

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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The Bands and Cords of Christ

(Psalms 2:3)

Rage the nations, disappointed,
And the people vainly cry,
As the Lord and His anointed
Sit upon their throne on high.

How they rage and seek to plunder
Christ in all they do and say:
"Let us break their bands asunder,
From us cast their cords away."

Darkened by their pride, not seeing
All the virtue Christ can share,
Sinful men use up their being
Fighting, shunning Heaven's care.

All because their lust and evil
They refuse to cast away;
Thus in such a great upheaval
They go on their dark'ned way.

Discipline and holy living,
Sacrifice of self and store—
These are cords that Christ is giving
If we would His name adore.

Not with joy He binds the spirit
For to suffer and deny,
But He wills that we inherit
Brighter treasures by and by.

And He knows that human longing
Unrestrained will lead astray:
Thus the cords He binds, not wronging
Those who walk the heavenly way.

So we murmur not. 'Tis better
To conform to all His will,
For His love makes sweet each fetter
And His peace is flowing still.

Friend! Whose shadow are you under?
Come to Christ. Believe! Obey!
Do not break His bands asunder,
Do not cast His cords away.

—Leslie Busbee

Christians Are Saved From Sin

"And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him" (I John 3:5, 6). This is the uniform gospel standard, as we shall see.

1. *Christ taught it.* Verily, verily I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. . . . If the Son therefore shall make you free, *ye shall be free indeed*" (John 8:34-36). Here is promised a perfect freedom from the bondage of sin.

In the fifth chapter of John we read of a certain impotent man lying at the pool of Bethesda, whose infirmity was of thirty-eight years' duration. Jesus came along and healed him. "Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: SIN NO MORE, lest a worse thing come unto thee" (verse 14). Now, it is preposterous to suppose that Christ was unjust, giving a commandment that could not be obeyed—a commandment whose violation was to bring upon the poor man a sorer punishment than he had endured during those thirty-eight long years. It could be obeyed. This man received power from the Lord to go and live without sin.

Again, in John 8:3-11 we read of a certain woman who was brought to Christ accused of great sin. After a short conversation, during which time the scribes and Pharisees, becoming condemned by their consciences because of their own sins, went away, Jesus turned to the woman and said, "Where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee [legally]? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: GO AND SIN NO MORE."

2. *Peter taught it.* "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out; when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19). "Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth" (I Pet. 2:21, 22).

3. *Paul taught it.* "Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame" (I Cor. 15:34, 35). Almost the whole of the sixth chapter of Romans is devoted to the subject of the Christians' deliverance from sin. I will notice just a few verses wherein it is stated.

"What shall we say then? shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (verses 1, 2). "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof" (verses 11, 12). "*Sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace*" (verse 14). "Ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. *Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness*" (verses 17, 18). "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life" (verse 22).

Some people attempt to prove that Paul himself was a sinner and a defender of sin; but this chapter alone is sufficient to forever settle his attitude as a *Christian* toward the subject of sin. This point we will refer to again in the present chapter.

4. *John taught it.* "If we walk in the light as he is in the light we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son *cleanseth us from all sin*. If we say that we have no sin [to be cleansed from], we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:7-9). Here a perfect cleansing from sin is taught, upon condition that we do not cover our sins up and deny them, but "walk in the light" and "confess our sins." And the same writer also shows that we must live before Christ in this sinless state, for he says, "He that sayeth he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked" (I John 2:6). How did Christ walk? Peter affirms that he "did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth" (I Pet. 2:22). Hence we must do no sin. This is the Christian standard.

So John writes again, "My little children, these things I write unto you, **THAT YE SIN NOT**" (I John 2:1). In the same verse he goes on to show that "if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." This shows that, even if men should by some means depart from the Christian standard by falling into sin, it is possible for them to be recovered, because Christ would be willing to forgive again. This, however, does not in the least weaken the standard here set forth that "he that sayeth he abideth in him *ought* himself also so to walk, even as he walked" (verse 6). But the apostle goes a step further; he shows not only that Christians "ought" to walk this way, but that they really *do*. "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him" (I John 3:6). "*We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not*" (I John 5:18).

"Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. Whosoever is born of God *doth not commit sin*; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God" (I John 3:7, 9). Reader, mark this fact: John does not say that God's people confess their sins every day or repent of them frequently, but says that they "**DO NOT COMMIT SIN**." Thousands of professed Christians have asked the question, "Who are those 'just persons

which need no repentance,' of which Christ speaks" (Luke 15:7)? The answer is very clear: They are the Christians, those who have been born of God; for "*Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin*." They need not, and hence could not, repent.

—F. G. Smith

From *What the Bible Teaches*, 1913 edition

Binding and Loosing of the Dragon

"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. . . . And they [saints] overcame him [dragon, devil, anti-God spirit] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." Rev. 12:9, 11.

It is important to note in this verse that the dragon was "called the Devil, and Satan." We know that the devil, the chief of evil spirits, has worked through many agencies to deceive people in this world right from the beginning of time. We note that this dragon that was cast out is not the devil that deceived Eve in the garden of Eden, but is the idol worship, or paganism, symbolized as the dragon, "called the Devil and Satan." Many are confused on this verse, interpreting it to say that the devil was cast out of God's heaven. But the dragon, or paganism, "called the Devil and Satan," was "cast out" of the ecclesiastical, or church heavens, and this took place on earth.

Let us note that idol worship, paganism or the anti-God spirit symbolized as the great red dragon, "called the Devil, and Satan," ruled most of the world for thousands of years and is portrayed in the Old Testament. The history of the Israelites is filled with their being led away from the true God and into worshipping idols like the rest of the then known world, and being punished by God. When Jesus came, the then known world still worshipped idols, but just the few Israelites who stood true to God did not. After Jesus' ascension, the disciples obeyed His commands to "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel." Mark 16:15. Paul was especially sent to the Gentiles who were idol worshippers, and he, and others, faced this huge system of idol worship symbolized as the dragon "called the Devil, and Satan." A spiritual warfare was waged between Christ's followers and this dragon power. Paul and others boldly preached Christ, but they were severely persecuted. When Paul preached at Ephesus, many believed on Jesus and they burned their books of "curious arts," which were priced at 50,000 pieces of silver. The workmen in Ephesus called a trade meeting, saying that something had to be done, or their trade of making silver shrines for the goddess Diana would be destroyed by Paul's preaching of Christ. Demetrius told his fellow workers, "Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands: . . . our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth." Acts 19:17-19, 24-27.

On through the Book of Acts we read about this spiritual warfare going on. Paul and many others gave

their lives for the sake of Christ and for preaching the gospel. It is said that they turned the "world upside down" with their teachings of Christ, and the people left idol worship and began worshipping the true God. Acts 17:6. This warfare is symbolized in Rev. 12:7-8 as "Michael and his angels [Christ's followers] fought against the dragon [anti-God spirit]; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven [ecclesiastical or church heaven]." God's followers did prevail and the "dragon, called the Devil and Satan," was "cast out" or "bound" as people turned away from idol worship and worshipped the true God. The preaching of the gospel by the early church "bound" the dragon for a long period of time. In Rev. 20:1, 2 the power and Word of God preached is symbolized by the "key" and "chain."

As the Apostle Paul established churches in Asia, he warned them to be careful as there would be those who would rise up among them and draw disciples away with them into a nominal Christianity. (II Thess. 2:3-12; I Tim. 4:1-3). The completion of this deception did take place about 270 A.D. Some political rulers even accepted the Christian religion in name only. They recognized the true God and not idols. This nominal acceptance of the Christian religion gave rise to Catholicism which is symbolized by the "beast" in Rev. 13:2. As the years rolled by, millions were killed when they would not bow down to the Catholic system, as history informs us. "During the long reign of Popery, when the doctrine was be-a-Catholic-or-die, infidelity could not publicly lift its head in which it was cast down by the early Christians." (Smith, *Revelation Explained*).

We must remember that through these Dark Ages, God had a church consisting of those who would not bow down to the "beast." They had to hide in caves or go underground to worship God. They were not in the general public view. The church "fled into the wilderness." Rev. 12:6.

According to the prophecy in Rev. 20:7, the dragon, called the Devil, and Satan, was to "be loosed out of his prison." The anti-God spirit would again come into view and people would turn against God. The renewal of paganism, atheism, and infidelity began when the infidel Voltaire and his followers worked to turn the people away from the true God. This dragon spirit, "called the Devil and Satan" was loosed and will continue to work until the end of the world.

