but it is true. But God loved you so much that HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, Jesus Christ, as your SUBSTITUTE, Who bore YOUR sin, and died in YOUR place. "He hath made him [Jesus] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." 2 Cor. 5:21. "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." 1 Peter 2:24.

Jesus had to die. He had to shed his blood. "For the life of the flesh is in the blood." Lev. 17:11. "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission."

Heb. 9:22. Now we cannot understand how our sin was laid upon Jesus, but God says in His Word that it was. So your sin, my friend, was laid upon Jesus and He died in your place. It is true. God cannot lie.

The Philippian jailor asked Paul and Silas: "What must I do to be saved?" "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." Acts 16:31. Simply believe on Him as the one who bore YOUR SIN, died in your place, was buried and was raised for your justification. Now call upon Him. "For WHOSOEVER shall call upon the name of the Lord, SHALL BE SAVED." Rom. 10:13. The first prayer for a sinner to pray is given in Luke 18:13, "God be merciful to me a sinner." Now you are a sinner and surely you are sorry because of it. Right NOW, wherever you are, lift your heart to God in prayer. It does not take a long, loud prayer, for God is ANXIOUS to save you. Just say: "O God, I am a sinner and I am sorry, have mercy upon me, forgive me and SAVE me for Jesus' sake." Now just take Him at His word. In 1 John 1:9 it says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Again in Rom. 10:9, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." This is a positive truth declared by God unto you; believe it from your very heart. Jesus came preaching repentance and said to the people that, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:3. Paul said in Acts 17:30 that God "Now commandeth all men every where to repent."

Just take God at his word. When you have done what he has asked, CLAIM SALVATION BY FAITH, according to his word. Believe and thou shalt be saved. No church, no lodge, no good works, NO ONE BUT JESUS ONLY CAN SAVE YOU.

You say, "Surely that is not all that is necessary to do to be saved!" Yes, it is, absolutely all. Thank God many have been won to Christ by this simple plan. It is God's plan. My friend, believe it and follow it today. "Behold, NOW is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." 2 Cor. 6:2.

Be sure you are saved. You need salvation above everything else. If you lose your soul you miss heaven and lose all. "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Mark 8:36, 37. God help you to be saved today.

He will save you and also KEEP YOU. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." 1 Cor. 10:13. DO NOT trust your feelings. They change. STAND on God's PROMISES. They NEVER change.

After you are saved there are three things to practice daily for spiritual growth: PRAY—You talk to God; READ YOUR BIBLE—God talks to you; WITNESS—You talk for God. "Whosoever therefore

shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 10:32. —Copied.

## BIBLE STUDY

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July 3, 1960

### MEN WHO SPOKE FOR GOD

Printed Portion ..... Amos 7:7-15

7. Thus he shewed me: and, behold, the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand.

8. And the Lord said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more:

9. And the high places of Isaac shall be desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste; and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.

10. Then Amaziah the priest of Beth-el sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel: the land is not able to bear all his words.

11. For thus Amos saith, Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel shall surely be led away captive out of their own land.

12. Also Amaziah said unto Amos, O thou seer, go, flee thee away into the land of Judah, and there eat bread, and prophesy there:

13. But prophesy not again any more at Beth-el: for it is the king's chapel, and it is the king's court.

14. Then answered Amos, and said to Amaziah, I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was an herdsman, and a gatherer of sycomore fruit:

15. And the Lord took me as I followed the flock, and the Lord said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel.

Memory Verse: Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. 2 Tim. 4:2.

Practical Truth: When God calls men to speak for him, they should respond.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

Our lessons now will be about four of the minor prophets. Today our lesson is from the book of Amos. He was a herdsman and a gatherer of sycomore fruit. He prophesied during the reign of Jeroboam II, king of Israel. Things were going well in Israel. Syria, who was an enemy of Israel, had weakened and could not trouble Israel. Danger seemed far away. The rich were living in ease and luxury. One thing was wrong: they had forgotten God. They worshipped some golden calves at Bethel. Amaziah was the idol-priest.

