

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

## Church of God Servant



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### *O Church of God!*

The Church of God one body is,  
One Spirit dwells within;  
And all her members are redeemed,  
And triumph over sin.

Divinely built, divinely ruled,  
To God she doth submit;  
His will her law, his truth her guide,  
Her path is glory-lit.

God sets her members each in place,  
According to his will—  
Apostles, prophets, teachers, all,  
His purpose to fulfill.

Salvation is her holy walls,  
The cross her sign of power;  
Her Captain is the mighty God,  
Who guards her every hour.

Stand in thy beauty, Church of God,  
With righteousness arrayed;  
Put on thy strength and face thy foes  
With courage undismayed.

O Church of God! I love thy courts,  
Thou mother of the free;  
Thou blessed home of all the saved,  
I dwell content in thee!

—C. W. N.

### **The Bible Church, A Unique Fellowship**

To say that God is responsible for the chaos and confusion we see in the denominational world, would be the next thing to blasphemy. When Christ said in Matt. 16:18, "Upon this rock I will build my church," He did not mean that He would build the religious denominations, which we hear called the church. The sectarian denominations are not the Church, and they are no part of the Church. To call them churches only adds to the confusion we see in the religious world.

As a body, there is only one church mentioned in the Bible, and we can be sure God recognizes no other. It is a divine institution, and we become members of it by a divine process—the new birth. (Acts 2:47). It is as impossible to be a member of the church and still a sinner, as it would be to jump over the moon. To be a Christian and not a member of the church would be equally impossible. The instant we are converted, by that act we become members of the church, as truly as we will ever be. The door remains open to all, with the kind invitation of the loving Savior: "I have set before them an open door, and no man can shut it." Rev. 3:8.

It is called the Church of God (Acts 20:28), and includes all Christians in earth and heaven. "There is one body and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, and one baptism." Eph. 4:4, 5. Christians of all nationalities and races are members of the Church, or family of God, with equal privileges. "Ye [the Gentiles] are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household [family] of God." Eph. 2:19. The New Testament Church is an institution of glorious splendor and beauty. It is not easily seen from sectarian Babylon, for "in the last days it shall come to pass that the mountain of the House of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and people shall flow into it." Micah 4:1. "Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King." Psalms 48:2.

O the wondrous beauty of the New Testament Church, when we get a fair view of it! The most of us have thought Revelation 21 was a description of heaven, but, with a little comparison with other passages where the Church is mentioned, we find it is describing the magnificent Church of God. Perhaps the reason we thought it was heaven pictured there, is that what we see in the nominal religious world is so far from that standard. There is nothing in sectarianism that makes even a fair resemblance. God's Church is resplendent in the beauty of holiness. The present day religious denominations are little,

or nothing more, than social clubs. Wherever a Bible Christian is found in one of them, he is a Christian in spite of the denomination, rather than because of it.

The worst form of atheism to be found on earth are those atheists who stand behind the pulpits, claiming themselves to be messengers called and sent of God. Perhaps Paine, Ingersol, or Voltaire never did as much detriment to the world as one of these.

Then, what must we do, if we are truly a Christian, and find ourselves yoked up with a sect denomination? God tells us what to do in His Word: "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." 2 Cor. 6:17, 18. But one might say, doesn't that mean to come out from the sinful things of the world? Exactly! But there is nothing quite so deplorably sinful as that which calls itself a "church" and then dabbles in sinfulness to such an extent as to make itself detestable to the rankest of non-professing sinners.

God's people, even the Israelites, which were a type of the New Testament Church, were to be a people distinct and separate from this ungodly world. (Ezra 10:11; 1 Peter 2:9; Titus 2:14). "All that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father; but is of the world." 1 John 2:16. The vessels of the ministry of the Old Testament temple were sanctified with the blood of the sacrifice, exclusively to the service of God, and anyone using them for any other purpose committed a desecration. God never borrows the tools of the devil with which to do His work.

In some of the most beautiful figures of speech, the Church is called the Bride of Christ. She is a pure virgin, and never flirts with the devil. (Rev. 19:7, 8, chap. 21:2.). The Church is a living organism, infused with the divine life of the Spirit. Its members are all those who, through Christ, have become new creatures in Him. Paul says, "The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death." Romans 8:2. "By one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one spirit." 1 Cor. 12:13. That is still the only way to ever become a member of God's Church. —J. Rolley Self

## The Kingdom of God

The expressions "kingdom of God" and "kingdom of heaven" give reference to the same thing as evidenced by the Holy Scriptures. Matthew records the beginning of Jesus' ministry in these words: "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matt. 4:17. Mark narrates the same event thusly: "The kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye . . ." Mark 1:15.

Let us also note the beatitudes. Matthew writes, "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 5:3. Luke records: "Blessed

be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God."

The "kingdom of heaven" and the "kingdom of God", being synonymous, refer to that spiritual realm, or kingdom, which Paul says is "righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." Rom. 14:17.

The laws that govern the kingdom of heaven, activate the temple of the living God here on earth, bringing forth life from death. "We know," for example, "that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren." 1 Jno. 3:14. Where did we get this love for the brethren? The Apostle Paul tells us that "the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Rom. 5:5.

This kingdom of peace, in which dwells the Spirit, and of which Jesus Christ is the Head, is prophetic in nature. "The God of Heaven [shall] set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed." Jesus speaks of that kingdom as being "at hand." Matt. 4:17, Mark 1:15. Also the Master told His disciples that "upon this rock, I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." It shall be from everlasting unto everlasting, or as Dan. 2:44 states, "a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed." Jesus, in Matthew 16:18, is prophesying of the very same kingdom, or church, that Daniel had prophesied of several hundred years before.

In Daniel's vision (7:13-14) we find when the kingdom is to be set up. "And, behold, one like the Son of Man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days . . . and there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom . . . his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." Jesus, speaking to Pilate, told of this blessed kingdom of peace, saying, "My kingdom is not of this world." Jno. 18:36. Jesus also told Peter and some other disciples that He would build His church, or set up His kingdom, sometime between Peter's confession of faith (Matt. 16:16) and the final consummation of the world by fire. The Master did not leave us completely in the dark, however, as to when He would do this.

Examine carefully and prayerfully the prophecy as spoken by Daniel once again, (7:13-14): "One like the Son of man [Jesus] came with the clouds of heaven, and came to [not from] the Ancient of days . . ." First of all, let us realize that Daniel is prophesying something that is to take place, as far as he is concerned, in the far distant future, after his death. Therefore Daniel in paradise, when the event takes place, looks at the scene from above, in the spiritual realm, not with an earthly view. Daniel saw Jesus ascend up to heaven, and come to the Ancient of days. It is also clearly shown in the Scriptures that one who has spiritual visions does so in the spirit, not according to the flesh; therefore, Daniel was in the spiritual, or heavenly realm, seeing the Saviour himself ascending up to heaven. Now turn to Luke's account in Acts 1:9: "While they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight . . ." Also let us note the words of Mark 16:19, "He was received

up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God" [the ancient days].

Now we know that these Scriptures in the New Testament refer to the time just before Christ set up His church, but let us see if we might find scripture for the skeptic, to prove the actual date on which the church of God was fully organized and put in operation.

Paul tells the church of God at Corinth (2 Cor. 6:16) that they "are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them and walk in them and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." You may compare this passage with the following: Lev. 26:12, Jer. 31:33, Ezek. 37:26, Zech. 8:8. In all of these Scriptures the kingdom is prophesied. In the third chapter of the first letter to the Corinthian church of God we find Paul writing: "Ye are God's husbandry; ye are God's building; ye are labourers together with God; ye are the temple of God; ye are Christ's; all things are yours."

We find in the Lord's prayer (Jno. 17:20-23) the words of Jesus on this subject: "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; . . . as thou Father, art in me [i.e., my flesh], and I in thee [i.e., the Spirit] that they also may be one in us . . . I in them, and Thou in me, that they may be perfect in one." Let us see the modernist make parable out of these Scriptures.