About 1880, Bro. D. S. Warner and other ministers restored the Bible truths in this "evening time" on the unity of God's people, Holy Spirit leadership, separation from sectism and this sinful world, divine healing and all the teachings of the Bible. God's true people, which is the Church of God, are teaching and practicing these same truths today.

Satan is turned loose against these Bible truths. He works in many forms and manners. He even imitates the truth, but denies the power of God to enable a person to live free from sin. The so-called churches of God today are filled with many skeptics and infidels. Satan is working through Communism and atheism against God's true followers. Forces are combining in the form of the World Council of Churches which the saints of God will not join.

Recently, the archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Donald Coggan, and Pope 6th had a meeting at the Vatican. The Roman Catholic and Anglican churches have 660 million followers. They have been separated since the fifteenth century. The archbishop said, "What a marvelous thing to meet and speak together for more than an hour in love, frankness, and ease." The Pope said, "It is particular joy for us to gather in this spirit with Your Grace. . . . We must not see such a celebration as a mere nostalgia for the past, but rather as a spiritual reality." We see there is a great move of combining forces for the purpose to "encompass the camp of the saints." (Rev. 20:9). Prophecy is being fulfilled in this end of time. We need to be established in the Lord or the forces of infidelity, Communism, and combined sectism will overcome us. God will take care of His own and will always have a church. The gates of hell cannot prevail against the church. Rev. 20:9 says that God will send fire down from God out of heaven and devour those who oppose God's church. The final judgment will come to pass, and the righteous will be taken to be with the Lord forever.

—Sis. Marie Miles

Where Jesus Reigns

*Where Jesus reigns there is no fear,
No restless doubt, no hopeless tear,
No base deceit nor faithless prayer,
No angry strife or weak despair,
No greed for gain nor selfish pride,
No bitterness for aught denied,
No evil tongue, no cruel arm,
No envy, hate, nor wish to harm,
No wicked lust, nor trace of stains,
But all is pure where Jesus reigns.*

*Where Jesus reigns there is no night,
For He is wisdom, love, and light;
No raging sea nor tempest dread,
But quietness and calm instead;
No anxious care, no blind unrest,
No heavy heart by guilt oppressed,
No discontent, no gloomy days,
But highest hope and sweetest praise;
No stumbling oft nor galling chains,
No shame nor sin where Jesus reigns.*

*Where Jesus reigns there's joy untold,
There's wealth that's richer far than gold,
There's service glad and courage true,
There's power to be and strength to do,
There's sacrifice and sweet content,
There's grace divine in mercy sent,
There's triumph over self and sin,
And blessed peace abides within;
There's truest faith that never wanes—
There's love supreme where Jesus reigns.*

—Selected

The trouble is not that you do not know what is right; the trouble is that you do not lay hold upon God to help you to live like you know you should. —C. E. Orr

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"FAITH AND VICTORY"

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend campmeetings) by Lawrence D. Pruitt, assisted by Marie Miles and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

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Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation 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 services and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Co-operation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way the Bible and the Holy Spirit teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Exodus 25:2; 1st Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Free-will offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Faith Publishing House.

A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

In order to comply with the Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

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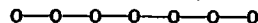
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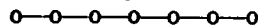
THIS JUNE ISSUE is going to press and in the mail just prior to the beginning date, May 27, of the Oklahoma State campmeeting here at Guthrie. The first service will start at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, the 27th day of May. A large attendance is expected from several states, and perhaps a number of people will be coming for their first time.

A writer of old joyfully declared: "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord. Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together: whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord. For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever." Psalms 122:1-7; 125:1. Praise God for Mount Zion, the Church, which is the pillar and ground of the truth!

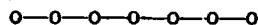
Let us be as steadfast to remain with God's people as faithful Ruth of old when she said to Naomi, her mother-in-law: "For whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."



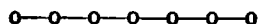
Bro. Bob Sallee, our co-worker here at the Lord's Print Shop, and his wife, Erma Gayle, and their children, made a trip in the month of April to Bro. Bob's parents' home at Wilmington, Ohio, where Bob worked a number of days making necessary improvements on his parents' house. His mother is not very well, and we are certain that those improvements will make the home more comfortable and convenient for her and all the family.



Another faithful co-worker, Bro. Randall Flynn, and his family just returned safely on May 20th from a two-weeks' trip to Louisiana where they visited his mother, Sister Alta Flynn, at Loranger, and other relatives, saints, and friends.



Congratulations to our co-workers, Wayne and Mary Murphey, for their first-born, Jason Wayne, on May 1, 1977. May the Lord continue to bless this dedicated young couple, my nephew and niece, in the service of the Master.



Adam and Eve, the original human creation, fell from their lofty estate of holiness under the temptation and power of Satan in the Garden of Eden. Subsequently, through the weary centuries the human race was in bondage to sin and Satan until the light of the gospel shone forth with the coming of Christ, the long-promised Messiah, and His redemptive atonement for sin. Jesus Christ, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, came to break the sinful bonds of Satan and

set the captive souls at liberty so they again might serve their Creator in the beauty of holiness.

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Our sincere sympathy and prayers are extended to and for Sister Hilda Nielson of Jefferson, Oregon, whose son, Charlie, passed away in California on April 25. Many saints across the country had been praying for him, and we have hopes that their fervent prayers for his salvation were heard. May God especially comfort the bereaved mother and other relatives.

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Bro. George Hammond of Kenosha, Wisconsin, who made a mission trip to the Philippine Islands last summer, still has a burden for those people and for the spread of the pure gospel in those faraway Islands. Again financing his trip as before, Brother Hammond will leave, Lord willing, from Oklahoma City on Sunday, May 29th, by plane for the Philippines where he expects to be in the campmeeting that will be held at Cauayan during the second week of June. Bros. Florencio and Ben Granil, native missionaries in that area, are anxiously anticipating his arrival to aid them in preaching the Word on all lines to establish the believers in the Bible truths. Let us pray the Lord to give Bro. Hammond holy anointing to preach His Word and divine wisdom in dealing with precious souls, and for a safe and profitable round trip to advance the kingdom of God in that needy mission field. It is hoped that a sufficient fund will be provided in time for Bro. Hammond to take with him to purchase a suitable vehicle for the Philippine missionaries to use to carry the gospel more quickly to other villages in the Islands.

Jesus' commission to His Church still reads, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. What are we doing to meet the challenge? If we cannot go, we can help others to go whom the Lord has called.

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Following is a brief historical sketch of the Lord's publishing work:

In the year of 1918, this editor's parents, who then lived in Clovis, N. Mexico, received a definite leading of the Lord to move to Guthrie, Okla. Therefore, in June, 1918, Fred and Mary Pruitt with their four children moved to Guthrie, Okla., driving through in a 1916 Model T Ford car, requiring three days over rough unpaved roads.

In New Mexico, my parents had previously heard and embraced the truth of this Reformation, and were baptized by Brother George E. Harmon, the pastor at Clovis. My father answered the Lord's call to the ministry about the year 1915. At Guthrie he continued in evangelistic and mission work, as well as working with another family in the printing and circulation of gospel literature. In the year 1923, he launched out by faith, and with the aid of a few close associates, he began (free of charge for seven years) the publication of this paper which, by the unfailing blessings of the Lord, has continued and expanded in circulation and effectiveness through the years.

Feeling a definite call of God and seeing the urgent need for world-wide gospel literature evangelism, my father placed all of his earthly possessions, which included several thousand dollars from the sale of his homestead and property in New Mexico, into buildings and printing machinery for the production of Christian literature.

In 1926, the masonry shop building attached to the rear of the frame residence at 611 W. Mansur was torn down and salvaged, and a new masonry building erected at 920 W. Mansur on lots adjacent to the residence on the corner at 924 W. Mansur where the Pruitt family had lived since 1920. Additions have been made to this new shop building. It now covers about 4,000 square feet.

Faith Publishing House is incorporated under the statutes of Oklahoma as a non-profit religious institution, and no one connected with the work receives any personal profit from the operation. All the board members and co-workers have volunteered their services as unto the Lord, and He supplies their needs as He promised.

My beloved parents, Fred and Mary Pruitt, finished their course of many years in the triumphs of a living faith and their works do follow them. Mother went to be with the Lord in October, 1954, at the age of 64 years. My father, who was the co-founder and editor of this publication, departed this life for the Glory World on June 6, 1963, in his 82nd year, concluding 47 years of a very active ministry of the Word by the pulpit and press.

