

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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A Babe—A King Was Born

The shepherds in the field that night,
The wise men from the wondrous light—
All heard the message that we sing:
Of Jesus Christ, the new-born King.

They came to worship and adore,
To bring rich gifts of wondrous store;
And angels sang around the throne
While glory from the heavens shone.

There in a manger low He lay,
'Twas made for Him a bed of hay;
He, born a King, from mansions high,
For those in sin who hopeless lie.

—Leslie Busbee

No Room For The Savior!

I am thinking about the first Christmas almost 2000 years ago. "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, (because he was of the house and lineage of David,) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:1-11.

Now as we look over the world just before Christmas we see the cities all decked with colorful lights and decorations. The homes are lit up, and decorated with evergreen trees in the windows which have been arrayed in beautiful colors. Much excitement pervades the atmosphere. Most everyone is real busy, doing their last minute shopping, getting every thing wrapped, and under the tree. They are talking and laughing excitedly, just expecting "Santa Claus" (?) any minute.

Now let us look with our mind's eye, and see Christ, the Savior of the world, coming to such a city. He is a stranger, so He is not noticed by the busy crowd. He paused at the door of a mansion, and rang the door bell. A woman opened wide the door. The stranger said, "Hello, I came to help you celebrate, to share your home a while; would you mind if I came in?" "But . . . O, no!" The woman was so surprised she scarcely knew what to say or do. She recognized that the stranger was Jesus, the Saviour of the world! Now she began to make excuses. She was so very tired; she had worked so hard all day. And besides, her house was full of guests already—much like the inn of long ago. She said, "My children are looking for Santa soon with a large pack on his back; each year they look forward to seeing him, and they love him so. You are just a stranger—they haven't heard much about you. I had almost forgotten you myself. I'm sorry, but there isn't room. I must bid you go!"

There is a cottage down the street. The roof is battered, and the steps are broken. The folks are old and poor, but I know they have lodged strangers there before.

The manger bed is very good;
'Twas chosen long ago for Thee.
The warmth, the light, the pleasant things—
They are for mine—and me.

One night outside of Heaven's door,
She stood alone in darkest gloom,
And heard the Master sadly say,
'I'm sorry, but there isn't room!"

"Inasmuch as ye did it not unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye did it not unto me." "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever." And people are much the same, too. There was no room in the inn for Jesus. There is now no room in the mansion for Jesus—no room in the hearts of people for Jesus.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and grew up much like all children do. But still He was different. He was the Saviour of the world. He did no sin, yet He took upon Himself the penalty for the sins of the whole world. He suffered, bled and died upon the cross, that whosoever would believe in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Won't you make room in your heart now and invite Him to come in? "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." "Today, if ye hear His voice, harden not your hearts."

Jesus stands right now with outstretched arms, saying, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

O, may we open wide the door,
Nor turn this Holy Child away;
But graciously invite the Christ
To come into our hearts—to stay!

—Mrs. C. D. Dilley

"BABYLON IS FALLEN"

(Part I)

Since the Nov. 8th, 1960 election when a Roman Catholic was seated in the White House, many dismayed and disturbed people are heard to say that Protestantism is dead, but the only surprising factor for wise and well-informed people regarding this demise is the fact that these alarmists are just now finding out concerning a death that was announced many centuries ago by the Apostle John. In Rev. 18:2 the inspired writer cries and says: "Babylon is fallen," and Babylon answers to Babel or confusion, and who can honestly dare assert that sectarianism or Protestantism is not the very spirit of confusion personified? The world would not be at the crossroads it faces today had Christians long ago left off their sin of division, and come together with ONE MIND in the power of the Spirit, all speaking the same things, and perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment, as Paul commands in I Cor. 1:10.

Romanism, Satanic though it be, is not a combatant, divided, schismatic organization within itself, and we can say the same for Communism, generally speaking. These sinister forces are united, concordant, congenial and harmonious within their own organizations, and are both making great and phenomenal strides as they ride hard to conquer the earth. On the other hand, Protestantism is not even a second rate power, for while they cry "lo here and lo there," seeking to gain members for their own sects

and cults and to make said members after their own fashion and likeness, the two barbaric horsemen of Romanism and Communism are fast taking over and enslaving all the nations of mankind. In Matt. 12:25 we hear Jesus saying: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation." Seeing then that denominationalism is so divided against itself, need we be surprised when we face the desolation that is now apparent everywhere?

Our so-called evangelical groups call constantly for man-power and funds to stem the tide as they see the evil and godless hordes taking over in all nations, and yet these same evangelical forces never seem to give first thought to their scarlet sins of division. They see nothing whatever amiss as a thousand discordant voices try vainly to build up the kingdom of God within the framework of their own powerless and fallen institutions. Bible unity and oneness is not only an unknown quantity, but is in most cases an unwanted quantity with these schismatic Babylonians, for behold the array of phony and false prophets that will look one in the eye and brazenly assert that these divisions are a necessity on account, as they say, the Bible reads differently to those of diverse minds and of changing temperaments. It is strikingly strange, however, that this brand of reasoning does not apply to any other book, paper or periodical in the world, just the Bible.

Another puzzler is the fact that although the scriptures were written by holy men of old under the inspiration and leading of the Holy Spirit, and are intended as a light and a guide to those "upon whom the ends of the world are come," and yet we are supposed to believe the devil's lie that we cannot after all wholly agree upon the writings that God by Divine decree has given us.

Babylon or the city of confusion was not only a fallen institution in Bible times, but as well had become "the habitation of devils, the hold of every foul spirit, and the cage of every unclean and hateful bird." Therefore must we suppose that this Babylon is any less of a fallen and dead institution today than she was when John got a glimpse of her corruption? It is safe to assume that most evangelicals are agreed that Rev. 17:5, which speaks of "the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth," has reference to the Roman Catholic Church? But if she is the mother, who are the daughters? There can in fact be only one answer, and that is Protestantism with all its branches and ramifications of division.

Now that light has come, will we walk in it and escape for our lives from this fallen and false institution? If not, we shall surely "be partakers of her sins and receive of her plagues, for her sins have reached unto heaven. . . ." Just as two or more bodies of water will merge and flow together when all barriers have been removed, so will two or more Christians do likewise when all sectarian claptrap is moved out of the way. Hence, it is never the fault of the waters if they are divided, for it is the law of the universe that these waters merge and be one, as they are alike in nature. Even so, it is God's decree that

His people flow together in oneness and unity, and they, like the waters, will do just that when the Babylonian dike and dam builders are defied and cast out of their profitable seats of high authority. In the face of the great high priestly prayer of Christ Jesus, who prayed that His people might all be one, to the end that the world might believe on Him through this oneness, blind sectarians are quick to say that Christ was praying only for spiritual unity, but this sort of prayer would be like praying for water to be wet. Water is always wet. Likewise there are always oceans of spiritual unity basically on hand where born-again people are concerned. It then stands to reason that Christ was praying for a form of unity that the worldly or natural man could discern and understand. Spiritual unity is seen and understood only by spiritual or born again people, but the natural or worldly man does not understand such things, and "they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them, for they are spiritually discerned." See 1 Cor. 2:14.