Note then John 14:17: "The Spirit . . . whom the world cannot receive, because it [they] seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him [at present, in Jesus]: for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

In connection with these Scriptures we may observe prophecy: Mal. 3:1, "The Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple." Paul says, "Which temple ye are." 2 Cor. 6:16. Joel prophesies the very same thing in these words: "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh." (2:28). Peter, in speaking of that blessed outpouring on the day of Pentecost, said, "This is that." Acts 2:16. It was, and it is a real, definite, second blessing, cleansing, purging, sanctifying, setting apart. Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?

Now, we find in the Word of God that the Church of God is compared to a family, and consists of those who have been born of God from above. Psalms 87:5; Isaiah 66:8; 2 Kings 19:3; John 3:5, 17:22; Hebrews 3:6, 12:23; 1 John 3:9, etc. We find that in the beginning "the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground," then He "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life" and it was then, and only then, that "man became a living soul." Gen. 2. It was not until the breath of life, or the spirit entered in, that man became a part of the family of God. It is still that way.

On the day of Pentecost the disciples "were filled with the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:4. Later, when Peter preached on the resurrection and told about the Holy Ghost baptism, he said, "This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel." Acts 2:16. Then Peter preached this wonderful message of full salvation

to the Gentiles and "the Holy Ghost fell on all them that heard the word." Acts 10:44. Again we find that Malachi, the last prophet of Old Testament writing, prophesied that "the Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple." Luke narrates the story in these words: and suddenly . . . they were all filled with the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:2-4. The day of Pentecost was the prophesied date of birth for the Church of God.

Now let us go back to Daniel's prophecy (7:13-14) and see when the kingdom of God was to be set up. Daniel records that in his vision he saw Jesus (the Son of Man) carried to the Father, or into heaven. Luke records the same thing in Acts 1:9-19. In Daniel's vision the kingdom of God, or heaven, was to be set up immediately after this ascension (7:14). Luke tells us that it was set up within ten days of Jesus' ascension into heaven. We find then that the "kingdom of God", etc. was set up on the day of Pentecost, and since that time "the Lord added to the church [or kingdom] daily such as should be saved." Acts 2:47.

Just before Jesus ascended to heaven He told his disciples: "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." Jesus did return, in the likeness of the Holy Ghost, to dwell in His temple not made with hands. Jesus set up the kingdom of God wherein dwelleth righteousness, and peace, and joy, in the Holy Spirit.

Since the kingdom has been in existence for more than 1900 years, I would use the words of the angel at the ascension of Jesus recorded by Luke and say, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." While many now stand gazing up into the heavens looking for Jesus to come and set up a literal kingdom (a false hope), multitudes have pressed their way into this spiritual kingdom of peace and are enjoying the fulness of the blessing of God through His Spirit which dwells within His Holy temple, "which temple ye are," if it be that ye are of God. Why stand ye gazing up into the heavens awaiting the coming of our Lord believing that He will set up a literal kingdom here on this earth? It is said that such has been prophesied by Joel, Daniel, Isaiah, Zech., John, Paul, Jesus, and others, yet we find by close and prayerful examination of the blessed old Bible that the very same Scriptures that are believed to pertain to the so-called millennial reign of Jesus Christ here on earth have been fulfilled for over 1900 years!

The City of God is your only refuge. You have no hope whatsoever if you are outside the ark of safety. Beloved, Jesus is the Door of the kingdom, but just standing at the doorway does not assure you of safety in that awful day. He that stands at the doorway is much too close to the world. You must be in the kingdom and the kingdom must be in you.

Dear ones, Jesus will return to receive His prepared bride, those in His kingdom. Are you ready?

(Continued on Page Six)

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

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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 sinful world and entire devotion to the service and 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 secret and religious orders organized and governed by man.

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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  
417 N. 13th, P. O. Box 210, Phone BUTler 2-3244

**Editorials**

As we did not publish the Faith and Victory paper for the month of August, we now have more articles and other material for this issue than we will have space for, so if your writing or testimony does not appear, you will know why. We are looking to the Lord to direct us in all things so that the paper, when it is printed and sent forth, will have the approval of God upon the reading matter. If it were not such a serious matter, it would be real amusing sometimes to hear some tell us how to run the paper and put their interpretation on the Scriptures even though they have no calling to edit a paper for the Lord. We do appreciate wholesome advice and up-building criticism from our brethren, and realize that we are all workers together with God for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God or the Church, which is the pillar and ground of the truth as it is in Jesus.

The real Church of God is a spiritual institution, as we read in 1 Peter 2:5, "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." It is a spiritual body of saved men and women. Read Heb. 3:6; 1 Tim. 3:15; Eph. 2:19-22. It is not a literal building to be worshipped, or merely a worldly social center, but they that constitute the true Church are men and women, boys and girls, who are born from above and retain that heavenly spiritual life that God alone produces in His children. They that worship God must worship Him in Spirit and in truth.

It seems hard for some to grasp the truth that our gathering should be unto the Lord Jesus Christ and Him only, and not to some man who craves the preeminence and wants to be the only one who knows. The light from heaven is shining more and more unto the perfect day, and we should be careful not to get so set in our ways that we would cut ourselves off from receiving a better understanding of Scriptures as the light shines brighter. For an illustration, a brother minister years ago was commenting on the Scripture in Nahum 2:3, 4 about the chariots being as flaming torches in the day of His preparation, shall rage in the streets, shall jostle one against another in the broad ways, and shall run like the lightnings. As there were no automobiles or cars at that time, he applied it to the railroad trains. If he had lived in our day when the highways and streets are filled with automobiles, he would have applied this Scripture to them and would not have thought of a railroad engine. Likewise, F. G. Smith, in his book entitled, "Revelation Explained," states that the spread of infidelity under the labors of the infidel Voltaire and his associates was the loosing of the dragon "in all his terrible features." In the same 20th chapter of his book he seems to sense a greater meaning of

the dragon being released, and says in part: "I do not wish to be understood, however, as limiting the release of the dragon and his work to the system of infidelity that had its origin in France. I merely refer to that unfortunate system as the beginning of the dragon's release and work. . . ." Had he lived in our day and doing this writing, he would not have needed to give this explanation, as world conditions have developed since his passing to such an extent that he would have written that Communism is that world-wide atheistic system which is spreading all over the world and represents that unclean spirit like a frog which came out of the mouth of the dragon and is now loose for a season before the end of time. The Communistic dragon spirit is now deceiving the whole wicked world of people into atheism and infidelity, and are warring against Christ and His followers. The fight will become more fierce as time moves up to the end. There is no doubt that other teachings and prophecies of F. G. Smith will become more clear and will be better understood as world conditions keep changing and developing and the light from heaven gives a clearer vision of sacred truths. We should not allow head conceit to blind us from seeing the true light of heaven on up to the end of time, so we can discern false teaching and error and keep walking in the true light lest we be found on the enemy's side in that great Judgment Day which is coming very soon.

In this same 20th chapter, F. G. Smith, in writing of Gog and Magog, writes that "it is clear that these terms are applied to Romanism and Protestantism, and under the special leadership of this spirit of antichrist they are gathered together to battle against the saints of the most High." This Communistic dragon spirit is their leader all right, but it is being done in a great measure in a deceptive way, as the world is ripe for this deception. When this Communistic dragon spirit has accomplished its aim, has ruled God out of its system and will be saying, "Peace and safety" (1 Thess. 5:3) while it is compassing the camp of the saints about and the beloved City (Church of God), then fire will come down from God out of heaven and devour them. In 2nd Peter, the third chapter, we have a description of what this fire will do. We will quote the 10th verse, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night [not as a thief to the saints in light, but to all unsaved people—read 1 Thess. 5:4]; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."



The Lord permitted us to attend the Hammond, La. campmeeting, the National campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo. and the Oklahoma State campmeeting here at Guthrie, Okla. God blessed in these meetings in a very precious way. The Word went forth under the anointing of heaven in the power and demonstration of the Spirit. Souls were saved, believers were sanctified and bodies were healed. The saints received much edification in the faith.