As at the beginning, this paper is still published in the interest of God's people who compose the one and only true Church of God in this "evening light." It stands committed to the teachings and practices of the thirty years of the Reformation prior to 1910-1912, and open for more or additional light, but not "new light" which eclipses or hides the truth which brought forth this precious restoration movement.

Through the hand of God this publishing work has played a major role in continuing the truth of the original movement since the compromise "landslide" of 1910-1912. However, this publication is not officially recognized as the church paper, neither do its publishers aspire for it any such recognition, nor is the Church's headquarters here at Guthrie or any other earthly location. Yet in spirit and in truth, the paper is the servant of the Church as the sub-title and use of its columns indicate.

The publishing work is supported mainly through free-will offerings, as the present small subscription price on the paper (35¢ per year) does not pay the cost of producing it. Then through the Free Literature Fund thousands of papers, tracts, and books are printed and mailed out free of charge. With the postage rates soaring, this is a very large expense item. Where prices on literature are quoted, they do not cover all the costs, so this is primarily and essentially a faith work with the aim to carry the gospel to "every creature" in obedience to the Great Commission which Jesus gave to His Church. A Missionary Fund is also maintained to aid the saints in relaying missionary offerings to home and foreign missionary work.

The Reformation in this "evening time" is really a restoration movement, bringing back to the people the truths and practices which prevailed in the morning Church of the first century. Over the years God has given more light and understanding on His Word.

The National Campmeeting, held annually at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo., was started in 1938, and the attendance and interest have been increasing ever since. The 40th annual National campmeeting will be held there, Lord willing, this summer on July 22 to 31. You are cordially invited to attend. —Lawrence D. Pruitt

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his marvelous conversion, his call to the ministry, and some of his experiences of living by faith in the gospel work. Price, 25c each, or five copies for \$1.00.

Adventures in the Land of Canaan by R. L. Berry. An instructive allegory of true-to-life experiences in the grace of sanctification. 128 pages in paper cover. Price, \$1.00 per copy.

Parent and Child by J. W. Byers. Out of print for many years, this 60-page booklet with a heavy paper cover is heartily recommended for young parents to aid them in their child-training. Price, 40c each, or three copies for \$1.00.

Echoes From Heaven—a new song book of 195 songs in shaped notes. In a heavy paper cover, this song book is priced at \$1.65 each.

Life's Story and Healings by Sister Nellie Poulos. Just off the press, this book is a reprint of her book which had been out of print for a number of years. With additional material, this volume contains 160 pages with a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.25 each.

Courtship and Marriage, a 12-page pamphlet which was copied from a taped sermon delivered by Bro. Ostis Wilson to a group of young people in Oregon in 1976. These vital Bible truths in printed form should be in the hands of every person, young and old, who is contemplating marriage. In order to encourage a wide circulation of this pamphlet, we are offering it free of charge here at the office in limited quantities. For mail orders, please enclose a coin or stamps for postage.

For postage and handling, add 30c for the first dollar and 5c for each additional dollar of total order.

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OBITUARIES

Bro. Herschel L. Thompson, the son of Sandy and Ophelia Thompson, was born April 1, 1886, in Indian Territory. The place is now known as Craig County, Oklahoma. Bro. Thompson departed this life on April 29, 1977.

He professed a hope in Christ at an early age in the community in which he lived. His testimony was that he wanted an interest in the saints' prayers that he might ever prove faithful until the end. The saints can truly say he was a faithful brother.

On December 22, 1926, he was united in holy matrimony with the former Miss Elsie Vann in Tulsa, Okla.

He leaves to mourn and cherish his memory his beloved wife, Sis. Elsie Thompson; one brother, Harvey Thompson of Kansas City, Missouri; one sister, Alfa Yose of Kansas City, Kansas, and a host of other relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Manyles Gaines, assisted by Bro. Lewis Williams and Sis. Eva Hardman. Interment was in the Crown Hill Cemetery.

Bro. Ivory Henry C. Meigs was born Feb. 20, 1899, in Big Creek County, Oklahoma near Kansas. He departed this life on April 1, 1977.

In his latter years he said he wanted to come home (to the saints). He knew his mother, Sis. Nancy Hardman, had lived a faithful life. He gave his heart to the Lord several years ago.

Survivors are his wife, Myrtle Meigs, and a host of other relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were held at the Church of God Chapel, 1102 E. Pine Pl., Tulsa, Okla., conducted by Bro. Manyles Gaines, assisted by Bro. Eugene Fields and Sis. Katherine Williams. Interment was in the Big Creek Cemetery.

Campmeeting Dates for 1977

Following are the Church of God campmeeting dates for 1977, and more complete announcements of each will be made in later issues:—

Oklahoma State at Guthrie, Oklahoma—May 27 to June 5.

Holly Hill, South Carolina—June 3 to 12.

Jefferson, Oregon—June 10 to 19.

Tulsa, Oklahoma—June 10 to 19.

Green Bank, W. Virginia—June 10 to 19.

Hammond, Louisiana—June 25 to July 3.

Oakland, California—June 24 to July 3.

Ojos Negros, Baja C., Mexico—June 27 to July 3.

Akron, Ohio—July 1 to 10.

Muncie, Indiana—July 8 to 17.

Fresno, California—July 8 to 17.

National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo.—July 22 to 31.

Myrtle, Missouri—Aug. 3 to 10.

Bakersfield, California—Aug. 5 to 14.

Blackford, Kentucky—August 12 to 17.

Boley, Oklahoma—Aug. 19 to 28.

California State at Pacoima, Calif.—August 26 to September 4.

TULSA, OKLA., CAMPMEETING

The Church of God campmeeting on the corner of Norfolk and Pine Place in Tulsa, Okla., will be held June 10 to 19, 1977, Lord willing. Everyone is cordially invited to these services, and all who come will be cared for. All who can, please bring bed linens and pillows. Pray much for the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon this meeting.

For additional information, contact the pastor, Bro. M. D. Gaines, 2932 N. Lewis, Tulsa, Okla. 74110, phone (918) 425-8946, or Bro. Charles Lowe, 1823 N. Main, phone 584-6838. —Maple Littlejohn, Sec.

OAKLAND, CALIF., CAMPMEETING

The annual campmeeting of the Church of God at Oakland, Calif., will begin, Lord willing, on June 24, 1977, at 7:30 p.m. and close on July 3rd.

We extend a hearty welcome to all. Come praying for the success of the meeting and for the souls of lost men and women.

Upon your arrival in Oakland, Sister Velma Smith, the pastor, can be contacted at phone number 632-8211, and whose address is 2066-81st Ave. Sis. Doris Washington may be reached at phone number 635-1786, whose address is 1447-72nd Ave. We are expecting you here. —Doris L. Washington

GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMPMEETING AT HAMMOND, LA.

The General Southern Campmeeting of the Church of God will begin on Saturday, June 25, 1977, in Hammond, La., continuing through Sunday, July 3, 1977.

All the saints of God of all nations are extended a warm invitation to come and be with us in this meeting. We are praying that God will send in ministers of His choosing to preach the truth and to expound the gospel in its fullness that souls will be awakened to their spiritual needs. We are expecting God to work in a mighty way in the saving of souls and the healing of bodies.

All who come to the meeting will be cared for. Meals will be served as usual in the dining hall on the campground. Space is available on the grounds for campers and trailers, along with electrical hook-ups and sewer disposal facilities. Sleeping facilities are in the dormitory, and rooms are available for ministers, aged saints and families who need them. There are no charges for the beds or cots. The meeting is supported by free-will offerings.

Those coming by auto and traveling on I-55, turn east on I-12 at intersection and travel east until all traffic exits at the Hammond exit. Turn north toward Hammond on Hwy. 51. Go to the first street going west past the first traffic light at the city limits. Continue west until you see signs showing directions to the campgrounds just off White Street. Those traveling by bus or train, upon arrival call Bob Forbes, phone 542-1144 or phone 748-5368, and someone will pick you up.

Come praying that God will open up the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing into our souls that we might not be able to contain it.

Yours in Christ,

—Bob Forbes

AKRON, OHIO, CAMPMEETING

The Akron, Ohio, campmeeting of the Church of God (Evening Light) will be held in the name of the Lord on July 1st through July 10th, 1977, at 419-21 West Thornton St., Akron. All nations are welcome to attend each of these services which will be in progress through the holiday season of July 4th. Let us take advantage of this week-end to come and worship the Lord, and glorify His holy name in solemnity. "The Lord is at hand," and time is fast declining.

We are praying that all of God's ministering servants will feel free to come, and that a mighty visitation of the Holy Spirit will be enjoyed by the proclamation of the truth of God's Word in its fullness. Let all come. There will be a blessing for each of you.