We often sing the old familiar hymn, "The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord," and indeed this is so true, but if there is but one foundation, then perish the thought that a thousand diverse and unmatched buildings can be placed on this one substructure. Hence, we must conclude that the multitude of discordant and hodgepodge, non-biblical names masquerading as churches are nothing more or less than the Revelator describes them to be, "the hold of demons and cages of disreputable birds," and it is imperative that we heed the command of the mighty angel, who warned God's people to make their escape "and come out from among them and touch not the unclean thing." —Herbert O. Fain

(To be concluded in January issue)

Refuse To Look At Second Causes

With the experiences of Job as his text, Hudson Taylor wrote:

"Even Satan did not presume to ask God to be allowed himself to afflict Job. In the first chapter and the eleventh verse he says: 'Put forth Thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse Thee to Thy face.' Satan knew that none but God could touch Job; and when Satan was permitted to afflict him, Job was quite right in recognizing the Lord Himself as the doer of these things which He permitted to be done.

"Oftentimes shall we be helped and blessed if we bear in mind—that Satan is servant, and not master, and that he and wicked men incited by him are only permitted to do that which God by His determinate council and foreknowledge has before determined shall be done. Come joy, or come sorrow, we may always take it from the hand of God.

"Judas betrayed his Master with a kiss. Our Lord did not stop short at Judas, nor did He even stop short at the great enemy who filled the heart of Judas to do this thing; but He said: 'The cup which My FATHER hath given Me, shall I not drink it?'

"How the tendency to resentment and a wrong feeling would be removed, could we take an injury from the hand of a loving Father, instead of looking chiefly at the agent through whom it comes to us! It matters not who is the postman—it is with the writer of the letter that we are concerned; it matters not who is the messenger—it is with God that His children have to do.

"We conclude, therefore, that Job was not mistaken, and that we shall not be mistaken if we follow his example, in accepting all God's providential dealings as from Himself. We may be sure that they will issue in ultimate blessings; because God is GOD, and therefore, 'all things work together for good to them that love Him.'

"With peaceful mind thy path of duty run:
God nothing does, nor suffers to be done,
But what thou wouldst thyself, could thou but see
The end of all events as well as He."

MUST WE DEFEND THE CHURCH?

True, we must defend the Church . . . but not with guns! Can that which is pure and holy be preserved by means of evil? Is the Church today so weak and spiritually undernourished that it must be sheltered from opposition? The Church in the past has shown its greatest strength in the time of greatest persecution. Twenty centuries show that God can preserve His Church in His own way in any anti-Christian society. . . . "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." You can best preserve the Church by obeying its Head, Jesus Christ.

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Editorials

HURRY! HURRY! Send the ten subscriptions for three months for \$1.00. Hurry, for this special offer expires on December 8, 1961. The three months' subscriptions to the paper will be sent for the issues of January, February and March, 1962. Send the ten names and addresses NOW!

Saved men and women know that Satan and all his crowd are the enemies of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore Satan and his angels of light (?) have to work under cover to deceive the multitudes of people to serve him. Satan, in a cunning crafty way, deceives the masses of the people and gets them to profess Christ without any godly sorrow or real heart repentance. And when a soul does repent in godly sorrow and is born again, the devil immediately goes about to kill that life in the soul. It takes him but a little while seemingly to kill the Christ-life out of the heart of many, but with some it takes a long time. He is ever at the job, gradually working to sear their conscience until the light that was in them becomes darkness. Then he uses them to assist him in destroying the Christ-life in others, and they often become his best subjects in keeping the true light from hosts of souls who make a profession of Christ and move on with the crowd that follows the "prince of this world" of sin and folly.

By the help of the Lord we want to expose some of Satan's evil work and cunning craftiness by which he gradually sears the conscience of otherwise honest souls and causes them to live in rebellion against the Word of God which is a lamp to our feet and a light unto our pathway to lead us to heaven and to God.

Some thirty or forty years ago you would see billboards along the highways picturing a fine looking young man smoking a cigarette. A little later you would see the young man and a young woman, and he would be telling her about the merits of the cigarette. Then not many years after that, the young man was pictured giving the young woman a cigarette and she was smoking also. (This all took place after the women were by law allowed to go to the polls and vote.) At present Satan has the cigarette in the mouth of most women, and instead of obeying the Word and being "discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands," sober, and loving their children (Titus 2:4, 5), they leave their home and go out to work to earn "filthy lucre." The children often grow up with practically no good training and many of them run the streets with scarcely any clothing. The sacred home life is destroyed and the children are denied the right of parental care and become an easy prey to the devil's clutches.

The use of tobacco is strongly spoken against in the Word of God, and no man or woman should allow

his conscience to become seared against the Word of God in order to use the stuff. It weakens the body and weakens the power of resistance against evil. It is a nasty filthy habit that is craved by the animal part of man. God's Word plainly tells us in 2 Cor. 7:1 to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. In 1 Peter 2:11 we are told by God's Word to abstain from fleshly lusts that war against the soul. In spite of this plain teaching from the sacred Word many sear their conscience against the Word of God and brazenly try to justify themselves in using the filthy weed. Could you picture Christ, the holy man of God, puffing on a cigarette or spitting tobacco juice? He is our example. We should look to Him for grace to follow in His steps. The Bible teaches us to be holy in body as well as in soul. Please read 1 Thess. 5:23, where the Apostle Paul prays that our whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in the next verse he says, "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." Thus we see how Satan through the animal lust of man imposed on him the use of this filthy weed that grows out of the ground which was cursed by God because of man's disobedience and was to bring forth briars and thistles. The children of God are set free from this cursed weed and all other drugs that poison the body. They are set free from the power of Satan to serve the living God in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of their life. Read Luke 1:74, 75. Such evil things belong to worldly minded people only. No one that really loves God would try to justify himself in indulging in such nasty dirty habits. One with a new nature and a new life in the soul would rather loathe and despise such things.

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Another thing which Satan has used to sear the conscience of God's human creation is their unholy manner of dress and adornments. The Bible makes it very plain how we should dress and not to adorn our bodies. When the conscience of a man or woman gets seared against any truth in the Word of God, he will by Satan's help justify himself in doing the wrong. Oftimes the enemy will have them use Scriptures out of their proper place or put the wrong meaning on Scriptures in order to justify themselves in evil works.

Years ago nearly all professing women wore their dresses much below the knee and with long sleeves. They also came well up around the neck. They had long God-given hair with no adornments to display pride. That was the Bible standard and it is yet the Bible standard. But we find that Satan has gradually gotten in his work and has seared the consciences of many against the Word of God, until now they are brazen-faced in bobbing their hair, painting their faces, wearing ear rings, finger rings and many other ornaments, together with abbreviated clothing. Many wear shorts patterned after a fig leaf style which is an abomination in the sight of God. These women did not begin at once the wearing of shorts.

No, indeed; the devil knew better than that, but he went at it in a gradual manner. First, he had the women to wear short sleeves, exposing their arms. Then they shortened their skirts, and in a little while many were wearing their dresses above the knee. Neck lines were let down, and gradually lower. After Satan had their consciences well seared in that kind of a garb, he enticed them to bob their hair. And as they didn't have on much clothing anyway, he suggested that they might as well put on shorts, and also to wear clothing like a man, all of which is forbidden in the Word of God. The women are not alone in this thing, for many men are becoming dupes of the devil also along this line. The current of evil is so strong in the world today that one will have to keep on the whole armour of God to stand against the wiles of the devil and thereby keep their consciences clear and their souls undefiled in the sight of God. Some saints do not seem to realize that when they begin to shorten their dresses that they are encouraging other women to wear the abominable shorts and to conform to the world in other diabolical styles.