We took with us many books, booklets and gospel tracts to these meetings and gave them to all who wanted them. Jesus says, "Freely ye have received, freely give." When we went to the National campmeeting in Missouri we took with us 500 books entitled, "True Stories for Children," a book recently printed by request for free distribution. Every one of these books was taken. We also took \$145.00 worth of other books, booklets and gospel tracts of different titles, set them before the people and told them that they were free to anyone who wanted them. Every one of these books was taken, besides many booklets and gospel tracts.

On our way home from this meeting the Lord made us feel so satisfied and happy to know that we could be workers together with Him in getting the gospel to so many souls. We could do this only because His saints had sent in money to the work of God and made us able to do the printing of the same. We want the saints to know that we appreciate this help and to let you know that you have a share in giving out the gospel by the printed page. In this way we can all be workers together with God in getting the gospel to men. Bless His dear name!

## GODLY SORROW

There is a vast difference between godly sorrow and being sorry for something. We can be sorry because we did a wrong, or because we were caught in the wrong, or because we have to pay a penalty for it. But unless it works repentance in the heart, it is not godly sorrow. For the Word of God says godly sorrow worketh repentance unto salvation. This is found in II Cor. 7:8-10. It reveals the thought I have in mind. Here we read that Paul had written to the Corinthian brethren something that made them sorrowful. But when Paul heard it worked godly sorrow in their hearts and they repented, it brought gladness to his heart.

We read in Luke 15, the account of the prodigal son, who left his father's home and went into a far country. He spent all he had in riotous living. He, no doubt, became very sorry that he had been so wasteful and it was very humiliating for him to work. He became very hungry and no man gave him food. This too, would bring sorrow to his heart. He began thinking of his father and home and how he had wronged him; this brought godly sorrow. He said, "I have sinned against heaven and before thee." Godly sorrow began to work humility in his heart. He said, "I am no more worthy to be called thy son. Just let me be your hired servant." Humility of heart was brought about by godly sorrow. Human sorrow could not have done this. It takes God to pierce the heart with godly sorrow, which will work repentance unto salvation.

Dear readers, if you are sorry of your past life, let God work godly sorrow in your heart and repent and He will bring salvation to your soul.

—Flossie Atha

**THE KINGDOM OF GOD—(Continued from Page 3)**

That day is hastening fast. According to the Scriptures the location of this kingdom will then shift from this earth to a new heaven and a new earth. I bid you to **come in!**

Be completely honest, make full and absolute surrender to God, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Then hold fast to that gift until that blessed day when He shall say, "Well done, my child, come home!" —Robert A. Simms

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**Obituaries**

Albert W. Nielsen was born at Eagleton, Montana on Dec. 31, 1928 and departed this life July 27, 1962 at the age of 33 years, six months and 27 days.

On Jan. 1, 1950 he was united in marriage to Grace Evins. To this union four children were born.

He is survived by his wife, Grace; four daughters—Lois, Linda, Dorothy and Deborah, all residing at home; his mother, Hilda Nielsen of Jefferson, Ore.; two sisters—Mrs. Grace Brown and Mrs. Eleanor Bias, both of Oakland, Calif., and two brothers—Charles Nielsen of Tehachapi, Calif. and George Nielsen of Salem, Oregon.

Albert was born into the Kingdom of God—born again or converted—at the age of 14 and lived for God the remainder of his life. At the age of 16 he felt a definite divine call to the ministry and began preaching the gospel a few years later. He served God and the church in this capacity for several years.

Albert was working on a commercial fishing boat off the coast of British Columbia, Canada, and during the second week before the accident happened that took his life he wrote a letter to his wife in which he mentioned having prayed all night on a certain night and how God had dealt with him, had shown him some things and testified that he was full of the joy of the Lord.

Then the same day his wife received the word of his death, she received another letter from him written during the week before he was lost in which he also gave a bright testimony of the joy of the Lord and His blessings upon his soul. Surely these late testimonies will be much comfort to his family and to all of us now that he is gone.

Albert was lost at sea and the body was not recovered. A memorial service was held for him on Friday evening, August 3rd, in the little town of Kispiox, British Columbia, Canada, where the family has been living for the past year or more. The body was committed to the sea to await that grand and glorious day of Jesus Christ when the sea shall give up the dead that are in it.

Memorial services were conducted by Odis B. Wilson, assisted by Bro. John Williams, a local minister who showed much kindness and was much help to the family in their bereavement and trouble.

Sister Sallie Davis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Shaw, was born in Suqualak, Miss. on Dec. 18, 1880 and departed this life on June 16, 1962.

She grew to womanhood at Suqualak and was married to Henry Davis. To this union six children were born—three sons and three daughters. She moved to the Emanuel Community with her husband in 1906.

In 1917 she heard the truth preached and accepted it as taught by the Church of God and remained faithful until her demise.

Her husband, one son and one daughter preceded her

in death. She leaves to mourn her passing, two sons, Roosevelt of Los Angeles and Richard of the Emanuel Community; two daughters, Mrs. Mary Morris of Los Angeles, and Mrs. Lovesta Bridges of Watonga, Okla., 23 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren, other relatives and a host of friends.

We will miss her, but bowing in humble submission to the will of our Heavenly Father, we sorrow not as those who have no hope. Our loss is heaven's gain.

Sermon by Bro. Ulysses Phillips. Texts: Rev. 13:14; Psa. 32:5; 1 Thes. 4:13-18. Burial in Emanuel Community Cemetery. "We shall meet beyond the river."

In Memory of Sister Delia Jenkins, formerly of Oklahoma City, who passed away July 5, 1961.

Mother, you've been gone near a year,  
But your presence doesn't ever seem to disappear.  
To you sometimes I think of things I wish to say,  
Almost forgetting that you are gone away,  
But at night in dreams I do converse,  
And when morning comes my memories are  
again refreshed.

Written by her daughter,  
—Mrs. Vernita Jones

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**Meeting Reports**
**JEFFERSON, ORE. CAMPMEETING REPORT**

The Jefferson, Oregon campmeeting of 1962 has come and gone, and I can say, as I have said before of the meetings here, that I have received much satisfaction in being present. The dear Lord was very much present many times in many ways, and especially to myself in making many things clear to me.

Sister Spaur, the pastor here, was not permitted to be at the meeting very much, as her brother's wife was very low with cancer, and Sister Spaur is staying with her in Seattle.

I came here the 10th of May to help build the dining hall. It was completed enough to use the day before the meeting started, but there is other work yet to be done. I am staying on here for a little while to help out some.

Sister Opal Wilson went to Idaho from here to take Sister Ruby Stover's place at the bedside of Sister Hepler. Bro. H. P. Huskey went back home at Orland, California. Other ministers present were: Bro. Olsen, Bro. Kliever, Bro. Kroker, and Sister Kaiser.

I have spent some time in visiting, in which I have received many blessings. Sister McPhearson, past 80 years of age, was sick with pneumonia, but the Lord was very gracious and raised her up. She is Bro. Kliever's mother. Sister Loretta Miles moved to Orland, Calif.

There was not a large attendance at the meeting, but the Lord made up the difference. An all-day meeting on Sunday is held once a month, including a service on the Saturday night before.

Yours in Him,

—A. E. Harmon

**HAMMOND, LA. CAMPMEETING REPORT**

The Hammond, La. campmeeting was well attended throughout. Saints were present from several different states. Qualified ministers were present to bring forth the truths from God's Word. Several individuals came to the altar and received the necessary help for their souls.

The Spirit of God was present in each service to lead and to bless. The ordinances of the Lord's House—the Lord's supper and feet-washing—were observed on the



last Friday of the meeting. Two converts followed the Lord in water baptism on Saturday.

Our heart is grieved, and we know that God must be also, to see the lack of interest in the ordinance services. It seems to me that a special effort should be put forth by each child of God to attend these services.