Dormitories and dining hall are on the ground. All contributions may be sent to Bro. Darnell Abbage, 1436 Honodle Ave., Akron, Ohio 44305, phone 784-2884, who is the treasurer of the campmeeting fund. All expenses will

be met by free-will offerings. There is space for campers and trailers. All are invited to obtain help for soul and body.

For further information, contact Sister Hazel Clark, 555 Fernwood Dr., Akron, Ohio 44320, phone 376-5371. The chapel phone is 762-2286. —Sister Hazel Clark

FRESNO, CALIF., CAMPMEETING

The Fresno, California Campmeeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, July 8 to 17, 1977, at the campgrounds located at 7249 East Kings Canyon Road, Fresno, California.

A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this meeting. Provisions will be made to care for all who come. Dining area and dormitories are located on the grounds. All meeting expenses will be met by free-will offerings. Come praying for a profitable meeting—that souls will be saved, believers sanctified, and bodies healed.

Directions to the campgrounds are as follows: From the south on Highway 99, exit on Clovis Avenue and go right. Continue down Clovis Avenue a few miles to Kings Canyon Dr., make a right turn onto Kings Canyon and continue east to the campgrounds. From the north on Highway 99, take the Ventura exit. Turn left onto Ventura and continue east to the campgrounds. (Ventura becomes Kings Canyon Road after a few miles.)

For further information, contact the pastor, Brother E. J. Trotter, 811 W. Alamos, Clovis, Ca. 96312, phone (209) 291-6003 or the church, phone (209) 255-9868.

CAMPMEETING AT MUNCIE, INDIANA

Another campmeeting of the Church of God (Evening Light) will be held, Lord willing, from July 8 to 17, 1977, on the Central Friends Campground located six miles southeast of Muncie, Indiana, on U.S. 35 and ¼ mile to the right on Road 650 S. The old-time Bible truth as taught and practiced by the pioneers of the Evening Light Reformation will be expounded under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Everyone is cordially invited and urged to attend this meeting, especially those in the Northeast. The Lord blessed there in a special way last summer, and we are expecting a greater outpouring of grace and truth in the coming meeting.

Bro. Egbert Allen of Norwood, Mo., and Bro. Orie Young of Sapulpa, Okla., carry a special burden for this meeting, and they request earnest prayers and the co-operation of the saints for this effort that it may redound to the glory of God in the salvation of souls and the unification of God's scattered sheep in one fold under one Shepherd.

Bro. Young has accepted the responsibility to receive donations of food and other provisions at his Sapulpa home from Oklahoma and surrounding area and to deliver it to the Muncie campground. Please send or take your donation of food, etc., to Bro. Orie Young, 12 South Walnut, Sapulpa, Okla. 74066, phone (918) 224-1600.

Bro. Allen expects to arrive on the Muncie campground on Wednesday evening, July 6, and he would appreciate volunteer workers to come on Thursday to get the equipment and buildings cleaned and ready. The campground phone number is (317) 774-4575. Sister

Littlejohn of Tulsa, Okla., will again do the cooking, and other volunteer assistance like that rendered last year will be appreciated.

This five-acre campground, well equipped with tabernacle, dining hall and dormitories, has been rented at considerable expense. All phases of this campmeeting will be supported entirely by free-will contributions. Please send your free-will offerings and requests for more information directly to Bro. Egbert Allen, Rt. 2, Norwood, Mo., 65717, phone 417-746-2840, and state specifically in your letter what the offering is for.

—Lawrence Pruitt, Editor

FORTIETH NATIONAL CAMPMEETING

This reminder comes bringing a special invitation and welcome to everyone to attend the 40th annual National Campmeeting of the Church of God which will convene on July 22nd and continue through July 31, 1977, at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri.

We are looking forward to another time of warm, Christian fellowship among those who have a love for the truth, and are willing to stand firmly in the old paths wherein is the good way. We expect ministers from various localities to bring forth God's Word under the direction and anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Meals will be served in the dining hall on a free-will offering basis as well as the lodging in dormitories and tents. We do trust that no one will stay away because of a lack of finances, as we are confident that God will supply for the needs as they arise. Dormitory space and tents will be available on a first-come first-serve basis. There are several comfortable motel accommodations within a short driving distance which are available at reasonable rates for those who desire such. In addition, there will be parking areas on the grounds for trailers, campers, motor homes, etc.

Since the price of food is much higher this year, the managers of the dining hall encourage all the saints to send or bring in groceries and food of all kinds—fresh, canned or frozen fruits or vegetables. If you intend to process more fruit and vegetables this season, we could use the processed food you had left over from last year.

The campgrounds are located approximately five miles east of Neosho, Missouri, on Highway 86, the exact location being one mile east and ¾ mile south of the intersection of Highway 86 and of Alternate 71 Highway. Those coming by public transportation, such as bus or train, will need to come to Neosho and take a taxi to the grounds, or call Granby, Missouri, phone number 472-6427 to arrange for someone to meet you and bring you to the grounds.

Bro. and Sis. Austin McMillian will be working to assist in finding accommodations for sleeping. All correspondence regarding tent orders, dormitory space, etc., should be addressed to them, in care of the Church of God Campground, Monark Springs, Rt. 5, Box 61, Neosho, Mo. 64850.

The address of the campground caretakers, Bro. and Sis. Dale Doolittle, is Rt. 5, Box 61, Neosho, Mo. 64850, phone 472-6427. Please send your contributions to Bro. Dale Doolittle, or to the secretary-treasurer, Bro. Bob Stover, 6304 S. 97 West Ave., Tulsa, Okla. 74107.

The work days to prepare for this meeting are scheduled for Saturday, June 18, July 4, and each Saturday thereafter. Your services as unto the Lord will bring His special blessings, so come and see what the Lord will do.

Come praying for the salvation of sinners, sanctification of believers, divine physical healing for the sick and afflicted, and a drawing together of God's family in these last days.

NOTE TO MINISTERS

The Church of God in Orland, California, is praying that God will burden some faithful minister, who has a burden to feed the Church of God which He has purchased with His own blood, to come and care for them spiritually, as Bro. Huskey has resigned, being called elsewhere. If interested, contact Sister Letha Reece, P. O. Box 144, Orland, Ca. 95963, or Bro. H. P. Huskey, 117 South St. Orland, Ca. 95963.

OKLAHOMA CITY SPRING MEETING REPORT

We are very thankful to the Lord for how He blessed and worked in the spring meeting here at Oklahoma City. The Lord was faithful to anoint His precious Word. The Holy Spirit convicted hearts and a few souls were saved and others received spiritual help. The prayer of faith was prayed and some were healed. We appreciated the minister, Bro. E. J. Trotter, and other ministers who came to help in the battle of soul-winning. Thank the Lord for all the dear saints, friends, and loved ones who attended this meeting and worked to make it a success. May God richly bless each of you.

—Bro. Herman Kelly, Pastor, by J. Parks

FLORIDA TENT MEETING REPORT

Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." That is the love with which we greet you today. We love God and His people.

We want to let you know how the Lord blessed in the tent meeting here in the Miami area. We certainly appreciate Bro. Tom Melot and Bro. L. D. Chrisman bringing the tent. May God bless them for their labor of love.

The attendance was very good. Several were saved, healed, enlightened, and encouraged. We have heard many of the saints say that it was one of the best meetings held here. The early morning prayer meetings were glorious. It seemed like the glory that filled Solomon's temple flooded our presence. There is power in prayer. It is precious to see the reality that is in the Word. Jesus mentioned that God would "avenge his own elect . . . speedily . . . though He bear long with them." Luke 18:7, 8. Therefore, we are encouraged to travail in prayer and not faint (verse 1) because God's promises are true. We have found them so. Praise the Lord!

We would like to encourage the saints to trust God, though the answer may seem to be delayed. He will avenge the cry of His little children. God is faithful, He cannot lie. "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." Psa. 55:22.

Again, we thank God for the victories won in the tent meeting. People in this area seem particularly drawn by tent services. We believe there is much that can be done here in Florida in the work of the Lord for lost and captivated souls. My mind goes to a phrase in a song, "In the cages of deception souls are pining to be free." May God help us, as His people, to be faithful in proclaiming this glorious freedom we have in Him.

God has given us a burden that we would like to share as a request. There is an urgent need for watchmen to blow a "certain sound" on "the trumpet" that the people might know how to "prepare" themselves for the "battle." Read I Cor. 14:8.