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About seventy years ago, when I was a boy between ten and fifteen years of age, the world had what they called magic lantern shows. These shows were mostly made up of scenes calculated to make carnal people laugh. In the larger cities they were used in a more extensive manner along with theaters, and clownish shows got to be quite a prominent attraction for worldly-minded people. Later on, the phonograph was introduced with records of speeches and songs that could be reproduced on this machine, which was a marvel that the world clamored for. You can buy records for the machine to suit your own taste. While good religious songs and gospel messages were fine for saved men and women, Satan nearly always had to mix his carnal work up with it which made them detrimental to spiritual edification. Satan was gradually leading unwary souls into his traps which were to appear later. These instruments of worldly pleasure were gradually searing the conscience of many against God's Word. The worldly spirit, which is the enemy of God, did not seem so bad after all. A little later the radio was invented whereby an instrument in your home would bring the voice of a speaker who was thousands of miles away. This invention was another marvel and it captured the attention of the whole world. In just a few years nearly every family, whether they could afford it or not, had one or more in their home. Satan used it to further sear the conscience against the Word of God, for he just poured his worldly spirit and works of evil through the thing to defile and destroy souls.

The God-fearing ministers and this editor warned the saints against having an uncontrolled radio in the home with very little success, for Satan already had so many people's consciences seared against the Word of God that they rushed headlong into this trap of Satan. The "Faith and Victory" from the begin-

ning has always taught against the evil of having an uncontrolled radio in the home, and we see it just as evil now as we did then.

Since that time the television has been invented which is a miracle of this modern age. Since Satan had already seared and hardened hearts against the Word of God, practically the whole world clamored to have the evil thing in the home. Now all the combined evil of the theater, picture shows and radios can be seen and heard right in the home. The plastic minds of growing children are poisoned, blinded and deadened to the righteous things of God. They are exposed to trickery, revelry, robbery and murder until their minds and hearts become aflame with evil works. Juvenile delinquency has increased many fold and teen-age criminals fill the jails and penal institutions. There seems to be no end to it, as the devil has his theater in nearly every home. Laying aside the immense evil that comes through a television in the home, the fact of its being there would be wrong in the sight of an unseared conscience, for the Word of God speaks plainly on this subject and tells us to "Abstain from all appearance of evil." 1 Thess. 5:22.

You cannot control the television, for it flashes out its evil before anyone would have time to turn it off. They are seldom turned off after they have been in the home for a while. Oh, the wickedness and evil that is in the hearts of men and women in the world today! The Apostle John said in his day that "We know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness." 1 John 5:19. Jeremiah, in speaking of the unregenerated heart, says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Jer. 17:9. Jesus says in Luke 16:15, "Ye are they which justify yourselves before men, but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." I do not know of any thing in the world today that men esteem more highly than the television. Oh, dear readers, keep the devil on the run and forbid him to camp in your home.

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Another great evil that Satan is doing today is getting apostatized men to tamper with the Word of God, and arrange it so as to undermine real faith in God. The Scofield Bible was a prelude to the greater evils which Satan had designed to carry out. This Scofield Bible with its erroneous foot-notes has succeeded in getting many false doctrines into the hearts and minds of people. One false doctrine that he has fostered and upheld is one which the early apostles of the Church firmly rejected and branded as a heresy, and that is the theory of a thousand years' reign of Christ on this earth. In this theory they blaspheme the Lord and make the Word of God to be a lie, for the Word plainly states in Luke 1:32 that "He [Christ] shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: for the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end [not just a thousand

years]." In Isaiah 9:6 and 7 the prophet speaks the same truths. Read Daniel 7:18, 27.

Since the enemy has the false doctrine of a thousand years' reign of Christ on earth established in the hearts and minds of many religious people, he has now sprung something else on them, and that is the new Revised Version of the Bible originated by apostatized men of earth. Also, he has the same thing in England in what they call the New English Bible, as it is sponsored by the same class of people. These Bibles in circulation and accepted by men will lessen their faith in God and prepare them to fall into greater deceptions in the future. The diabolic scheming of Satan is to gradually decoy men and women into wrong thinking and in the end drag them into hell with him. The only way you can get along with these self-appointed leaders is to let them be, for they are full of conceit and have full confidence in the flesh. The Apostle Paul said he had no confidence in the flesh.

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There are three mighty powers working in the world today and they all live in the City of Destruction. In Revelation 16:19 we read that the great city was divided into three parts. That great city of evil is divided into three parts today—one part is "Communism," another part is "Catholicism," and the third part is the "Council of Churches." But there are Communistic influences working in the two parts to bring all three parts into one great city, and that will be "Communism." There will be many more evil works in the world. Many people will be killed and great distress will overtake Satan's blinded subjects. The saints will be driven from their homes and their possessions will be confiscated. They will be persecuted, beaten, imprisoned and some of them murdered before the coming of the Lord.

Satan is gradually leading the whole world into his traps and snares, for he has them blinded to what the truth is and in time he will have them fall into the lake of fire and brimstone where the worm dieth not and the fire is never quenched.

Many people in the world today are magnifying the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, but have very little respect for His Word. Listen to what Jesus says about that kind of people in Matt. 7:20, "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works, and then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Some may ask the question, "Where are any such preachers and writers in the world today?" My answer is that many today are in that category. Any preacher or writer who makes a show of magnifying the name of the Lord and does not obey the commands of the Lord could be classed in that number. Many preachers today are in double marriage in clear op-

position to the commandment of God. Others adorn themselves with worldliness in dress, adornments of gold, pearls and gaudy, costly array in opposition to God's Word. At the same time they may say many good things about Christ, preach great sermons to great crowds of people, draw from them great salaries and be very prominent in the world as mighty men of God, but when they fail to be diligent about keeping His Word and lead others that way, they will hear these words at the Judgment, "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

In Psalms 138:2 we find that God has magnified His Word above His name, and all that are magnifying His name above His Word are acting contrary to the truth in the Bible. We should magnify the name of the Lord, but to be acceptable to God we should at the same time be magnifying His Word by diligently keeping all His commandments and the teachings of His Word, and thereby show that it is the love of God in our hearts that is prompting us to magnify His name. In 1 John 5:3 we read, "For this is the love of God that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." In 1 Jno. 4:21 we hear the apostle John say, "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: . . ."

Jesus loved the souls of all men, even the Pharisees who sought opportunity to kill Him. He was very plain in His speech to them in order to clear His soul from their blood. God's ministers today are like Him, and because they love the souls of men they teach the Word clearly to them and thereby clear their souls from the blood of all men. Paul was that kind of a minister. Read Acts 20:26.

Another class of people in the world today who magnify God's name above His Word is the multitude of ministers that practice sinning and tell the people that they cannot expect to live free from sin in this life. Such teaching and practice is flatly contrary to the plain teaching of God's sacred Word. Listen to the Word of God in Matt. 1:21, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people FROM their sins [not in them]." In Luke 1:73 we read, "The oath which he sware unto our father Abraham, That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, ALL the days of our life." Those who interpret the Word in any place to uphold sin in the life of a saved man are flatly contradicting this plain Word of God. In John 8:34 Jesus says, " . . . Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." He was speaking to religious people at that time. In 1 John 3:8 we read the same truth from the Apostle John, "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him, and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifested and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God,

neither he that loveth not his brother." Anyone who denies that God keeps a sanctified soul free from sin in this life is giving the devil credit for more power than God. You would have to be living in sin to believe such an untruth as that. May God have mercy on the people of this world who have just a mere profession! To those who in this world are magnifying His name above His Word Jesus will say in that day, "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." How sad the thought of meeting Jesus in that day with blood-stained hands!