Yours, in the service of our Lord,

—M. F. Williamson

### NATIONAL CAMPMEEETING REPORT

The National campmeeting of the Church of God at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo. closed with victory for the Lord and His people on July 29th. The meeting was again very well attended, with many states from all directions represented. Best of all the Lord was in the midst of His people, sending forth His Word and Spirit—the two witnesses—to deal with souls. Most every day a number bowed at an old-fashioned altar of prayer seeking help from the Lord who abundantly satisfied their souls. Believers received the second definite work of grace wrought by the cleansing and infilling of the Holy Ghost, and the Lord graciously provided divine physical healing for those in need. A number followed the Lord in water baptism, and a large group of happy saints observed the ordinances of the Lord's supper and feet-washing.

Many hungry souls came to this meeting for their first time, looking for the old-time truth. They rejoiced greatly to find a people who were walking in the "old paths" and had not "removed the ancient landmarks." As a praise in the earth, may Mt. Zion shine brighter and brighter unto the perfect day.

In the business meeting on the last Saturday, several suggestions for necessary improvements on the grounds were brought before the saints. One of these was the urgent need of a building in a secluded place on the grounds where the ministers could go to deal with individuals' problems. A decision was made to build this structure for use at the next campmeeting, Lord willing. A brother who is a carpenter volunteered to build it, provided the means and materials were supplied. It will require several hundred dollars. If the funds are provided, it could possibly be built large enough to use for children's meetings and other special services.

Saints, please think and ask the Lord about this need throughout the year, along with the need of a new roof on the tabernacle and an enlarged dining hall, and send your offerings direct to the treasurer, Bro. Ralph M. Beisly, 417 Eldridge St., Coffeyville, Kansas. You will be laying up your treasures in heaven, to which you may go some day if you are faithful unto the end.

—Lawrence D. Pruitt, Secretary

### STIFF WIND GETS MOVING JOB DONE

Buies Creek, N. Caro.—Addison Brewington of Dunn, a house mover, went to a farm near here this week to move a tobacco barn. He returned to town for more equipment, then back to the farm. He found that the barn had been moved—a sudden wind and hail storm had blown it down. (Clipping sent in by J. S. Green.)

(Editor's comment:—Most people would say no doubt that it was just an accident that it was blown down at that particular time. But God's Word teaches man against the use of that poison weed which is a lust of the flesh, yea, filthiness of the flesh. In 1 Peter 2:11 we read,

"Abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul." In Gal. 6:7, 8 we read, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." It is quite likely that God sent the wind and hail, and destroyed the barn because it was used for the preparation of tobacco for men to poison their bodies and reap corruption. Tobacco belongs to the poison weed family and should not be used by the child of God.)

### TWO BOOKS FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION

These two books were written by Marie Pauline Sass who has now passed on to the Glory world. In her last will and testament she left money with the administrator to have these two books printed for free distribution. The administrator gave us the order to print and distribute them. They are now in stock ready for all who call for them. The book entitled, "From the Rockies to Egypt," contains 64 pages, in which she relates her travels and experiences in Egypt and the Holy Lands where Jesus trod this earth over 19 centuries ago. The other book entitled, "True Stories for Children," contains 94 pages with a dozen pictures for children. Its contents will delight and educate any child. Grown folk like to read it also.

Those who have Sunday school classes, or have children and grandchildren, should get these two books for each child. If it is convenient, please enclose postage for the shipment of your order. However, we shall be pleased to send you these books even if you do not enclose the postage, as we know you will enjoy reading them. Address your order to the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, P. O. Box 713, Guthrie, Okla.

### DO YOU WANT A HOME NEAR THE SAINTS?

Would you like to have a home and farm near the Church of God Chapel at Myrtle, Mo.? I am offering my farm for sale at Myrtle, Mo. I have 54 acres with house, milk barn, 3 chicken houses, and three other buildings. It is good pasture land with good fish and stock ponds. It is a good location close to the chapel at Myrtle. The house is not modern, but has running cold water in the kitchen, also has electricity. If anyone is interested, write me and I will be glad to tell you more about it.

—A. L. Sorrell, Rt. 2, Thayer, Mo.

### A BURDEN

If you had bought a place, trying to have a home for your family, and later found out that you had been deceived about the well—instead of a good one, it went dry, what would you do? This is what happened to our brother minister, Bro. Lloyd Dollins of Rt. 10, Springfield, Mo. A new well and pump cost him \$1600.00, which put a great burden on our brother. You may want to help him bear it.

—Ruth Murphey

### PRAYER REQUEST

Dear ones in Christ: I am very much afflicted and need the prayers of God's trusting children very much. I am looking to you, dear ones, for help. Will you remember me most earnestly in prayer?

Yours in Christian love, saved and kept under the precious Blood,  
—Frances Derrough



**BRO. B. U. ETUK, West African Minister**

Pictured above is Bro. B. U. Etuk of West Africa. He is a Church of God minister who is deeply interested in his people getting saved and being ready to meet God in peace. By reading the Church of God literature he saw the truth on the true church and claims to be clear from all isms. He now has a number of congregations who believe in the true Church of God as taught in the Bible. At present he is urgently asking for missionaries from the true Church in America to come and help in converting the people to the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are praying that God will call and send missionaries from the Church here to help him. It seems to be a wonderful field for missionary work as the people are hungry for the truth. Recently we sent him a hundred dollars from the missionary fund and a liberal supply of books. In a recent letter from him he says, "Our indispensable needs at the moment are:— First, American missionaries; second, at least one bicycle for visiting congregations." A bicycle in his country, he says, will cost \$65.00.

The saints who feel led of the Lord to send funds to help spread the Gospel to foreign lands should forward them to this office and designate it for the Foreign Missionary Fund. The purpose of this fund is to send missionaries whom God may call and qual-

ify and to assist those who may be engaged in such work. There are many hungry souls today in other lands seeking for the true light.

We receive hundreds of letters from West and South Africa begging for Bibles and New Testaments. We buy New Testaments by the hundreds at a time, and send each a Testament, a sample of tracts and the paper. This work has been going on for several years with money used from our Foreign Missionary Fund.

## TESTIMONIES

Alabama—Dear Sister Marie and all at the printshop: I greet you in the name of our Lord. This leaves me saved and trusting the good Lord for both soul and body.

I received the tracts, and many thanks. I have given out quite a few of them, and will give out more from time to time. I really enjoy reading them. Also I get so much encouragement out of reading the Faith and Victory paper. I am not close to any saint, and don't get to see the saints very often. There is a saint church about 35 or 40 miles from here, and I go as often as I can. So please pray for me. I need spiritual help. Pray also for my unsaved family.

I want to thank the Lord for what He did for my daughter, Lillie Ruth. Last week she got pretty hot in the field. On Friday or Saturday she took a bad headache. This went on for several days until Thursday afternoon. I called on the Lord with all my heart. She would seem to be better at times, then would get worse. She said, "I need a check up, mama." I told her that the Lord knew all about her body—He made it. So I poured out my heart again to the good Lord. About 3 o'clock the headache stopped, and she got up and has been going ever since. To God I give all the glory. Oh, what a mighty God we serve!

Enclosed you will find a small offering to be used in the work. May God bless each of you is my prayer.

Yours in the Lord,

—Levonina Cook

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

New York—Dear Sister Marie and saints: I am writing in my testimony of what the Lord has done for me. I thank and praise the Lord for healing a little growth on my face. It was small in size, but it troubled me. So I started to praying for the Lord to move it, then it seemed to me that it started to get worse and a little larger. But I kept on praying. One day I was on my job, and I started to pray. I said, "Oh, Lord, please move this growth and I will write my testimony to the Faith and Victory paper." This was on Thursday. So Friday morning while I was getting ready to go to work, I was able to pull the growth right off and the soreness was gone. Oh, praise the Lord forevermore! I thank the Lord for this healing, and also for many other blessings. My heart is happy as I think of what great things the Lord has done.

I ask all of the saints to keep praying for me, and I do pray for all of you there.