The Lord gave me some thoughts the other day. Some ministers are faced with a condition like Moses was (Matt. 19:7, 8). Moses saw the hardness of the people's hearts and tried to make adjustments for them. Our prayer and request is that the boldness of Christ will be upon His ministry, that they might wax bold as He did, declaring that "from the beginning it was not so!"

It is our prayerful desire to attend some camp-meetings this summer. We are looking to Him to direct us where He would have us to go.

We are so thankful for the ministers whom God burdened to be in the meeting here. All who came were a blessing.

Pray with us that we will ever please Him with our lives.

—Bro. and Sis. Herschel Hargrave

PRAYER REQUESTS

Ark.—"I have a place on my head that does not heal."

—Sis. Johnnie West

Mo.—"I am so nervous at times that I can't sleep . . . remember me as I want to make heaven my home."

—Sis. Pansy Golden

Okla.—Remember Sis. Ethel White in prayer as she is very afflicted in her body.

Wash.—Sis. Violet Thomas has bursitis in her arm and shoulder.

Idaho.—Bro. W. Marken is afflicted. Sis. Ruby Marken needs strength and healing also.

Okla.—Sis. Roberta Hightower needs healing for a place on her limb that doesn't heal.

Okla.—Sis. Aquilla Benson still needs healing. She is able to eat but very little.

Okla.—Bro. Clarence Brant needs healing of his body.

Mich.—Pray for the healing of Sister Floyd Hines who is unable to do much to care for herself. Pray the Lord to give special strength and healing to Bro. Hines also.

N. Carolina—Pray for Bro. James McLester who is trusting God for the healing of his body and victory over oppressions.

Jesus said of Lazarus' sickness, when he heard about it, that "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby." John 11:4. When Jesus was called to come, He lingered. I am sure that Martha and Mary didn't understand why altogether, but Jesus knew all about it. Jesus knew what He had in mind for Lazarus and how God was to be glorified.

Fellow-traveler to the judgment, are you being tried with an affliction and does it seem to you that Jesus is lingering a long time to come and heal you? You might not know what God has in mind concerning your affliction, or how He wants to be glorified in it, but trust Him. He has a purpose in it all, and your part is to search your heart, wait with faith and confidence, willing for God to have His way in your life. He never comes too late. It seemed to Martha and Mary that He had come too late. But no, He didn't come too late! He came in His own time and a great miracle was performed. John 11:43-45. We must trust God's wisdom as well as His power.

—Sis. Marie Miles

REPORT FROM OJOS NEGROS, MEXICO, AND SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

Dear Ones: Greetings in our precious Redeemer's name. No word has been received from Ojos Negros. Bro. Mayarino needs our prayers on his mission to Chiapas, Mexico, and Panchita, as she keeps the mission work going at Ojos Negros, in his absence. Pray that new souls will be won to the Lord in Chiapas and that those already won will be faithful to the end.

Orders for Spanish literature are being received as new contacts are made. The present supply being somewhat depleted, we are making a new effort to rebuild it. We are truly grateful to the Lord for all who have helped, are helping and will help in the printing and distribution so that more souls may know the truth of God's Word. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to Faith Publishing House, Sis. Anecia Dutton and son, Tommy, for their efforts in keeping the printing of the Spanish literature progressing. I desire to be faithful to the Lord in that which He has given me to do.

Yours for lost souls,

—Mayarino and Panchita Escobar, Ap. Postal No. 284, Ensenada, B. Cfa., Mexico, and Opal Kelly, 919 W. Mansour, Guthrie, Okla, 73044.

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (April 12)—Dear Bro. Lawrence, co-workers and saints everywhere: Our loving greetings to you and all again in the precious name of Jesus Christ who "is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

Thank you very much for your letter dated March 31, and the enclosures were noted with many thanks.

We had a very blessed meeting at Kalayapuram in the new chapel there last week where many of the saints gathered together. One sister was baptized. We plan to conduct a three-days' meeting on April 22, 23, and 24 at Pulinkara, a new Catholic center, and we expect several souls to be won to the truth. Your continuous prayers are appreciated for these new fields.

The type for our printing press is almost worn out and useless, and now is the time to recast the type before another printing. The sum of \$300.00 is needed for that purpose, for which we are praying God to supply very soon. Similarly, we need a few petro-max lights for the use of local congregations to conduct village meetings and house meetings where no electricity is available. The

price of one petro-max light is \$20.00. Please do not consider me a burden to you, but these are all prayer requests which I am sharing with the saints there. Surely, your prayers and co-operation are the main reasons for the expansion and progress of the gospel work in India.

The campmeetings in the U.S. start by the end of May. Lord willing, if the Lord supplies the tickets and other necessary things, my wife and I wish to reach there by the end of May. We yield to the will and wish of our God.

With love and prayers, I am yours in the Lord,
—John Varghese

(Editor's note: Since a very small amount has been received and designated for their plane tickets, it is not likely that Bro. and Sister John Varghese will be coming to the States this summer. Our Father knows best. Perhaps He will open the way for them next year.)

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendal State (April 26)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints there and abroad: Greetings in the holy name of the Lord Jesus, the King of glory who is coming soon for His Bride, the Church, without spot or wrinkle.

Thanks immensely for your encouraging letter of March 31 with the enclosures.

The gospel work confronting us here in Nigeria is indescribable—it's great, it's enormous! Bro. Ben Taylor and Bro. Nse B. Umanah of Rivers and Cross Rivers States, respectively, have sent letters expressing their need for us to engage in fullscale evangelism in their respective areas. We are equally needed up north, too, to open new stations. It has been my vow and will continue to be my vow to go out daily in search of the "lost sheep" who must be found and brought back to the holy family. Our real problem is the lack of transportation and equipment with which to call the multitudes to repentance in the interest of the salvation of their souls. We are petitioning the throne of God for an answer to this prayer. The good Lord knows how eager we expect Him to come to our rescue in this direction. We thank Him for the steady increase in the car fund. We shall keep praying.

Yours in His service,

—Titus Enu

(Editor's note: With grateful thanks to the Lord and His consecrated children, we are happy to report that a sufficient sum has been received with which to purchase a car in Nigeria for Bro. Titus Enu to use in taking the pure gospel more rapidly to many new areas of his country. On May 14th, a draft was mailed to Bro. Enu with which to obtain a suitable vehicle. Let us pray the Lord to give Bro. Enu divine wisdom in securing a car that will give many years of good service in carrying the soul-saving gospel to his country of 65,000,000 people. In addition, a loudspeaker system that will operate from the battery of his car was shipped to Bro. Enu by surface mail on May 10th. Again, thanks to the Lord and His people. When Bro. Enu obtains the car and receives this equipment, he will surely shout praises to the Lord for answered prayer. Let us agree in prayer that this means of transportation for the gospel workers will result in the deliverance of a multitude of souls from sin and superstition.)

FROM THE MAILBOX . . .

Pa.—Dear Sister Marie: Praise the Lord that there are those who are earnestly contending for the faith once delivered to the saints! I am glad God is still hearing and answering prayer. What a mighty God we serve! I am so sorry for those who do not know Him. Their life is left empty. They are trying to fill it with the pleasures of this world to satisfy the longing for God.

Please pray for my swollen legs. They tell me I have poor circulation and am retaining water. At night they look like the skin would break they are so big, but I know God is able and willing, so I will trust in Him.

May God be with you and all who work there and give you wisdom to write the articles. I read the Bible Lessons to my husband each Sunday. He seems to enjoy them.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Eva Cox

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Calif.—I enjoy your paper very much, and usually take time out from my busy schedule to read it. I have been a subscriber for a number of years. My husband became a Christian three years ago. I prayed for him for 16 years. He enjoys your paper also. . . . Someday you shall receive your reward if you stay true and faithful.

A Sister in the Lord,

—Mrs. Hazel Porter

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Ala.—I trust all is well with each of you, and that the Lord is supplying the needs.

I really appreciate the missionary and evangelism efforts. Bro. Mart Samons, Bro. Bob Forbes and Bro. Curtis Williams held a tent meeting here last year. It surely was a blessing to our souls. We don't have a congregation here. We are praying that the Lord will send someone this way again.

Please pray for my little grandson and me. We both have the same kind of affliction. We love the Lord and have our faith and trust in Him.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

—Mollie R. Totty

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N. Carolina—Dear Sis. Marie: The Lord and I are still walking hand in hand. Praise the Lord! Today is a good day for me, it seems. I am up and about. The devil has given me a battle since I last wrote. He didn't shake my faith at all. Praise the Lord! I am still standing on His promises, faithfully and patiently waiting on Him.