Obituary

Shirley Ann Price, daughter of Omer and Oretha Price, was born Jan. 18, 1943 in Los Angeles, Calif. and departed this life on July 17, 1961 at the age of 18 years.

She attended services at the Church of God, Naomi and Walnut Sts., Los Angeles. She took ill in May, and received Christ as her personal Saviour in the early part of June. Her favorite songs were: "Beautiful Robes," "Jesus Has Been So Good to Me," and "When Jesus Comes Again." She was an encouragement and an inspiration to all who knew her.

She leaves to mourn her passing a mother and father, Omer and Oretha Price, one sister, Omer Jean Price, all of the home; a grandmother, Sister Gertrude Lounds of Los Angeles, a grandfather of Ennis, Texas, a host of other relatives, saints and friends.

Do not seek to know the future,
Do not stop to question why,
Follow where the Saviour leads you,
And you will meet her by and by.

Funeral services were held in Los Angeles with Bro. Issac Chandler officiating, assisted by Bros. Fletcher and M. Francisco. Interment was in Compton, Calif.

OLD MEXICO MISSIONARY REPORT

Dear Saints everywhere, greetings to you from below the border in Old Mexico: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you. We are happy to report victory through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Yesterday, Sunday, Oct. 22, we opened Sunday school in the new chapel in El Alamo with between 35 and 40 in attendance. Sister Hite taught a fine class of enthusiastic children on benches just outside the building in the warm sunshine. The adult class met in the chapel. Keen interest was manifested as the study in Matthew's gospel was begun. God blessed His Word as the message went forth on the wheat and the tares. (Matt. 13:24-30).

It is hoped that the adobe house may soon be built to accommodate the children's class as well as providing a home for the workers. This building will measure 20 feet by 20 feet inside the walls. The new chapel is 31 feet by 44 feet outside to outside.

We, the workers, thank God for the support of your prayers and offerings. We urge you to continue to pray much for the work here. The devil is on the job—so forward into battle let us go!!

Yours for Christ and souls, Bro. Harland H. Smith

(Note:—Offerings for the Old Mexico missionary work may be sent to Bro. Harland Smith, 317 E. Cucamonga Ave., Claremont, Calif., or to Bro. Ostis Wilson, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif. In either case, the funds will be used in this particular missionary field.)

Meeting Notices

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly Meeting will be held, Lord willing, on the saints' camp ground located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, California (a suburb of Los Angeles), December 22-31, 1961 inclusive. The camp ground is located in the northwest part of Los Angeles. Pacoima adjoins San Fernando on the south. If anyone has any trouble locating the place, phone EMpire 9-3608 and you will be directed. Anyone arriving by bus or train phone the above number upon arrival and you will be picked up at the station.

The nights will be cold so bring bedding with you if possible as sometimes there is not sufficient to go around.

Let us all be praying and looking to God for a real Divine visitation and copious outpouring of His Spirit and power in the meeting and that mighty signs and wonders will be done in the Name of His Holy Child, Jesus, in saving souls, sanctifying believers, healing sick bodies and defeating Satan in every field. Let us all come to the meeting with a purpose to do good and receive good and nothing else. We urge all the saints throughout the West to support this meeting with your presence, your prayers, and your means. Come to stay all through the meeting.

Will be looking for you in Pacoima December 22nd through 31st.

—Ostis B. Wilson

12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif.

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will held, Lord willing, at Guthrie, Oklahoma on December 22 to 31, 1961, inclusive.

A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual winter gathering of God's people. The chapel is located on the corner of 6th and W. Warner Ave. The dining hall and dormitories are located in the same block for your convenience. All who come will be cared for.

Ministers filled with the Holy Spirit will be present to preach the Word of God in its fullness, and to help anyone to present their spiritual and physical needs to the One who came to heal the broken-hearted, and to set the captives free from sin and sickness. Saints, come praying with a burden for those in need of spiritual and physical help. These are critical days in the world's onward march to eternity, so let us labor on faithfully while "it is day, for the night cometh when no man can work."

The expense of the meeting will be met by free-will offerings of money and groceries. These offerings and supplies should be sent to the treasurer, Bro. M. A. Davis, Rt. 4, Guthrie, Okla.

For further information, write or phone the pastor, Bro. Ira D. Stover, P. O. Box 210, Guthrie, Okla. Phone BUtler 2-3244.

PRAYER REQUESTS

W. Va.—To all the saints everywhere, greetings in Jesus' precious name: Please pray for my granddaughter who has had much trouble and can't keep from worrying. She needs the Lord. They have three children and go to church some place close to where they live in Florida. She writes me that she has lost interest. Please pray for her and her husband that they will give themselves completely to God. Also, please pray for the healing of a goiter on myself. Many thanks.

A Sister in Christ,

—Ella Samples

TESTIMONIES

W. Va.—Dear Sister Marie and all the dear saints: I greet you in the precious name of our loving Saviour and Lord who is so precious to my soul.

I want to thank all of you dear saints there for the prayers you sent up for my son. He is doing fine—back home and driving his car. The Bible says that the prayers of the righteous availeth much. I do know that it is true. The Lord has blessed me and I can feel His healing power when you pray for me. Once when I asked you to pray for my hand, it was well in a few days and never bothered me any more. I just can't thank the Lord enough for what He has done for me. I do love Him with all of my heart, and want to be always what He would have me.

I wish I could be where I could be with you in your good meetings. Pray that the Lord will send some precious saint here to preach the Word of God. There are so many here that need to be enlightened with the truth.

Always remember me in your prayers, for I do need strength to please the Lord. My prayers go up for all of you there.

Your Sister in Christ,

Mrs. Bertha Roberts

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Okla.—Dear ones: You will find enclosed \$1.00 for my subscription to the "Faith and Victory" paper which I enjoy reading so much. I surely would not want to be without it.

I want to testify that I am still saved and pressing on in Jesus' dear name. Pray for me that I ever keep faithful unto the end.

Yours in Christ,

—Callie B. Owens

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

Ohio—To the saints everywhere, greetings in the name of Jesus:

I thank God for still being saved and sanctified, which is bringing joy to my soul. I praise Him for a pure heart and a clear conscience. Since I have been retired God has richly supplied my temporal needs, for which I am very thankful. The Word of God is richer to my soul than it has ever been. We are praying and the Lord is answering our prayers through the faith we have in Him.

I was looking for a Scripture one night and my eyes noted this one in Exodus 14:14, "The Lord shall fight for you and you shall hold your peace." That was a full meal to my soul. I rejoiced greatly for this satisfying portion.

A man asked his wife to call my wife and myself to come and pray for him. The man had faith that God would heal him. He had a stroke and could not walk without assistance. The doctor had been there but the man was no better. His wife said that the Lord worked through the doctor, but I told her that the Lord needed no helper. The next day his wife called us and said, "Your prayers have been heard and my husband is 100 per cent better." When we met her the next day she was full of smiles. The stroke was so near gone that he just had a little pain in his fingers. In the beginning the whole side of his body was affected. We thank God for His power. All honor and glory belong to Him.