Yours in Christ,

—Sister Alice Barnes

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Kentucky—Dear Sister Marie, I greet you in the name of Christ our Savior.

I want to tell you how wonderfully the Lord blessed me this spring. I am alone as far as natural help is concerned except my son who is 12 years old and in school. I had been so dizzy for a while and the buildings needed



repairing. I reminded the Lord that this was his property, so He enabled me to put a roof on an outbuilding which took me four hours. I stooped over and nailed the edge without one bit of dizziness. Then I put three rolls of roofing on the back porch which took one hour, and I could have worked all day. Praise His wonderful name!

I had a growth at the end of my spine on the inside. I sent to Bro. and Sister S. E. Abbott for an agreement of prayer, and it is completely healed. I have done all my house cleaning, gardening, and some canning. The Lord willing, I have more canning to do today.

My brother visited me yesterday. He is very badly confused. Agree with me that the Lord will help me to get him enlightened. Also, three more brothers need to be saved, as everyone needs to be. Oh, it seems that people do not realize they have a soul—some of them professing to be saved.

God commanded Moses to put off his shoes, showing plainly that He had chosen Moses to quit traveling in his own way, as he was going to walk the holy way of God and not follow the common pursuits of life, but be a leader of God's people. Likewise, we also live a very changed life after we have been translated into the kingdom of His dear Son. I am glad no unclean thing is walking on the high and holy way, much less entering heaven.

Continue to pray for us. I want to be a blessing to everyone I can reach.

In His dear name, —Sister Alpha Baldridge

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

S. Carolina—Dear Bro. Pruitt, greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: I thank the Lord for His saving grace and His peace in my soul. I am living according to His Word with all my heart, soul, mind and strength, and have a desire in my heart to learn more and more about my Lord because I mean to do His whole will just as He shows it to me.

I want all the saints to pray for me because my highest aim is heaven. The Lord is my Rock and my Fortress and my Deliverer. There is no other so dear to me as my Lord. He said, "My grace is sufficient for thee," and I believe it with all my heart. My cup is running over with joy in the Lord today. Praise His holy name! I love to do my Master's will, and intend to do His will until He says to me, "It is enough, come home!" Saints, I am shouting the victory over Satan and I am sweetly reigning in this life.

Remember me, my husband and my children in your prayers. I have a saved daughter and an unsaved son-in-law in Michigan, and four small grandchildren. I have two unsaved daughters and two unsaved sons, and one unsaved daughter-in-law at home. God knows that I love them every one, and long to see them saved.

Pray for the young people and the older folk at this place. It seems as though people are asleep. I thank the Lord for sending Bro. Williams this way. It really helped the people to see themselves. Now the rest is up to them.

Your Sister in Christ, —Carrine Russell

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

W. Va.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt: May God bless each one today. I feel led of the Lord to send a word of testimony. It will soon be a year, Feb. 25, since my dear husband went Home, and I have a longing to go Home. We had our joys and sorrows together. I am so glad that I was faithful and saw him come to my wonderful Lord. He was helpless 22 months.

God truly is good. I am so glad that I am in this good way. Brothers and sisters, it will be worth every

heartache when we meet our dear Lord and hear His "Well done." May God help people to see that we are living near the end of time. Last night I was thinking that the Lord could come any minute. Children of God, pray and "boast not thyself of tomorrow, for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." The golden morning is fast approaching. May God help us all to stay ready and watching.

In His service,

—Sister Betty Robbins

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

Indiana—Dear Brother: Find enclosed \$10.00 as an offering to the Lord's work. Please send me about 25 tracts entitled, "Christ's Atonement for Our Healing."

I promised the Lord that if He would heal me I would testify to it anywhere He wanted me to. After being anointed and prayed for, God touched my body and I am healed. I am now 67 years of age. Since the age of 16 I have had terrible migraine headaches that made me so sick that the children said they thought I would die, but praise the Lord, He has healed me. I also had something very wrong with my stomach, and am well of that now. I have so much to thank and praise the Lord for. He has been so good to me.

I have been a Christian for 32 years, but I am deeper in Him than I have ever been. Although I am a widow and live alone, I am never lonely, for God's presence is ever with me. I am so happy in His love today.

—Hallie Shawhan

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

Miss.—Dear loved ones, greetings in Jesus' name. I am expecting to go all the way with Jesus. I live by the New Testament the best I know how.

God has been mighty good to me in so many ways, for which I praise Him very much. He has healed me many times. I was in bed almost five months, had pneumonia, and two cancers. The Lord has healed me of so many other ailments, for which I give God all the praise.

Please pray very earnestly for us. My mother has had a stroke and lost the use of her right side. She is so heavy that it pulls my health down to care for her.

Yours in Christ,

—Dorothy Bridges

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

Illinois—Dear Bro. Pruitt, I would like to add my testimony to the Faith and Victory paper.

I am thankful that the good Lord spared my life until I found peace with Him. When I look over my past life, it is very plain to me that I could have been in eternity today if it had not been for His love and mercy toward me. I don't believe very many of us realize the awful danger we are in by putting off coming to the Lord, so my desire now is to live for Him to the best of my ability. I know that in order to do this, I will lose many friends in this world, but as for me I do not believe my friends in this world will have any say as to where I will live in eternity. My prayer for everyone who is living for the Lord is to endeavor to please Him and not worry too much about pleasing the people. —Wm. White

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

La.—Dear readers: For some time now I have felt impressed to send my testimony to the paper, but now I feel that I must.

I want to say how thankful I am that the Lord looked down in love and mercy upon me and healed me of rheumatic fever. I know that He healed me, because I would still be in bed, no doubt, had He not come to my rescue.

When this affliction began we had no idea that it was rheumatic fever. I went on with my work, at times having to just stay off my feet completely. My ankles would swell and hurt so I could not hold back the tears.

I hated to give up and go to bed because of our two babies that had to have care.

Then one night I was sitting on the couch, and when I started to get up and walk to bed, my knees locked in a bent position so that I could not walk. Soon thereafter we went to the home of Joan DePhillips where Clarice Pruitt took care of me and the babies. I knew that the saints everywhere were praying for me, for in two weeks I could walk. I was anointed and prayed for, and a few days afterward I felt that the Lord had healed me. My joints were and are still sore a little, but the burning and paining sensation left and has not come back. I have been home over a month now, and I'm getting stronger day by day. I was never examined by a doctor—the Lord did it all.

We all have afflictions, and I believe they are for a purpose. When the Lord feels we have suffered enough, then He will come to our rescue. He is able to do it all alone—without the help of man.

I learned some lessons from this affliction. The main one was that the Lord can and will heal us if we will just submit ourselves to Him.

Not only in this trial did the Lord help us, but so many, many times He has helped and blessed Gerald and me, and our little boys. He has worked out every problem we have brought before Him.

I would like to thank all of you, dear ones, for your prayers and cards. They helped me so much. I received many encouraging thoughts.

I am so thankful the Lord saved my soul when He did, and for placing the desire, even when I was unsaved, to live a decent life and to be saved. He kept me out of many of the pitfalls of the devil.

It seems that in these times we hear of so many of the young people turning toward the world for happiness and pleasure. But, dear ones, there are no real pleasures and no real joys in worldly amusements. I have found that complete happiness comes when we have given ourselves to God. Worldly amusements will only get our minds off our troubles for a while. When we are through having our fun, we only realize that we have greater troubles. But the dear Lord will bear our burdens. "His yoke is easy and His burden is light." Remember that "earth has no sorrows that heaven cannot cure."

I need your prayers that I will do all the Lord would have me to do. —Connie (Williamson) Flynn.



Ohio—To the saints everywhere, greetings in the precious name of Jesus: I thank God that I am saved and still have the truth working in me like it did in 1919 when I received it, only it is increasing. When I think of conditions in these last days I am truly glad to be saved and sanctified.