Bro. Woodrow Warren and some other saints, which included Sis. Katherine Williams, came by to see us recently. We do thank the Lord for sending them our way. We enjoyed having them. —Sis. P. R. Bowers

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Ark.—I want you to know that your paper and other literature are a great encouragement. I talked to my sister today, to whom you just started sending the *Faith and Victory*, and I wish I could put in words how much it meant to her. We especially enjoyed the article entitled, "Your Friend," signed by Jesus. My sister isn't able to go out, as her husband is too weak, and she can't drive. I wanted you to know that the paper and literature are touching more souls than you think.

I would like to say that after the past week-end of being around quite a few people, that I feel there should be a lot of prayers going up for our older people that their children would be more loving and kind to them.

I'm sure the verse that says "honour your father and mother" should still be obeyed in the world today; but I must say many are not doing it. —Mrs. F. S. Hepler

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Tex.—Dear Sister Marie and all saints everywhere: May God bless each and everyone, is my prayer. I hope all of you there at the Print Shop are well and able to carry on as God wills, and I am praying God's healing power to heal Bro. Lawrence and all others that need healing.

I need your prayers that I will always be true to my Master and do His will at any cost. Also pray for my health and my loved ones.

Yours in Christian love,

—Lessie Speed

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



S. Carolina—Dear Bro. Lawrence and all the saints at the Print Shop: This leaves me still pressing on to be ready when the Lord comes for His faithful few who are still standing for the whole truth of God's Word.

Bro. Lawrence, I sent you a request for prayer for the healing of my body. Thank God, He heard yours and the saints' prayers and healed my body. Praise His great name for it. He is such a loving, compassionate Saviour to His people that we can't praise Him enough for what He is to us. . . .

Christian love,

—Bro. Eddie Driggers

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La.—Dear Sister Marie and all the saints scattered abroad: Greetings of much love. We love the Lord, if we know our heart, with our whole heart. In Hosea 10:2 we read that the divided heart is found faulty, and not ready to meet God in peace. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Matt. 5:8. "Oh, I want to see Him, look upon His face; there to sing forever of His saving grace. On the streets of Glory let me lift my voice, cares all past, home at last, ever to rejoice." Oh, won't that be a glorious time! A pure heart is going to ascend into the hill of the Lord and stand in His holy place. It does take much carefulness today to keep our hearts with all diligence, to keep ourselves in His love, unspotted from the world, working out our own salvation with fear and trembling according to His Word and by His Holy Spirit.

We thank the Lord for His many, many blessings upon us. "The blessings of the Lord maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it." Jesus said on one occasion, "Thou fool," and added, "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." We surely need to be reaching out for the riches of the things of God in these perilous times.

We did appreciate very much the Lord sending Bro. and Sister O. B. Wilson for the meeting which he held here at Loranger from March 20 to the 27th. The Lord greatly used Bro. Wilson in bringing the Word of the Lord to this congregation. The saints of other congregations attended, too. The Word was rich and the hearts of all were touched. A number sought the Lord at the altar of prayer for help in their souls.

Bro. and Sister Herbert Probst came the first Sunday of April and remained with us for three Sundays. Again, we enjoyed the Word of the Lord. In Jeremiah 15:16 we read, "Thy words were found and I did eat them, and thy

word was unto me the joy, and rejoicing of mine heart." Praise God forever!

Yours in His service and for His cause,
—Sister LaVern Manuel

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

Mich.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt: We send greetings of love to you in Jesus' name, the King of kings, trusting you are all well and still encouraged in the Lord.

We are still striving to please God and walk in His ways each day. We realize that we are dependent upon Him for all things. We have gained nothing, earthly or spiritually, that has not been given to us by Him. He is the Giver of all good things. We know the earthly things will pass away, but the spiritual things are eternal. Pray for us that we will have the wisdom to always choose the spiritual things. . . .

The Lord wonderfully healed my wife, Dorothy, of an eye affliction some weeks ago. Her left eye went out of control and turned toward her nose. She had to wear a patch over one eye so she could see straight because the affliction gave her double vision. She was given words of encouragement in the Lord by my parents, Bro. and Sis. Earl Parsons, then they anointed and prayed for her. Praise God! He did the work, not instantly, but by faith in Him she amended. We thank God for these treasures. We have much for which to thank God. He has sent healings and encouragement in trials and troubles. Without these things, we would not be strengthened, nor would we have any backing for our teachings to the children to trust in the Lord, but when they experience these things and see God's goodness to heal them, the lesson is planted deep in their hearts. . . .

We join you in prayer for the gospel work, that it will prosper there and throughout the world.

—Bro. and Sis. Milford Parsons

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

Okla.—Jesus is our helper in every time of need, our Healer and Strength, making our heavenly Father nearer and dearer each day.

Husband and I were both down with the flu and very sick. We took our cases to our great Physician. The gospel prophet said that with Jesus' "stripes we are healed," and He will never put on us more than we can bear. Praise the Lord! Time and again I have found it so, and again our dear heavenly Father has raised us up and set us back on our feet. All praise to Jesus!

We so often thank the Lord for sparing and strengthening you dear ones there so you can keep printing the true gospel, and I pray that the Lord will keep it going straight and true until He comes, and that may not be long.

We want to press closer to Him. Pray for us.

—Mrs. Doris Bowers

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

Fla.—Dear Sis. Marie: I'm glad the Lord reached down His hand of mercy and lifted poor, insignificant "me" out of a horrible pit of sin. He heard my cry of helplessness in sin and shame. It is so good to be saved. Praise the Lord! I'm living to please Him to all I know and understand.

This leaves me very tired and worn in my body, but I'm encouraged in the Lord. My soul does magnify the Lord. I want to be still and let God work out the purpose for which He allows all seemingly unpleasant things

that come my way. I'm thinking now of Rom. 5:3-5, ". . . We glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Praise the Lord! We all need more patience, experience, and hope. I Thess. 5:18 says, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I surely appreciate the saints' prayers and concern for me in my burden-bearing. Phil. 4:6 says, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

I have a special, unspoken request before the Lord. Please pray with me that He will undertake here.

—Sis. Mattie Savage

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

S. Carolina—Dear Sis. Marie: I thank the Lord for His blessings to me. He surely touched my body and I thank Him for it. I am much better, and able to walk around a little. I walked with a walker and now with a stick, but thank the Lord for what I can do.

I desire the prayers of all the saints. I want to be a witness for the Lord wherever I go. Pray for God to work out some problems for my husband and me that we can make the right move.

—Sis. Minnie Boulden

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

Ind.—I am thankful to the Lord for what He has done for me. He saved my soul and has healed my body many times down through the years. I love the work of God. God's cause comes first. My heart is grieved to see the wickedness that is going on these days.

I am 93 years old. My years can't be many more. I will be glad when I can go to be with my Saviour. I say, "His will be done." He knows when it is His time for me to go. My general health is good for my age. My hearing is very, very bad, and I have glaucoma and cataracts on both eyes. I see and hear but little. I am praying the Lord's will to be done. My trust is in the Lord. Pray for me. I am in a large nursing home where there are nearly 200 patients, but no one to call for prayer. I know the Lord hears prayer. I pray for His will to be done.

—Sis. Lettie West

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

Calif.—I am glad and thankful to be saved, sanctified, and living for the Lord with my whole heart. I love the Lord and the plan of salvation.

Until a short time ago, I tried to help the Lord work out the problems in my life, and explain myself when I was misunderstood, but I only made matters worse. One day, I learned a secret. When I gave things completely over to God, all anxiety and frustration left me. Even mountains and hard things the Lord can cause to be nothing, and I have more spirituality deep down in my heart. I really made up my mind to "Let go, and let God." I feel good in my soul. Although the way may look stormy and I can see much suffering and trials ahead, I still know that God's way is best. Please pray for me. If I have to weep before the Lord until death, I know heaven will be worth it all.

—Geneva K. Norling

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

Ark.—Dear saints: The dear Lord heard and answered prayer for me when I was needing Him so very much. It seemed I was oppressed on every side. I had a

bad spell of some kind. The dear Lord knew what it was. I could hardly be on my feet any length of time and I would get very cold. Covers wouldn't warm me. I would run water in the bath tub as hot as I could stand to get warm. The saints here and other places were praying for me. I am so very much better that I feel like I am healed, but I have to be careful what I do. I surely praise and thank the dear Lord for His healing power. I do want to be faithful in all things.