Since that time another man came and knelt for prayer for healing, and was prayed for. I saw him the next day, and he was on his way back to my house to tell me that the Lord had healed him, and that he did not need the medicine which the doctor had given him to take. Pray for these men that the Lord will send conviction on their hearts and save them. Pray for me.

Your saved brother,

—W. T. Tomlin

Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints, greetings in the dear name of Jesus: I wrote to you about four years ago and requested prayer for myself, and also requested an anointed handkerchief, which you sent. I had red scaly spots all over my body. They itched so badly that I could not sleep at night. I had had them for a long time. The doctors told me that there was no cure for them, but praise God, He healed me in answer to prayer. I felt the power of God go through my body when I placed the handkerchief on my head. Spots under my clothes went away immediately. The ones on my elbows didn't go away right then, but I knew I was healed. All the spots have been gone for some time now. Praise the name of the Lord!

I have a bad nervous condition. I had a shock some time ago. The dear Lord knows all about it. It seems there is a pressure at the back of my neck, and at times it seems there is an electric current running from the back of my neck over my head. When I have this, I feel that I am losing my mind. I can't think clearly or remember anything clearly. I am sending a handkerchief. Would you please anoint it and have the saints of God pray for me that the Lord will heal me, and give me a clear healthy mind with which to work and witness for Him? My greatest desire is to live for the Lord and serve Him.

A Sister in Christ, —Mrs. Dorlas Whitener

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Mo.—Dear saints everywhere: I would like to report that we are still saved and enjoying the blessings of the Lord. He has been so good to us.

I had intended for some time to write and tell what the Lord has done for us. Our youngest child, who is now nearly three years old, contracted a very bad allergy when he was only a few months old. He broke out all over his face, head, body, arms and legs, and there was hardly a smooth spot on his body. We didn't take him to a doctor, but I went in and asked him if it could be that the baby's milk caused the allergy. He said to decrease the syrup in the milk, and if he didn't get better in a few days to change him to homogenized milk. We had him on condensed canned milk. We changed his milk and he still didn't seem to get any better. As he grew older it seemed he was allergic to certain kinds of foods. We kept trusting the Lord and the saints were so good to get under the burden with us. No one but the ones who saw the baby could imagine how badly afflicted he was. I guess it was eczema, because it would get better and then worse again, which was very discouraging. He had this real bad for about a year and a half, but the Lord came to our rescue and completely healed him. He doesn't have a scar anywhere from these sores, and his skin is just as soft as any other child's. He can now eat anything he wants and it doesn't bother him. We are serving a mighty God if we will just trust Him. Some people said that our little boy would never get over this affliction, but with God all things are possible, and He certainly gets all the praise for healing the child.

Just a few weeks ago this same child had sores to break out on one foot under the toes. It must have been athlete's foot—they just blistered up and made big sores. It was so painful he couldn't wear a shoe and couldn't walk very good. Dennis seemed to have a lot of faith and wanted us to call his Grandpa Allen for prayer. When my folks came down, my father anointed and prayed for him as it teaches us to do in the Bible. In a little while the sores started drying up and the foot was soon well. It just seemed like a miracle and we felt so thankful for this test of faith. It encouraged our hearts

to keep trusting the Lord, for He will do great things for His people.

We desire the prayers of the saints that we will be true to God and teach our two children to love the Lord.

In Christian love, —Carol (Allen) Sorrell

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Ind.—Dear Bro. Pruitt, greetings in Jesus' dear name: I am glad to be saved and in the truth this morning.

I want to thank all the saints for praying for me. I requested prayer some time ago for my feet. They had been bothering me for years, but I do thank the dear Lord for healing them. I tried many remedies when I was in sin, but they only grew worse.

In Jeremiah 17:7 we read: "Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord and whose hope the Lord is." Again in 2 Chronicles 16:12 we read: "And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the Lord, but to the physicians. And Asa slept with his fathers, and died in the one and fortieth year of his reign."

But I trusted in the Lord, and He healed me. Praise His name forever.

Pray for me that I will always stay true and wait upon the Lord.

A Brother in Christ, —Rufus Morton

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Tenn.—Greetings to all the readers of "Faith and Victory" paper: I would like to give my testimony for the glory of God, and trust that it will prove a blessing to some one.

I want to thank God how He helped me to trust Him and not take my little girl to have shots given to her before she started to school this year. Last year before school was out, the parents who had children to enter school the next year were to come to the school and sign up. So I went to the school. They gave each parent a card to fill out, stating when to have the diphtheria, whooping cough, and many more disease shots given them, and how many to give them. They said they wanted all the parents to cooperate, and it was told that the child could not go to school unless it had the shots. So when school started this year I took my little girl to enroll for school. The card was taken back with her name and birth record on it. I told them that the reason I never filled out the space about the shots was that we believed and also practiced James 5:13 and 14, and that the Bible says, he that saith that he loves God and keepeth not His commandments is a liar, and that man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. So they haven't said a word about her not going to have shots. I told them that I would cooperate with them as long as it didn't interfere with my covenant to obey God's Word.

My little girl has had the measles since she has been going to school. When we prayed I heard her say, "Please Jesus, heal me so I won't have to miss school," and He did that very thing. Two nights she didn't sleep much. That was over the week-end, so by Monday she was well to go back to school. Along about Saturday or Sunday I was talking to my mother-in-law, and she said, "You are not going to let her go to school, are you?" I told her, yes, that we had prayed and she would be well by school time. Praise the dear Lord!

My child told me that the teacher told her that she was going to send me a note, and tell me to cut her hair and fix her up pretty, so she could have her picture taken. My little girl asked me if I wanted her to bring the

note, and I said, yes, bring it right on. By God's help I don't mean to plant pride in her little heart.

I desire to please God. Pray for me.

Your blood-washed Sister,

—Nora Clayton

THE "KEY"

The subject of this article is a very small word, having only three letters, but if this "Key" is used rightly, mighty things can be accomplished in behalf of mankind and the world in general.

Let us trace this word through the Scriptures for a while and see what great things have been done, are being done and can be done by this little instrument if one will keep it in hand to use at the right time and in the right way.

We may come to doors of buildings in this world and find them locked. We may have a pocket full of keys and we may try this one and that one, but none of them will unlock the door because none of them is the right key. Therefore, we have to stand without, barred from the thing desired within. Likewise it is true of spiritual things. Jesus Christ is the KEY and He holds all the keys of spiritual gates and doors that can be opened for the welfare of all mankind all over the world.

The trouble with the world today is that they have little or no faith in God or Christ, and are trying to solve problems by their own wisdom. The keys they have will not unlock the right doors for them to receive the right knowledge, and thus they have blundered on until now the world is in the worst condition that it has been for ages. Every move they make seems to bring things into more confusion, and they have things so jumbled up that the only way they can see in their darkness is to fight it out and bring great distress and misery upon innocent people. If they would repent of their self-conceit, self-righteousness and of the wickedness which is carried on by them in the world, and in meekness of heart receive Christ into their hearts, they would then have access to the Key of knowledge and wisdom which would unlock to them the way out without wars and bloodshed. Peace and prosperity would be restored in the land.