God looked down at the Israelites and saw the wickedness. One day He spoke to the herdsman, Amos, and told him to go and prophesy to "my people Israel." Right in the midst of ease a message of doom was brought. Amos said he had seen a vision. God had dropped a plumbline down in the midst of Israel and they were to be punished. A plumbline is a string with a heavy piece of lead tied to the end of it and is held with the weight down to see if a wall is straight. The Bible is the plumbline and we have to measure to it or we are lost. God is calling us to be



true to others, who are not measured to the Bible. God wants brave men and women like Amos who will not refuse to continue to tell the truth. We must receive a message from God, like Amos, and refuse to stop speaking until God tells us to, even if our lives are threatened or if it is painful to do so.

July 10, 1960

### SOCIAL JUSTICE—THEN AND NOW

Printed Portion ..... Amos 5:10-15, 21-24

10. They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly.

11. Forasmuch therefore as your treading is upon the poor, and ye take from him burdens of wheat: ye have built houses of hewn stone, but ye shall not dwell in them; ye have planted pleasant vineyards, but ye shall not drink wine of them.

12. For I know your manifold transgressions and your mighty sins: they afflict the just, they take a bribe, and they turn aside the poor in the gate from their right.

13. Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time.

14. Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the Lord, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken.

15. Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the Lord God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.

21. I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies.

22. Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts.

23. Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols.

24. But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.

Memory Verse: Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate. Amos 5:15.

Practical Truth: There is no substitute for righteousness in one's dealings with others, and God sometimes uses unwelcome discipline to help people understand this.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

In our lesson today the prophet Amos names some of the great sins the people were committing. In them we hear the echo of our own nation. They trampled down the poor. Many became rich because they took advantage of those who had to work for them. They would exact more wheat from those who tilled the land than they should have. They built them fine houses but Amos said they would not dwell in them because they would be carried away into captivity. They would be punished for their sins. He condemned the perversion of justice. After committing these sins they would offer burnt offerings unto the Lord but God would not even smell in their solemn assemblies. They were an insult to Him. How sad it is for people to get into such a deceived condition. God will bring all into judgment.

Today we see people who go to meeting on Sunday and through the week do all kinds of wickedness. Such religion is vain. Yet many people are deceived in such a way. God does not even look their way or accept their Sunday Church-going. America is supposed to be a Christian nation, but it is far from it. It is sad but very few

can be trusted to do the right. Salesmen misrepresent cars, goods, and property. Shoddy material is put on the insides of homes that are built, etc. But God's people treat everyone justly and God blesses them as they worship Him.

July 17, 1960

### WHEN PEOPLE ARE SELFISH

Printed Portion ..... Amos 6:1-8

1. Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came!

2. Pass ye unto Calneh, and see; and from thence go ye to Hamath the great: then go down to Gath of the Philistines: be they better than these kingdoms? or their border greater than your border?

3. Ye that put far away the evil day, and cause the seat of violence to come near;

4. That lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall;

5. That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of musick like David;

6. That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.

7. Therefore now shall they go captive with the first that go captive, and the banquet of them that stretched themselves shall be removed.

8. The Lord God hath sworn by himself, saith the Lord the God of hosts, I abhor the excellency of Jacob, and hate his palaces: therefore will I deliver up the city with all that is therein.

Memory Verse: Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 1 Cor. 10:12.

Practical Truth: In order for any man to be secure there must be full and continued obedience to God.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

Security is something every human being wants. A baby is happy when it feels its mother's arms around it. This desire never leaves a person, yet so many in this world are not looking to the right place for security. Riches will never bring security. Friends and loved ones cannot give it. Some trust in old age pensions for security. Congress yearly appropriates billions of dollars to make the nation secure, yet it continually has a threat of the mighty weapons of other nations hanging over it which cannot be stopped. Many in the world are trusting in these things and are feeling a security which is a false security. We must look higher than this world for security. Our hope and trust in God is the only real security we have. Man can kill the body but he cannot kill the soul. When our soul is right with God we have real security. When we lay up our treasures in heaven, rust will not corrupt nor thieves break through and steal. Let us live more in the heavenly, spiritual realm. Real security will then envelop the soul.