I believe the end is near, as so many things are happening just like Jesus said in Matthew the 24th chapter. Mercy's door is opened now, but we do not know for how long. "Whosoever will, let him come and take of the water of life freely." I am so glad I have drunk from the pure fountain of living water and that I thirst no more. It satisfies my soul. Praise the dear Lord!

Pray for us here at the church in Grubbs. Pray for my loved ones. I still need healing of the place on my head.

—Sis. Johnnie West

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

Minn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: In the name of the only begotten Son of God, our Lord and Saviour Christ Jesus, I greet you.

I am still happy in the Lord and going on until the battle is won. I am still in good health and strength, for which I thank the Lord. Things are not what we would like them to be, but soon it will be all over and that Home looks very bright.

Christian love and prayers, —Bro. Andrew Senti

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

Mo.—Dear Sis. Marie and co-workers: Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus. I trust things are well for you there and that the Lord is supplying all the needs and everyone is encouraged.

The Lord is so very good and surely deserves all praise for all He does. He has helped me so wonderfully with this arthritis that I just can't thank Him enough. I still have pain and soreness some, but I do not suffer like I did for four years and would be down in bed at times unable to turn myself or even raise my head up, so I surely thank God!

Keep me and my family on your prayer list. I surely desire to live closer and closer and ever be all I need to be to glorify my dear Saviour.

Christian love, —Zella Dollins

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

La.—I want to say that it surely pays to trust the Lord. My heart goes up in thanks and praise to God for all His great mercy shown to us. I wish that I could put in words what I feel in my heart. The Lord has been so very good to us lately. A few months ago the Lord worked out a big problem for us. We had a problem with which we didn't know what to do. We asked the saints for prayer, and they really got under the burden for us. The situation went on for sometime, and it seemed like everything was working against us. My faith was really tried. The Lord brought the Scripture to me over and over again, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" That was really an encouragement. The Lord so wonderfully worked it all out.

Last summer the Lord performed another miracle for us. My husband's very life was in danger. It is a terrible feeling to think someone may kill you while you are sleeping. The Lord so miraculously took care of the

trouble. The saints here in Shreveport were such an encouragement and help to me. I am so thankful for them and their prayers.

I have learned some precious lessons that I will never forget. I will be eternally grateful. I know I will never be able to repay the Lord for all of His goodness to me. Psalms 116:12, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?"

The Lord blesses us daily with good things. Through the years I haven't always lived a victorious life for the Lord, and I feel so unworthy of His many blessings. I am now more determined, by His help, to live for God. After all He has done for me, how can I fail to serve Him? Pray for me.

Christian love,

—Hassie Palmer

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Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Are there "methods" of working for or earning our salvation and healing? I know a preacher who preaches this way strongly.

Answer: No, there are no "methods" of working for or earning salvation or healing. Eph. 2:8-9 says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Again, Titus 3:4-7 says, "But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to his mercy he saved us by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ, our Saviour; that being justified by his grace we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

These texts and many more make it clear that salvation is by grace through faith and not of works. I remember a day when God told me straight out that I would be worthy of His blessings only as long as I put my faith in the merits of the shed blood of His Son, and that only, for every favor I ever got from Him. And that as soon as I began to think that He was obligated to me or owed me anything or that I had earned or merited any blessing from Him because of any good thing I had done or any sacrifice I had made or any service I had rendered, that very moment I became unworthy of the least of His favors.

However, we must recognize that the promises of God for salvation or healing or any other favors are conditional promises and the fulfillment of them is contingent upon our doing certain things and meeting certain conditions set forth in connection with the promises. To the sinner seeking salvation the requirements are: Confess and forsake his sins (I John 1:9, Psalms 32:5 and Prov. 28:13), Repent (Acts 17:30, Luke 24:47, II Cor. 7:10-11, Mark 1:14-15 and Acts 3:19), Forgiveness of those who have wronged him (Matt. 6:12, 14, 15, Mark 11:25-26 and more), Restitution—making his wrongs right (Ezek. 33:15 and Luke 19:8) and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as God's Son and his Saviour (John 3:16, John 5:24, John 8:24, John 20:31 and Mark 16:16). If a sinner does not do all of these things and meet Bible conditions, he can never be saved. It is the same with promises for healing or

any other favor from God. Possibly the minister you refer to in the question may have been dealing with this angle. To teach a doctrine of salvation by works constitutes a corruption of the pure gospel of Christ and is contrary to the doctrine which we have learned and those who teach such things are in error and should not be accepted. (Rom. 16:17).

Question: What part, if any, does God have in psychological healing or modern "Prayer Therapy"? I know this may help some people—neurotics, psychosematics, etc., but it is hard for me to believe God works this way. Am I wrong?

Answer: No, you are not wrong. You are exactly right. God established His own method of working in the early church and has outlined it in the Bible for humble saints and humble ministers to go by. It has never changed. It was not and is not today through the human sciences of psychology, Transcendental Meditation, Mesmerism, Hypnotism, modern "Prayer Therapy" and such like, but is through obeying the plain, simple instructions of God's Word. Some of the afore said things are purely of human origin and some of just plain Satanic origin and relate to witchcraft and should be religiously avoided by Christian people.

In Mark 16:17-18 Jesus said, "And these signs shall follow them that believe; . . . they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover." We see this is something that accompanies the preaching of the pure gospel of Christ and is accomplished by the laying on of hands of holy, humble people of God who believe in Christ. Again, in James 5:14-16 we read, "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Here again we see that God's method of healing is through the operation of His church by holy men of God under the anointing of His Spirit and acting according to His Word and living holy, righteous lives.

God's Word and God's Spirit are the two agents through which all the work of God is being carried on in the world today, and God's people receive their healing, salvation and all other benefits for both soul and body through faith in Christ, obedience to His Word and the power of His Spirit.

Question: Please explain Matt. 19:9, "And I say unto you, whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."

Answer: The basic law for interpreting Scriptures—any Scripture and all Scriptures—is known as "Unanimity of Faith." This means there must be a complete accord and agreement of all Scriptures on any particular subject. To isolate one Scripture on any subject and put a private interpretation on it which is contradictory to the general plain teaching of the Scriptures on that subject is to do violence to the Scripture which will destroy the validity of that doctrine or teaching. Charles E. Brown said, "Now we ought not to found a doctrine upon a text

of Scripture of doubtful meaning. We ought to found all doctrine upon Scriptural texts of plain meaning and then interpret the difficult texts by the plain texts." I certainly agree with this statement, and failure to follow this rule in interpreting the above text has led to a general breakdown of standard on this very important doctrine.

Then what is the plain teaching of the Scriptures on the subject of marriage and putting away and remarrying etc.? Without question, it is that marriage is for life and there is only one cause for "putting away" (unfaithfulness to the marriage vow), and that if one marries another while the former spouse is still living, he is guilty of the sin of adultery before God. This is the teaching of all the plain texts in the Bible on this subject, as follows: Matt. 5:32, Luke 16:18, Mark 10:11, 12, Romans 7:2, 3, I Cor. 7:10, 11, 39, Malachi 2:14-16. All of these texts are plain and unmistakable in their teaching and definitely establish God's doctrine on this subject. Matt. 19:9 must be interpreted by them.

My understanding of this text is that it contains two parts. The Pharisees had asked Jesus if it were lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause — verse 3. This was the full extent of their question. They never asked anything about marrying another spouse after this one was put away. That was no question with them since that was common practice among them and divorce and remarriage was allowable under the law. They even had more than one wife and lived with them at the same time (polygamy).

In the first part of this verse Jesus answered their question after discussing at some length God's original purpose and arrangement for marriage by saying that the only cause for which a man could put away his wife was for fornication. This relates to Matt. 5:32 where the same thing is stated and confirms the fact that a person has the right to put away a spouse for this cause because it is backed up by two witnesses and, according to God's Word, every word is established by two witnesses. Matt. 18:16 and John 8:17. "Putting away" is all that is under consideration up to this point. Then after He had answered their question He went ahead and introduced His own New Testament doctrine that if one marries another after that one is put away, he commits adultery. This, no doubt, shocked the Pharisees and it is certain it shocked Jesus' disciples by their response to that statement: "If the case of a man be so with his wife; it is not good to marry." Matt. 19:10. It is evident these chosen men understood from what He said that marriage was a binding thing, and if it were that binding and that difficult to get out of, it would just be better to not enter into it.