Let us turn to Isaiah 22:22. "And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder [Christ's shoulder—see Isa. 9:6]: so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut and none shall open. And I will fasten him as a nail in a sure place; and he shall be as a glorious throne in his father's house [the born-again family of God, the Church]. And they shall hang upon him all the glory of his father's house, the offspring and the issue, all vessels of small quantity, from the vessels of cups, even to all the vessels of flagons." According to this Scripture the glory of the Father's house, the Church, shall be given to His Son, Christ. The offspring, the issue, those who are born from above shall be given to Christ. The small vessels such as cups (His saved ones) shall glorify Him and the larger vessels shall be given to Him also. The House

of God is certainly a glorious institution. Read 1 Timothy 3:15.

Let us now turn to Matt. 16:18 and see what the Lord has to say of this House of God, the Church. "And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church [not on Peter, but upon the truth that he spoke in the 16th verse, 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.']; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against IT." After giving Peter this assurance, He gave him something else to use. Let us read it, "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." The keys which He gave to Peter was the gospel which He had called him to preach, and if faithfully preached and proclaimed it would bind all those who rejected it and it would free or loosen all those who would receive it into their hearts. Read 2 Cor. 2:16. The Apostle Paul had these keys to use also, and every faithful minister of God today has the same keys.

Every man or woman who will receive the gospel into his heart and become as clay in the hands of God will be loosed and freed from all sin and will be able to reign with Christ in this life. (Rom. 5:17; 6:12). Every soul who rejects the gospel will sin more or less while in this world and be bound for eternity's night.

Let us read in Luke 11:52, "Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in, ye hindered." The reason that the Lord pronounced a "woe" upon those teachers of His day was because they were rejecting Christ and His gospel and hindering others from going in because they taught them against His gospel. Christendom is filled with such teachers today, and they are hindering multitudes from entering into the kingdom. They haven't entered in, and they teach others that the kingdom is off in some future age, and that they cannot expect to live free from sin in this life and thereby reign with Christ in His kingdom now. Any preacher who does not teach you to live a life free from sin in this world is a false teacher, and can be classed with the lawyers upon whom the Lord Jesus Christ pronounced this awful "woe."

Let us turn to Revelation 3:7 and read about Jesus, "And to the angel of the church of Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth." In Rev. 9:1 we read, "And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit, and he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit." That bottomless pit is surely opened today, and that awful smoke is bringing darkness upon the people and their

lights are being smothered out. We read further in the 9th chapter that locusts came out of the smoke and they had power as scorpions. These darkened souls are being stung and tormented. The locusts were commanded not to hurt the grass, neither any green thing. Grass and green things would symbolize the children of God who are filled with His Spirit and living free from sin. They were to hurt only those men who did not have the seal of God in their foreheads. Saved men who are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise have a shine in the eye which denotes their kinship to Christ, and the locusts were not to touch or hurt them. Read Eph. 1:13, 14.

Let us read Rev. 1:18, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." Christ represents Life; Satan represents Death. Jesus has the keys that give Him power over Satan and all his hell-bound crowd. With these keys He opens the gates of hell-fire and brimstone, and Satan and all his subjects will go in thereat. Let us read about this in Rev. 20:14, 15. "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." The first death was when they died a spiritual death, and by rejecting Christ and living a sinful life this second death seals their doom forever. "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." How awful is this dreadful thought!

—Fred Pruitt

My Experiences With a Kleptomaniac

Who could have imagined that such a captivating character would turn out as he did?

I would never have dreamed he was a thief! Our acquaintance had all been so friendly and casual. It started one evening at my front door. It was a Tuesday in August. "An entertainer turned salesman," was his smiling approach to me. But I was not one to be taken off my guard so easily. I prodded him about his background. "Who are you with?" I asked. It came out that he had ties with several of the largest distilleries. He also had an account with a prosperous tobacco company. "At present," he continued "I am an agent for a leading national magazine."

So I let him come into the living room and listened to him for a couple of hours. On learning of his connections, I took pains to tell him of my Christian faith and love for Christ.

"There is no place in my life for such things as liquor or tobacco," I told him deliberately. "As a Christian, my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit." I was sure these words would bother or affront him. But no, he was totally undisturbed by my convictions. He would hold his views, I could hold mine. This status quo was to mark all our subsequent discussions.

In a light-hearted moment he slipped off on an off-color story. I was quick to inform him that such things did not go in my home. In fact, I cut him off sharply.

As you may imagine, I had reservations on the truth of many of his stories. Still, I must admit his

experiences often excited me. After having an interesting evening together I invited him to come back the following night. "I may have a helpful influence on him," was my naive hope.

It took my wife's words to remind me that his return visit would conflict with our church midweek prayer meeting. "I should attend," I confessed, "but I must stand by the invitation I have given this friend." I shared with her some of the things he had said to me. Well, to put it lightly, she was reluctant to accept him. "I just don't trust him," she would say. She grew steadily more concerned as he took up more and more of our family life.

My entire day was boring in comparison with my evenings with this character. He had an imagination that was captivating. I would sit and laugh myself sick at all his crazy experiences. There were other times that my hair would stand on end. His scrapes with the FBI and the law were absolutely breathtaking.

If his stories were true, he was also an "extra" in motion pictures. But he couldn't talk about this without including sex. This forced me to cut him off time and time again.

Then he began to affect my teenage son Charles and my nine year old daughter, Eloise. They just couldn't wait to catch his latest quip or some hair-raising tale. They would have stayed up all hours if we had allowed it. All this distraction was hurting their studies and did their health little good. I began to worry about this fellow's presence in our home.

And then it came. The "straw that broke the camel's back." One day several of my best books turned up missing. I searched in vain for them. "This fellow may be something of a thief," I concluded. "If he is," I continued, "who can tell what else he's taken from us?"

It all looked very suspicious. The next day I was so wrought up about it that I decided to check on him next door. Sure enough, he had taken things there too. I was amazed by his subtle maneuvers. They certainly confirmed my wife's original point of view.

In one home he had entered as a religious teacher. "He has revealed the truth of our modern cults," they said. Another neighbor, a salesman down the block, knew him as an efficiency expert. "He's showing me the latest gimmicks," he called after me. "The sort of thing a successful salesman can put to use." He certainly has a lot of ways getting in, I concluded.

To all of these people I suggested a check of their belongings. Most of them found something missing. At one friend's home I noticed no more Christian magazines. In another the Bible had disappeared. I was surprised to hear that their Sunday and mid-week church service time was spent with this fellow. As I left this house the husband told me their family altar was missing too.

A few days later I met this fellow entertaining at a neighbor's. He paid scant attention to me and I was glad for it. I had come to talk with their teenage daughter about her faith in Christ. Well, this

fellow monopolized the whole evening's conversation. He stole all serious thinking from her mind and heart. I was sick about it. Finally, I just had to say a word to the girl's mother about this lack of courtesy. "Oh," she exclaimed, "It's that way all the time." I found also that she had a five-year-old boy who was emotionally mal-adjusted from loss of sleep; all from this fellow's visits. I walked home deeply concerned about what I might do.

At long last I realized my visitor was afflicted with kleptomania. Like an inveterate thief, he had stolen my books, magazines and time. But the chief things missing were my close friendship with Christ and the evenings spent in talking with my friends and family. I'm sure that others are having similar experiences.

Some have lost things of real value, not trifles, but precious family things they once enjoyed together. Spiritual, social and intellectual experiences have been taken from them, replaced by only a moment's crackpot amusement.

This fellow is not at our home now. Though, I notice that he is at my neighbor's. And he still keeps them laughing or excited hour after hour.