I want to tell about some of the things the Lord has done since I sent my last testimony. A man heard about my healing and sent for me and wanted prayer. The doctor said he had a tumor in his nose, and it was so badly swollen that he could not breathe through it. He said he wanted to cease from sin, and after that he wanted healing. He received both of them and is holding on with rejoicing. He is a happy man. Before he was saved, in my sleep one night the Lord let me see an angel. It was such a beautiful sight. As I thought on the scene, the angel waved both wings and vanished.

This is where and how I am living. Read it in Zephaniah 3:12, 13.

There are more people here concerned about the truth. Your saved brother, —W. T. Tomlin

## Traditions—Good and Bad

The word "tradition" usually means in a Biblical sense a teaching or practice which, in contradistinction to the written revelation of the Scriptures, has been handed down orally or by word of mouth from generation to generation.

The Jews feign that, when God gave Moses the written law, He gave him also the oral law. They also say that, before Moses died, he delivered this oral law, or system of traditions, to Joshua and on down to the succeeding leaders. With reference to these traditions, the scribes and Pharisees asked Jesus, "Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread." Matt. 15:2. At the moment Jesus did not answer their question, but in turn asked them, "Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? For God commanded saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; and honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching, for doctrines, the commandments of men." Matt. 15:3-9.

Jesus here plainly condemned these Jewish traditions of the elders, to which they were holding, as "commandments of men," and by them they "made the commandment of God of none effect." Jesus frequently denounced the tradition of the elders when it was against the true law of God.

Traditionalism has had a great effect upon Christendom down through the centuries ever since Jesus and the apostles encountered opposition with the Jewish traditions. The formulation of traditions and suppositions of men aside from God's Word caused the radical departure from the Christian standards of the morning era of the gospel day. It has divided the so-called Christian world into a multiplicity of sects and creeds, which is a farcry from the unity of the Spirit and faith for which Jesus prayed in that notable last prayer.

No sect is more tradition-bound than the Roman Catholic which makes the written Word of God meaningless to them by their traditions. If Peter was the first pope, as Catholics claim, why do we not find any of the peculiar Catholic doctrines in his writings? There is no word of his or the pope's supremacy, no word of his successors, no word of the infallibility of those successors, nothing of purgatory, prayers for the dead, confessions and power to forgive sins against God, penances, indulgences, pilgrimages, worship of images, extreme unction, baptizing into the church by sprinkling, masses or transubstantiation. Therefore we must conclude that these doctrines and

practices are mere traditions and unfounded on the written Word of God.

Through the centuries every true reformer had to break with the traditions and commandments of men in order to restore a Bible truth or principle to the Church. Read again the accounts of the labors of Luther, Wesley and Warner.

In the light of what has been written, here is a paradox. The Apostle Paul writes to the Church at Thessalonica, "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle." 2 Thess. 2:15. The Greek word which is rendered "tradition" signifies anything delivered in the way of teaching, and here most obviously means the doctrines delivered by the apostle to the Thessalonians, whether in his preaching, private conversation, or by these epistles. Whatever these traditions were, as to their content, they were revelations from God, for they came by men who spoke and acted under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. On this ground the passage here can never with any propriety be brought to support the traditions of men.

The Bible reader well knows that the doctrines which the Apostle Paul delivered to the Church were not received from the apostles at Jerusalem or elsewhere by word of mouth, but by direct revelation from God while he was in the desert of Arabia. Thus, they were not traditions in that sense.

In order to rightly divide the Word of truth we must conclude that there are good traditions arising from right principles of truth. Traditions must be kept in line with, tested and proved by the written Word of God. Otherwise, there are many dangers inherent in following traditions blindly.

Occasionally, traditions become fixed, for instance, in the manner of conducting worship services or taking offerings, and then any variation from that practice brings questions in people's minds whether this or that was done right. In many cases the folks are looking to the traditions (past practice) as the standard and not to the written Word. But the vital point to bear in mind is not to allow technicalities or "unlearned questions" on the Scriptures to become an issue or a test of fellowship, "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Those who are not "endeavoring [are not putting forth a sincere effort] to keep the unity of the Spirit" do not discern or have a clear vision of the precious spiritual Body of Christ—the Church. The Apostle Paul exhorts us, "But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes." 2 Tim. 2:23.

—Lawrence D. Pruitt.

#### BOOK WANTED

If anyone has the book by F. G. Smith entitled "Lectures on the Book of Daniel," which you want to sell, please write this Office, stating the condition and price of the book.

"Evening Light Songs" book, enlarged edition of 512 pages—\$1.50 each, plus 15c postage.

Order from Faith Pub. House, Box 713, Guthrie, Okla.

## Are You Preparing For Eternity?

I have no doubt that you are very particular with whom you associate here in this world. No doubt, you pick the best of society to count as your friends, those who are the best and most substantial in your community. Yet on the other hand, do you ever think of the motley crowd that will be lost? In Rev. 21:8 we read: "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Rev. 20:15, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

How is it possible to get our names written in the book of life? By believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. In Rom. 10:10 we read, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Luke 10:20b, "But rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven." Rev. 2:7b, "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

Now let us look at the other side for a moment. In Luke 16:19-24 we read, "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: and there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores. And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried: and in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame."

Please note the contrast between these two pictures. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." 1 Cor. 2:9. On the other hand, the rich man is begging for Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water to cool his parched tongue. Can you imagine anyone making a more vivid picture of the realities of a lost soul beyond the tomb? And to think that any intelligent being created in the image of God should choose to go there, or procrastinate and sin away his day of grace! It is not God's will that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Abraham said, "Son, remember . . ." Yes, we will have the full use of our faculties, and put right values on things of eternal moment as we have never done before. "Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivest thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house; for I have five brethren; that he may testify

unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment." Oh, memory is a fearful thing! Memory can blanch the cheek, stop the heart, strike a man dead on the street. Hell is the madhouse of the universe, and the terrible thing is that men and women will find it out too late as the rich man did.

A watchman was late in closing a drawbridge. A train plunged into the river, and scores met a horrible death. The watchman lived out the remainder of his days in a padded cell, crying, "Too late! too late!" Memory brings back the things we have done and the things that we have left undone. This rich man was conscious of the fact that he had missed the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Gladly he would have become a missionary, but he is informed that there is a gulf fixed that cannot be crossed.

Please note that Jesus said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of heaven," also He said, "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven." He came from heaven, suffered and died on the cruel cross, was buried, and rose again the third day. Praise God! In Isaiah 53:5 we read, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

There had been a great gulf dug by the spade of sin between God and man. Search was made in heaven and earth for a way of bridging the chasm. It was found that Jesus, by taking on flesh and blood, becoming the Son of God and the Son of man, could make the atonement (at-one-ment). So He left his throne in glory and laid His broken body, as it were, across the chasm, and we pass over by Him, because worthy is the Lamb that was slain, for He has redeemed us to God by His blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.

But God's eternal Word says, "Now is the accepted time." No matter how much or how little money we have, our greatest wealth is time. We have just so many minutes between birth and death, and these precious minutes are passing fast. If you have not already crossed the chasm through Jesus Christ, our Savior, then you are in the bonds of sin, and if you die in that condition, sin will put you exactly where it put the rich man.

Sin has blasted the world's hopes, sin has degraded the world's desires, sin has stained the world's character, sin has fired the world's passions, sin has polluted the world's influence, sin has shattered the world's intellect, sin has outraged the world's morality, sin has seared the world's conscience, sin has perverted and cursed the world's life, and sin seeks only to damn EVERY soul! Sin dips its fiery pen into the blood of humanity, and leaves upon the white pages of innocence the blotches of indescribable ghastliness. Its irregular and nervous fingers write flaming characters as with a blazing iron across men's conscience, searing and making it shriveled and deformed. Like a hissing serpent with its fangs bared, it leaves its slime wherever it goes, spreading its virulent poison in its wake, blighting and wither-

ing all its touches. Sin rushes forth like a gory monster, trampling under foot broken and bleeding hearts, heeding not the pitiful cry of the orphans, nor the sobbing moans of the bereaved. Greed, lust, murder, want, hatred and selfishness are all its unholy diabolical children. Pain, sorrow, tears, agony and unamendable woe are its constant attendants. Unutterable darkness attends it like a pall. Unexpressable despair and woe are its fearful companions. Its infernal night knows not the light of dawning.