The Israelites felt secure in Samaria which was surrounded by a wall that in places was 33 feet thick. They lived carelessly and disregarded the laws of God. The Assyrians came against them and after three years they were starved into submission. History says 27,290 chief citizens were taken as captives. Thus did the predictions of Amos come to pass.



July 24, 1960

## GOD DESIRES STEADFAST LOVE

Printed Portion ..... Hosea 4:1-3; 5:15 to 6:6

4:1. Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel: for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

2. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.

3. Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away.

5:15. I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.

6:1. Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.

2. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

3. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

4. O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? for your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away.

5. Therefore have I hewed them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth: and thy judgments are as the light that goeth forth.

6. For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

Memory Verse: I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings. Hosea 6:6.

Practical Truth: God desires the constant love of His people, which is revealed by lives lived on a high level of integrity and spiritual faithfulness.

## COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

Hosea's prophecies have in them an element analogous to this: God is represented to be the loving husband, and Israel the wife, or Gomer, the faithless one. She has betrayed her husband and turned to other lovers. Her husband is crushed, frustrated, yet tenderly forgives.

God calls for a return of his great love. It is liken to the love of a marriage. It is to be completely exclusive in its nature. God is a jealous God. He wants all of our love or will have none. We cannot hold on to the world with one hand and God the other. He wants us to love him with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. The cross is an open symbol of his love for fallen man and it deserves the response of man's steadfast love. Spiritual triflers today should take warning because it is a great sin to betray His great love. It becomes spiritual adultery.

God had a contention with the people because the nation had collapsed morally. He waited until they realized this and returned to him. From verses 1-3 in chapter 6 is an imaginary repentance of the people of Israel. They thought God would heal them and cause their troubles to cease. When repentance is real God will accept it, but verse 4 describes what the goodness of the people was like. Dew soon goes when the sun arises. God wants steadfast love; and offerings do not mean much to God unless there is a real desire to serve Him.

July 31, 1960

## SEEDS OF NATIONAL DECAY

Printed Portion ..... Hosea 10:1-8, 12

1. Israel is an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself: according to the multitude of his fruit he hath increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images.

2. Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty: he shall break down their altars, he shall spoil their images.

3. For now they shall say, We have no king, because we feared not the Lord; what then should a king do to us?

4. They have spoken words, swearing falsely in making a covenant: thus judgment springeth up as hemlock in the furrows of the field.

5. The inhabitants of Samaria shall fear because of the calves of Beth-aven: for the people thereof shall mourn over it, and the priests thereof that rejoiced on it, for the glory thereof, because it is departed from it.

6. It shall be also carried unto Assyria for a present to king Jareb: Ephraim shall receive shame, and Israel shall be ashamed of his own counsel.

7. As for Samaria, her king is cut off as the foam upon the water.

8. The high places also of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed: the thorn and the thistle shall come up on their altars; and they shall say to the mountains, Cover us; and to the hills, Fall on us.

12. Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

Memory Verse: Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you. Hosea 10:12.

Practical Truth: Luxurious living and a dependence upon powers that leave out God are injurious to an individual or a nation.

## COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

It seemed God was with the Israelites as they were getting rich and reaching out, but they were only bringing forth fruit unto themselves. They built more altars, but they were altars to the heathen god. They had to be punished for their sins. The Lord broke down their altars and destroyed their pillars through permitting their enemies to do this. When these things came to pass they realized how helpless their king was to help them and their covenants amounted to nothing.

The people had lost their faith in God. Their king had some golden calves made. A priest took care of the idol worship. Verse 5 brings out the fact that the people would mourn over the loss of those calves. Those calves or gods, as was the custom in those times, would be given to the king of a country as a present. The people would be so full of despair that they would call for the mountains to fall on them. Hosea called for the people to sow righteousness so they would reap mercy. The fallow ground of their hearts needed to be broken up so they could repent and the weeds of sin be destroyed.

Today the seeds of decay are in our own country. Very few really know the redemption story. Very few are sowing righteous seeds. Crime is on the increase. Our nation is ripening up for destruction. Every nation that has forgotten God has fallen. They may not be worshipping golden calves, but are worshipping "Madam Pleasure", and she will lead them to torment.

—Sister Marie Miles.