I would like to tell you his full name so that you will be alerted about him and his many subtle methods, but I am not sure now that he gave it. Yet I will never forget his initials. They were "T.V."

I wonder: what T.V. has robbed from you? Time? Devotions? Good reading? Wholesome conversation? Church attendance? Check your list—and see! You may be very surprised at what you'll find missing!

—Don W. Hillis

The True Vine

Jesus said in St. John 15:1, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman." Jesus used the word "true" as though there were some vines which were not true, and I think there were false vines in the days when Jesus was here on earth, and there are still untrue vines in this day and time.

In John 15:2 Jesus said, "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away." In this statement Jesus evidently means that some do repent, get forgiveness of their sins and God the Father grafts them into the true vine, then when they cease to bear good fruit He takes them away. Some teach "once in grace always in grace," and some say that you cannot live above sin, but Jesus said, "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he [the Father] taketh away." Some people do get free from sin, joined to Jesus, the true Vine, and then go back into sin and the Father takes them away. We must keep free from sin if we keep joined to Jesus, the true Vine.

In John 15:2 Jesus also said, "Every branch that beareth fruit, he [the Father] purgeth it that it may bring forth more fruit." If we are grafted into the true vine and bearing fruit, the Father will purge or cleanse us so that we may be able to bear more fruit. In Galatians 5:22, 23 we notice the kinds of fruit which are borne by the members in the true

Vine, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, against such there is no law."

Love is the first and greatest fruit we will produce through this spiritual Vine. We must love God with all our heart, mind and strength. To do this, we must put God ahead of everything else in our lives. In studying God's Word I have searched to learn how to love God more and what it means to love one another as the Bible teaches us to do. The dictionary says that the perfect exercise of love includes our whole duty to God and our fellow creatures. Many people say they love God, but many do not even look inside the Bible unless they are looking for something they placed there for safekeeping. Pictures and other things placed in the Bible will not be lost because it is not handled. How can we love God and not read His Word and learn of Him? 1 Jno. 3:18 says, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth." It is easy to love in word and tongue, but to do a good deed is something else. Christian love should go much deeper than the love that worldly people have one for another. We as children of God must have a greater love than that. Jesus referred to this truth in Luke 6:27-35 when He said, "If ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them." Jesus also said to love your enemies, do good to them that hate you and pray for them that spitefully use you. How many people are following these commands? I pray that the Lord will help me to do every good thing to every one, regardless of how that person feels about me. One of the greatest verses in the Bible is Luke 6:31, "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." If the people who profess to be Christians would live by this rule, there would be a great difference in the world today. It takes the love of God to put ourselves in another person's place and do for them as we would like them to do for us if we were in their condition. We find in the 4th chapter of 1 John much teaching on love. This writer gave instructions to love one another three or four times in this one chapter. He also teaches that we must love God. He said that if we do not love, we do not know God, for God is love. He said again that if we say we love God and hate our brother, we are a liar, for if we do not love our brother whom we have seen, how can we love God whom we have not seen?

If we are grafted into the true vine and have the love of God in our hearts, we will have joy and peace through the life of this vine. The devil may tempt us on every hand and we may have troubles and sorrows in this world, but it is a joy to know and feel the peace of God in our hearts. The more we turn away from the ways of the world and the devil, the closer we get to God. The other way around is also true—the more we look and partake of the devil's work, the farther we get from God. If we put forth an effort and seek God's way, we can live for Him with joy and peace. If we do not love God's way, we are liv-

ing for the devil and are not grafted in the true vine at all.

Jesus said in the 5th verse of this 15th chapter of St. John that "He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing." In the 6th verse He said, "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch," and will be cast into the fire.

It is very sad to think that so many do not take time to read or listen to the true Word of God. My heart is made heavy to see my very close loved ones read so much of the devil's literature and drink slop from the devil's slop bucket. There are so many men and women, and even children, who suck the devil's poison sucker until the smell of it gets on those who do not touch it. The devil has so many free movies until children, and older people, do not have to go to the theater any more to see the movie. If they don't have one in their own home, they can go to the next door neighbor and watch them as long as they like. If you refuse to let a television be put in your home, as I have done in the past, they think you are crazy. But I am willing to be called crazy as long as it is for Jesus and His cause, regardless of how the world looks at it. I have been asked many times, "Did you see a certain program last night?" They think it strange that I did not see them. I guess some of them think that I am too poor to own one, but I do believe that the Spirit of God and the television will not stay in the same place very long.

In John 15:7 we have a great promise that Jesus gave us and this is what He said, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." To abide in Jesus surely does not mean that you can partake of the sinful things of the world and still expect God to abide in your life and heart. I like to think of abiding in Jesus in this way—that is, to ask and expect His unseen presence with me at all times, and then not do anything that I would not do in His presence. To abide in Jesus we must dwell in and live by His holy Word. To have His Word abide in us we must study His Word and be a living witness for Him.

1 Cor. 3:16 reads like this: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" In 2 Cor. 6:16 it says again, "For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will be their God, and they shall be my people." From these Scriptures we can see that God wants to live in our bodies. If we live for God and do not take part in the sins of the world, we will have the Spirit of God to live in us and He will guide and take care of us. If we live for the devil and permit our bodies to be defiled by sin, He will destroy it, just as He has said in 1 Cor. 3:17, "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

I want to keep this temple that God has given me in a way that He can live with me every day, and take me to Heaven when my life here is over.

—A Lone Pilgrim

Healing Of Our Body

If I am to receive healing for my body, I must believe that Jesus heals me. "Two blind men followed him [Jesus], crying and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us, . . . and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched he their eyes, saying, according to YOUR FAITH be it unto you." Matt. 9:27-29.

I claim healing because I abide in Jesus. "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7. This gives me the right to claim healing for my body, because I abide in Jesus and His words abide in me. "Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God and doeth his will, him he heareth." John 9:31. God will hear His people. That is why I ask Him to heal my body because I belong to Jesus.

"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous and his ears are open unto their prayers, but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." 1 Peter 3:12. There is no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus. "Beloved, if our hearts condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask we receive of him, because we keep his commandments and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. And this is his commandment that we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him and he in him, and we know that HE ABIDETH IN US by the Spirit which he has given us." 1 John 3:21-24. "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us. And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petition that we desired of him." 1 John 5:14, 15.

Jesus has told us whom to ask. He said to ask the Father in His name. "And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you." John 16:23.

Oh, the great promises of Jesus! "And all things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer believing, ye shall receive." Matt. 21:22. Jesus still has the power, ability and willingness to heal all who ask in faith. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Heb. 13:8. "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Eph. 3:20, 21.

The wise man Solomon gives us very good instructions concerning trusting the Lord. These are also necessary in trusting God for healing of the body. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart: and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Prov. 3:5, 6. We can fully trust ourselves in the

hands of God when we are born again of God who is the One that has power over death. "But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us." 2 Cor. 1:9, 10. Those who put their trust in the Lord are kept in perfect peace. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord for ever, for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength." Isaiah 26:3, 4. —Thomas J. Bowers

TRAIN THE CHILD WHEN HE IS YOUNG

Once a man remarked to Samuel Coleridge, "I will not teach my child anything about religion. I will let him grow up, and when he is old enough to judge for himself, he can choose his own religion."

As the two men walked together, they paused in Mr. Coleridge's garden. "I thought I wanted to set out some strawberry plants here this spring," said Mr. Coleridge, "but you have given me a new idea. I think I will wait until next August. Then I will see whether it would rather have weeds in it."