On which side of the great gulf are you today? Remember the two epitaphs—one was buried, and the other was carried by angels to paradise. One begged for bread in this world; the other begged (and now begging) for water and mercy in eternity, which are strangers in that country.

The above was found in papa's writings when I got some of his books—thought it was good, and would like to pass it on for others to read.

—Mrs. C. D. Dille

## Quotations From The Church Fathers

The Church Fathers were the preachers who lived and wrote just after the Apostles. Some of them were taught by some of the Apostles.

"For luxurious clothing, which cannot conceal the shape of the body is no more a covering. For such clothing, falling close to the body, takes its form easily, and adhering as it were to the flesh, receives its shape, and marks out the woman's figure, so that the whole make of the body is visible to spectators, though not seeing the body itself.

"Having put on silk and purple, they cannot put on Christ. Adorned with gold, and pearls, and necklaces, they have lost the ornament of the heart and spirit. You have polluted your skin with a false mendicament, you have changed your hair with an adulterous color, your face is violently taken possession of by a lie, your figure is corrupted, your countenance is another's. You cannot see God, since your eyes are not those which God made, but those which the devil has spoiled. You should be such as the Creator made you; be such as the hand of God ordained you. Let your countenance remain in you incorrupt, your neck unadorned, your figure simple; let not wounds be made in your ears, nor the precious chain of bracelets and necklaces circle your arms or your necks; let your feet be free from golden bands, your hair stained with no dye, your eyes worthy of beholding God. What are we to imagine ought to be said about the love of ornaments, and still more, of artificial hair and wreathed curls; and furthermore of staining the eyes, and plucking out hairs, and painting with rouge and dying the hair?

"Consequently neither is the hair to be dyed, nor gray hair to have its color changed.

"What business have rouge and paint on the Christian cheek? Who can weep for her sins when her tears wash her face bare and mark furrows on her skin? With what trust can faces be lifted up towards heaven, which the Maker cannot recognize as

his own workmanship? Their necks, heads, arms, and fingers were loaded with golden chains and rings; their persons breathed precious odors, their dresses were of gold stuff and silk; and in this attire they ventured to enter the church." (See Milman: History of Christianity, Vol. II, page 251).

## The Sin of Worldliness

A great sin among professing Christians is following the ungodly styles and fashions of the carnal, worldly-minded, unbelieving, hell-bound throng of Christ rejecters who are so numerous in this modern Sodom age.

Many women who profess to follow Christ dress very immodest, having the dress above the knees, short or no sleeves, and low necks, exposing the body. Many wear shorts, bob their hair, paint their face and lips, finger and toe nails, dye their hair, wear bracelets, finger rings, ear rings, and often use the poison cigarette. What a shame for God's creation to drift so far from godliness into heathenism, and manifest such a proud and haughty spirit toward God's sacred Word which will judge them in that great Day that is coming very soon. All such dressing, undressing, and wearing of adornments is disgraceful in the sight of God, and it is breaking the plain teachings of Christ and the apostles, for it is conforming to the world which is forbidden. (Rom. 12:2). The putting on of "gold, pearls and costly array" are also forbidden. (1 Tim. 2:9).

Some of these same men and women at one time lived free from these things and taught against their use, but now their consciences are seared and they can indulge in them without blush or shame. They become disgraceful in the sight of God and He looks upon the scene with sorrow and grief. They feed the animal lust of the body and create adultery in the opposite sex. In the sight of the Lord they become as hateful birds. Preachers and teachers who uphold and endorse such things have become instruments in the hands of Satan, no matter how pious they may seem to be. They are blind leaders of the blind. What a weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth will take place in that great Day when the secrets of men's hearts are made known. The current of the world is strong and is carrying along a great host of "sacred Scripture" violators. They are selling the truth in order to satisfy the fleshly lusts, please the worldly-minded atheists and the god of this world—fashion—as onward they travel to the lake of fire and brimstone where the fire is never quenched and the worm (soul) never dies. May God awaken poor souls before it is too late, that they may repent and be spared the torments of a never-ending hell. —Fred Pruitt

## REMOVE THE HINDRANCES

"Confess your faults one to another. . . ."

When you are sick remember there is a cause for it. If you know the cause and the same can be removed by you, go about it at once and do so. If

the cause is unknown, then go about it in a way to find out where the trouble lies. If you have been praying for your healing, or have complied with the Word in having others pray for you, and the healing is not done, then begin to search very earnestly by the help of the Lord to find out the hindering cause, because where there is nothing in the way there will be one of two things take place: either the work will be done, or you will get an answer from the Lord why it is not done. Like Paul when the persecutions were coming upon him in every city into which he entered, insomuch that he was imprisoned or beaten, or much persecuted in some way; he began to ask the Lord to remove such things, and kept on asking until he got an answer from the Lord: but the Lord gave him to understand that his grace was sufficient. Paul perhaps did not receive just the answer that he was expecting, but he went at it with a determination to have an answer, and he got it.

While the Lord does not directly send the sickness in one sense, yet he permits it at times for our good. He does not get glory out of the sickness itself, but he sometimes permits the sickness as a means of grace unto our souls, and it is in the healing of the sickness that he gets the greatest glory. Then if you desire to glorify God and are sick, let him heal you.

We read in Mark where Christ was talking to his disciples, where he told them that they would be persecuted, and gave them to understand that persecution was one of the many things that went along with the many blessings that were bestowed upon his believing children. In another place we read that they that live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. And concerning our sicknesses and diseases, we read that Christ bore them upon the cross, and that it is his will to heal them, and when we go earnestly enough to him he will heal us at once; or if we press the matter, he will let us know why we are not healed. Often he sees fit to let us suffer a few days or longer. But so often people settle down that it is the will of God for them to go on suffering in order to become humble, or reach the point that God would have them reach. Now if God cannot stir you up to prayer and faith in any other way, then we say, Amen, suffer until you learn the lesson. But if you take the Word of God by faith and get the hindrances out of the way, if it is no more than unbelief, God will heal you. He came to save people from all their sins and heal them of their diseases. Will you be healed? —Sel.

## BIBLE STUDY

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

September 2, 1962

## LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS

Printed Portion ..... Ezra 1:1-3; 3:1-2; 7:6-10

1. Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be

fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

2. Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

3. Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem.

3:1. And when the seventh month was come, and the children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem.

2. Then stood up Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brethren, and builded the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings thereon, as it is written in the law of Moses the man of God.

7:6. This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the Lord God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the Lord his God upon him.

7. And there went up some of the children of Israel, and of the priests, and the Levites, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, unto Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king.

8. And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king.

9. For upon the first day of the first month began he to go up from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month came he to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him.

10. For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

Memory Verse: For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments. Ezra 7:10.

Practical Truth: God will keep His promise.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Three world powers dominated Eastern Asia during a century—Assyrian, Babylonian, and our lesson begins with the Persians as conquerors. Our lesson bears out the fact that God caused the king to adopt a different policy than had been in force by the other rulers. He wanted to send the captives home and let them build up their homeland. This proves that God is ruling the universe. He permits and changes things as it pleases Him. We cannot question Him but must humbly bow to His decrees.

After the captives returned home they built an altar and then laid the foundation for the Temple. This caused great rejoicing. They had gathered together as one man. In unity is wonderful strength. Unity of mind, soul and spirit will work wonders for God in His work here in the world. When just a few have to carry the load, it is hard, but if a number work together it lightens the load on each one and it is much easier. We notice that in campmeetings sometimes the load is left to a faithful few. This should not be. There is something for each to do. In some congregations sometimes a few carry the burden of the spiritual service and the business affairs. We need to be as one man.