"But, Mr. Coleridge, the weeds will take over the place by then," the man quickly replied.

"My friend, the weeds will also grow unbidden in the heart of your child," answered the poet.

The Lord places a great responsibility upon a parent. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Parents must bring up their children in the fear and discipline of the Lord.

The supreme tragedy of our times is that too many parents make no effort to influence their children for truth and righteousness. You may rest assured that the liquor, movie and television industries will seek to influence them. The time is here when each parent needs to take this responsibility seriously.

BIBLE STUDY

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

December 3, 1961

GROWTH THROUGH WITNESSING

Printed Portion Acts 4:13-21

Acts 4:13. Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

14. And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

15. But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves,

16. Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.

17. But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.

18. And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

19. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

20. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

21. So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.

Memory Verse: We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. Acts 4:20.

Practical Truth: Bearing witness on appropriate occasions is one of the most essential requisites of Christian growth.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Jesus had been crucified and the Sanhedrin or the Jewish leaders thought they had done away with Christ and His works, but now they were faced with a new problem. Some of His disciples were doing the same works that Jesus did. A crippled man had been healed. This caused great concern. They called Peter and John before them and asked them to explain. God gave Peter boldness and he told them that this was done through Jesus whom they had crucified, and that God had raised Him from the dead. Peter's love for Jesus and for souls, also the infilling of the Holy Spirit, caused him to lose sight of his own life and the danger of being persecuted. This is the secret in being bold for God. We should not fear those who are only able to kill the body, but we should fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body. (Matt. 10:28). Through the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to bring the body under subjection to the desires of the Spirit of God, and then we can witness for God. It might bring rebuke, criticism and persecutions, but God will take care of us as He did Peter and John. God caused those men to be convinced that Peter and John "had been with Jesus." We cannot tell about something we have not witnessed. We must "be first partakers of the fruit."

The more you give out the more the Lord will give in. Be alert for opportunities. Pray each day that God will open a door for you to witness for him. You will be strengthened in the Lord each time you speak for Him. Use the opportunity in prayer meetings to witness for the Lord. Be willing to stand up for Jesus. Be willing to be a failure in your own eyes or others for Jesus, and in so doing you will be a pleasure in the eyes of Jesus. God can use those tears, those stammering words and touch the heart of someone else. They will know you have been with Jesus.

December 10, 1961

GROWTH THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

Printed Portion 2 Timothy 3:10 to 4:5

2 Tim. 3:10. But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,

11. Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

12. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

13. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

14. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

15. And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17. That the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Tim. 4:1. I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

2. Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

3. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lust shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4. And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

5. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Memory Verse: Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Psalm 119:11.

Practical Truth: A knowledge of the Bible is so important to Christian growth that it should be read daily.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The Bible is a collection of 66 separate books from at least 10 different authors whose lives spanned 1500 years in time. Yet it has one message to the world. This makes it the greatest book in the world. "The Old Bible is the New Testament concealed and the New Testament is the Old Bible revealed."

Just as the body needs food, the soul must have food also. It's not just how many chapters we read or how many verses we can quote that will help us to grow, but it is how much of the Word of God that we obey. Jesus said, "If ye love me ye will keep my commandments." When we read we want to read with an open heart. When the Spirit reveals to us a need through the Word, we want to face it squarely, asking God to give us the grace to obey.

We will be judged in that great day by the Word of God. "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my word shall not pass away." There will be no excuse for us if we do not live by the Word of God.

Each morning get hold of a verse or thought from God's Word to think upon through the day. Bring your mind away from the things of life and think on those truths. You will find yourself growing in God.

December 17, 1961

GROWTH THROUGH ADORATION

Printed Portion Luke 1:39-55

Luke 1:39. And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda;

40. And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elizabeth.

41. And it came to pass, that, when Elizabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:

42. And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

43. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

44. For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

45. And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

45. And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,

47. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

48. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

49. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.

50. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

51. He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

52. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

53. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.

54. He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;

55. As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.

Memory Verse: My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. Luke 1:46-47

Practical Truth: When we appreciate what God has done for us, praise in prayer and song will be fitting and spiritually helpful.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lesson tells how happy Mary was when she knew she was chosen to be the mother of Jesus, the Messiah, who was the Son of God. When Mary visited her cousin, Elizabeth, who was to be the mother of John the Baptist, God revealed to Elizabeth that Mary was to be the mother of Jesus. They rejoiced together in the Spirit. Their whole attitude of soul was one of adoration for what God was about to do, yes, even for the degree of fulfillment that was already underway.

Truly, Mary was blessed among women. But she is not to be worshipped as some people worship and pray to her. She was just a woman as other women, and when the Holy Spirit came into the world on the day of Pentecost she was there among the 120 praying and waiting for God to fill her as He did the others.

Mary was full of joy. She praised God from the heart. I'm sure that God was pleased with her song of praise. God is pleased today when we praise Him by word or by song. I read of one preacher who was so full of the praises of God that when he walked down the road and picked up one foot, it seemed to say "Glory," and when he would pick up the other foot it seemed to say "Amen." Our souls are strengthened and faith is made strong when we let the praises of God go up unto the Lord. Truly, we have much to be thankful for.

December 24, 1961

GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY

Printed Portion Luke 2:1-16

Luke 2:1. And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

2. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

3. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

4. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

5. To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

6. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7. And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

8. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

15. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

16. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Memory Verse: The angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11.

Practical Truth: Contemplation about Christ's coming to earth should be a source of joy to every Christian.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

After Mary's visit of three months at the home of Elizabeth she returned to Nazareth, and evidently Joseph, her legal husband, provided her a home there. In a few months, in order to fulfill the plan of God and the decree of Caesar Augustus, they came to Bethlehem. Only a place in the stable could be found for them to stay. The fact that the Saviour was born in a stable and cradled in a manger will forever appeal to each of us and everyone in the world in knowing that Jesus will pay attention to us. In spite of His Deity and exaltation as God's only Son, His association with the poor throughout His life shows His great love for all. He truly is an example of humility in every sense of the word.

Today we rejoice and say, "Glory to God in the Highest!" We, who are God's children, know what that "peace" means. It is real in our hearts today in spite of living in a world of turmoil and despair because of fear of those things that are hanging over the world which mean misery, suffering and destruction. Having the Christ-child in us and us in Him creates joy, peace and hope in our souls. We need to demonstrate to this world that there is a reality in salvation.

December 31, 1961

GROWTH TOWARD CHRISTIAN MATURITY

Printed Portion Ephesians 4:11-24

Eph. 4:11. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12. For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13. Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14. That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15. But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16. From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

17. This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

18. Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

19. Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

20. But ye have not so learned Christ;

21. If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22. That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23. And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24. And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Memory Verse: Leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection. Hebrews 6:1.

Practical Truth: To become mature and Christ-like Christians should be the goal before us all.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We do not expect a child to become an adult all at once. A person who is first saved is a newborn babe. The Bible says in 1 Peter 2:2 that the newborn babe should "DESIRE the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." The Bible says in Heb. 5:12-14, "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 everyone 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."

God wants His children to be steadfast, unmovable and always abounding in the work of God. He wants them to stay on the Rock and not be moved by every wind of doctrine or false prophets. We want to be careful and watch. Our lesson says that "they lie in wait to deceive."

—Sister Marie Miles