The last part of our lesson happened 80 years later. The work on the Temple had come to a standstill. Ezra

led a group of 1500 to Jerusalem. He was on a mission for God. He was interested in the spiritual welfare of the people. First Ezra had his heart prepared by God. He found out what God required and he put it in practice. He then was in a condition to teach others. There must be a spiritual foundation laid in our hearts before we can effectively work for God. We must have a definite experience of justification and sanctification. Then we can build upon that foundation and help others.

September 9, 1962

### FAITH TO REBUILD

Printed Portion .....Haggai 1:1-6; Zech. 4:6-10

Haggai 1:1. In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the Lord by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying,

2. Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the Lord's house should be built.

3. Then came the word of the Lord by Haggai the prophet, saying,

4. Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste?

5. Now therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts; Consider your ways.

6. Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but we are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.

Zech. 4:6. Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.

7. Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.

8. Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

9. The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the Lord of hosts hath sent me unto you.

10. For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the Lord, which run to and fro through the whole earth.

Memory Verse: Let us go speedily to pray before the Lord, and to seek the Lord of hosts. Zech. 8:21.

Practical Truth: Faith is required to start a task and faith is necessary to finish it.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lesson was written by Haggai and Zechariah, the prophets. The people needed encouragement to build the temple. The job loomed as a mountain before them. They tried to excuse themselves by saying that it wasn't time to rebuild the temple, etc. The prophet reminded them that they had homes for themselves while the house of God lay in waste. They were going at things backwards. They were putting themselves first and God's cause last. So many today are doing that. Some seem to forget the words of Jesus who said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of



God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33. God is a jealous God. He wants the first place in our affections, hearts, lives, plans and actions. Surely the blessings are great when we live a life devoted to God. We need to put first things first, and not self first. Some people are like the little boy who was given two nickels on Sunday morning. One was for the Sunday school offering and the other was for himself. On the way he dropped one nickel and it rolled down the drain. The little boy said, "There goes the Lord's nickel." The prophet told them that they were putting their money in bags with holes. God has promised, "Him that honoreth Me, I will honor."

The prophet Zechariah told the people that the mountain that loomed before them would become a plain. God would help them rebuild the temple. They just needed to have faith in God and move forward. Notice verse 6. It is by the Spirit of God that things will move. We notice that in the creation of the world the Spirit of the Lord was there. God spoke and the Spirit of the Lord moved and things came to pass. There is power in the Spirit of God. We need to have faith in God for all things.

September 16, 1962

#### A MIND TO WORK

Printed Portion ..... Nehemiah 4:1-3, 7-11, 19-23.

1. But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews.

2. And he spake before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, What do these feeble Jews? will they fortify themselves? will they sacrifice? will they make an end in a day? will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned?

3. Now Tobiah the Ammonite was by him, and he said, Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall.

7. But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth,

8. And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it.

9. Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

10. And Judah said, The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and there is much rubbish; so that we are not able to build the wall.

11. And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease.

19. And I said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, The work is great and large, and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another.

20. In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us.

21. So we laboured in the work: and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared.

22. Likewise at the same time said I unto the people, Let every one with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and labour in the day.

23. So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes, saving that every one put them off for washing.

Memory Verse: So we built the wall. . . For the people had a mind to work. Nehemiah 4:6.

Practical Truth: Idleness separates people, but work unites them.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

I don't feel that God has any lazy people in His kingdom. Every born-again person has a burden for the work of the Lord. If they aren't able to be active, they are busy praying and encouraging others in their labors for God. We are all workers together with God. If we can't go, we can help send someone or pray for them while they go.

Nehemiah wrote our lesson. The first six chapters of his book tell about how he wept and was so burdened because the walls of Jerusalem had not been repaired. The king noticed his sadness while he worked for him. The king asked him about his trouble and then agreed to send Nehemiah up to Jerusalem. Nehemiah arrived with new courage and said, "Let us rise up and build."

Our lesson begins with the names of those who tried to hinder the building of the walls. Those living around Jerusalem were afraid for the Jews to become strong again. They made fun of the building and their efforts. But we find that Nehemiah and the people made a prayer unto God and set a watch day and night. The devil is conspiring to hinder us in our life for God. We need to do what Jesus said to do, "Watch and pray." If we just pray and then be careless in watching our thoughts, actions and heart, we will lose ground. We need to "keep our heart with all diligence."

They all had a mind to work and the Lord blessed them as they worked together. (Neh. 6:15). They did not feel dismayed, nor discouraged, because they said, "God will fight for us." Let us take courage today, knowing that God will fight for us.

September 23, 1962

#### A CALL TO SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Printed Portion ..... Malachi 2:1-2, 4-9; 3:1-4.

2:1. And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you.

2. If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the Lord of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart.

4. And ye shall know that I have sent this commandment unto you, that my covenant might be with Levi, saith the Lord of hosts.

5. My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him for the fear wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name.

6. The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity.

7. For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.

8. But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the Lord of hosts.

9. Therefore have I also made you contemptible and base before all the people, according as ye have not kept my ways, but have been partial in the law.

3:1. Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

2. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' sope:

3. And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

4. Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years.

**Memory Verse:** Have we not all one father? Hath not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother by profaning the covenant of our fathers? Mal. 2:10.

**Practical Truth:** We need the Holy Spirit to guide us through life to heaven.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Malachi was the last prophet sent to the Jews before the coming of Jesus. They waited 400 years for a voice among them from God.

The first part of our lesson is directed to the priests of that city. God was particular in the type of a lamb that was to be offered for the sins of the people. It must be without spot or blemish as it was a type of Christ. The priests were weary and had become careless in the kind of sacrifices they had offered. This was bringing a curse upon themselves.

The last part of our lesson is a prophecy of the coming of Jesus. John the Baptist was the messenger that was to prepare the way for Jesus. He did his work, and then Jesus finished His work by dying on the cross and ascending into heaven. After the clouds closed around the Savior and He was out of sight, the 120 waited in Jerusalem to be "endued with power from on high." Acts 1, 2 chapters. In our lesson we read what took place on the day of Pentecost. "The Lord shall suddenly come to his temple." In days past we read where the glory of God came down in the temples that Solomon and others had built at different times. He dwelt among His people then, but on the day of Pentecost the Spirit of God came down to dwell in the hearts of men and women who are His temple. "Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you?" (1 Cor. 6:19) How precious this is! Our lesson plainly tells us that the Holy Ghost will purify and purge the hearts of those who open it and let the Holy Spirit come in.

September 30, 1962

#### JOHN HERALDS THE CHRIST

Printed Portion ..... Luke 3:2-3, 7-18.

2. Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

3. And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;

7. Then said he to the multitude that came forth to

be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

8. Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

9. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

10. And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then?

11. He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.

12. Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do?

13. And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you.

14. And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.

15. And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;

16. John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water: but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

17. Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.

18. And many other things in his exhortation preached he unto the people.

**Memory Verse:** I indeed baptize you with water; . . . he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire. Luke 3:16.

**Practical Truth:** John is an example of esteeming others.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lesson takes place over 400 years after the prophecy was given which we studied in last Sunday's lesson. How wonderful it is that the Bible tells what is to come, and then later verifies that it did come to pass. No other book on earth is as great as the Bible. We thank God for His inspired Word that He left for us today.

John was the last of the prophets. He was an humble, uncompromising person. He stood for what was right regardless of whom it affected. John the Baptist made it perfectly clear to Herod the king that he was wrong when he took his brother's wife. Herod did not like it, so John landed in jail and soon was beheaded. Jesus commended John and said that no greater prophet had ever lived than he. Sin needs to be named and condemned. There is no such thing as white and black sins. "All unrighteousness is sin." If it isn't right, it's wrong. If it is wrong, it is sin, and must be confessed and forsaken.

John taught the people to "bring forth fruits worthy of repentance." He taught them to not be selfish, nor to cheat. They were taught not to do violence, nor wrongfully accuse another. Many of the people believed on John but many did not. He told them that One was to come after him that would baptize them with the Holy Ghost and fire. Praise the Lord, that One did come and today we are enjoying the blessings of salvation.

—Sister Marie Miles