Therefore, I conclude that according to Matt. 19:9, a man is permitted to put away his wife for the cause of fornication and for no other cause, and that to marry another while that woman is still living is forbidden and to do so is adultery. In Matt. 5:32 Jesus comes out very strong on this point and says if a man puts away his wife for any cause except fornication, he causes her to commit adultery. In other words, he is a contributor to her delinquency for putting her away from himself when she is a loyal and chaste wife. God would hold him responsible right along with her for having done this thing and exposed her to this condition.

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WORDS

"For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Matt. 12:37. May God give the understanding.

In the above text, the words "thy" and "thou" are personal pronouns, and in the following Scripture they mean "your" and "you." "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Col. 4:6. Here the apostle tells how our words should be spoken always with the grace of God, not only on Sunday or any special occasion, but every day. The grace of God in the heart will teach us how, what, and when to speak words that will glorify God and please our fellow man. Please read Titus 2:11, 12. "Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few." Eccl. 5:2. There may be times when one word may mean more than many words or a lengthy discourse, if seasoned with the grace and love of God. These and other texts teach us that we shall be judged by the words that we speak and not by the words of another.

Words, whether spoken or written, have a meaning. Some words express love, praise, and joy. Others denote anger, hate, or sorrow. These words and many more are in our vocabulary, and we are at liberty to use them at will. Our Bible is filled with words, as well as our school books, and histories. Of all the books that could be written about Jesus even the world itself, I suppose, could not contain them. John 21:25.

Some folks will try to justify themselves in things which God condemns by using many words. One of old has said, "If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me." The same also said, "My witness is in heaven, and my record is on high." Job 9:20 and Job 16:19. It is God that justifieth, and not we ourselves. He makes no mistakes. We wonder that if a tape could be made of every word we say from early morning until we close our eyes at night, then play it back to us the next day, what would our reaction be??? No doubt, we would hear words we never thought we said, but hearing our own voice we could not deny them.

One of old was mourning for three full weeks, praying under a heavy burden, when an angel said unto him, "Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words." Daniel 10:12.

God saw and heard Ananias and his wife when they were discussing the money for which they sold their property. They agreed to keep back part of the price and give a certain part, and so they did. Peter said, "Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done,

came in. And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and carrying her forth, buried her by her husband." Acts 5:3-10. They were both condemned by their own words and died accordingly.

—Mrs. S. E. (Armilda) Abbott
1435 S. Towne Ave., Pomona, Ca. 91766

Mixed Marriages

A wise man once said, and I quote: "If you, a child of God, marry an unsaved person, a child of Satan, you can be sure that you will have trouble with your father-in-law—the devil himself."

One of the greatest tragedies of today—one of the most critical problems we face is MIXED MARRIAGES—the union of believers and unbelievers. Every day, some Christian young lady or young man kicks over the traces, rejects the Bible teaching against the unequal yoke, and walks down the aisle with a person who has spurned the Son of God and refuses to live a Christian life.

"But I can't help it, I'm in love with him," Christian young ladies protest. "I don't want to lose him, so I'm going to marry him and try to win him over to Christ."

But is such reasoning sensible? Can you expect God to bless your disobedience? Can you expect your marriage to succeed when it already has two strikes against it? There are enough problems to solve in marriage without inviting trouble over religion.

I Corinthians 7:39 tells us to "marry in the Lord." That means to seek out a Christian companion, one with whom you can share your entire personality and life. As Nelson Veltman says, "It means to be one in the Lord. Your proposed mate may have 'all it takes' in personality, appearance, and like interests. Yet if he or she is not zealous for the faith, you will be separated 'in the spirit' although 'one in the flesh.' God's glory and your life are at stake! Obedience to the commands of the Lord brings Him great glory and endless happiness to your home. On the contrary, disrespect for your Father's Word dishonors God and mars your happiness. You have only one life to live on earth and normally one mate to choose. Marriage is a life-partnership. Your home will be shaped directly by your choice of a companion . . . You are not on this earth to seek selfish joy. God placed you here to glorify Him. When both husband and wife are one in faith and spirituality, there is a symphony of praise ascending to God. Such a home is a bulwark for the Church and the work of God."

Some of you are unmarried young people. May I have your closest attention for a few moments? Let me tell you, after years as a pastor and counselor, that no person is worth the price of a mixed marriage. If you could see the tears I have seen shed; if you could hear the regrets I have heard from the lips of people who have married unbelievers; if you could know their loneliness and emptiness, you would never think twice about even dating an unsaved person. The Bible says that "the way

of the transgressor is hard." You can't play with sin and expect to win. There is only one way to be happy in Jesus and that is "trust and obey."

Marriage is more than a handsome Romeo or delightful Juliet sweeping you off your feet. Looks fade, and personality can flicker and die. The lasting thing in marriage is mutual sharing of love and devotion.

I suppose all of you have heard of Mark Twain, that brilliant American humorist and author. Well, he fell in love with Olivia L. Langdon, a young lady who had been reared in a Christian home, and possessed definite religious convictions. Yet, in spite of her religious teachings, she married Mark Twain, who was far from being an ardent believer. In fact, he is generally considered an agnostic. Because of his love for her though, he did join in asking the blessing and took part in family devotions. But this did not last for long. One day Mark Twain burst out: "Honey . . . I don't believe in the Bible."

Little by little, his unbelief exerted a deadening influence on his wife's spiritual life. In a time of sorrow, he said, "Livy, if it comforts you to lean on the Christian faith, do so." She sadly replied, "I can't—I haven't any faith left."

This is not an isolated case. Mixed marriages take a regular toll. Marrying an unbeliever is asking for trouble. God help you, and your family, to obey God's Holy Word in II Cor 6:14, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." May you not learn the hard way the tragedy of MIXED MARRIAGES.

—C. B.

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Will All Israel Be Saved?



The Bible says, "All Israel shall be saved" Rom. 11:26. Does God mean that all the Jews will be saved? First, let us notice the origin of the Jews, and the purpose for their existence. When God called Abraham, He told him He would make of him a great nation (the Jews), but His promise went further than that. God said through his seed all families of the earth would be blessed. That takes in us and all who accept Christ, as we shall show, by the oath which God swore to our father, Abraham, "that he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies [inward foes] might serve him . . . in holiness . . ." Luke 1:74,75. Through Moses the literal Jews were delivered out of Egyptian bondage. Through Christ the spiritual Jews are delivered from sinful bondage, "For the promise that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith." Romans 4:13.

"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made . . . and to thy seed, which is Christ." Gal. 3:16. "If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Gal. 3:29. The Jews were to represent God to the world until Christ came. "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." John 1:17. "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ." Gal. 3:24. The law of circumcision (a fleshly rite) was given them as a token or a sign of the covenant God made with them and to remind them of the coming of their Messiah, who would cleanse their hearts from sin. Since Christ came "neither

circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature." Gal. 6:15. "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." The new birth takes the place of that fleshly rite. (John 3:5). "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly, . . . but he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart." Rom. 2:28,29. We see by the foregoing that the Christians are the spiritual Jews. Therefore, they are the true Israel of God.

Before anyone can be accepted as a Jew he must be obedient. "If ye continue in my word," said Christ, "then are ye my disciples indeed." John 8:31. Some of them disputed with Christ and contended that they were Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage. But they were in bondage to sin. They tried to kill Christ. So He told them that they were of the devil, though they were Jews after the flesh. He told them they were not of God because they would not obey His Word. (Jno. 8:31-47). They had the first chance to accept Christ. "He came unto his own [the Jews] and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God . . ." John 1:11,12. God didn't reject His people; they rejected Him. They were broken off because of unbelief. (Rom. 11:20). The Jews as a nation rejected Christ. Only a remnant accepted Him. The prophet Elijah felt one time, through discouragement, that all Israel had turned to idol worship and that his own life was in danger. But God told him that He had reserved 7,000 men who had not bowed the knee to Baal. "Even so at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace." Rom. 11:5. "What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it . . ." Rom. 11:7. The rest were blinded though they were expecting Christ. He was their hope. All the prophets foretold of Him, but they failed to understand the true nature and purpose of His coming. Had they understood it, they would not have crucified the Son of God (Acts 3:17).

All Israel shall be saved, not all the Jews, but the ones that accept Christ. They are the only ones that God accepts as Israel. "What then? Israel [the Jews] hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded." Rom. 11:7. The election are those who accept Christ. That was God's plan from the beginning. Christ was a "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Rev. 13:8. God predestined us unto the adoption of sons. All who accept Christ will be saved and all who reject Him will be lost and that was God's plan from the beginning. "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God . . . unto obedience . . ." I Pet. 1:2. ". . . he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy . . ." Eph. 1:4. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood . . ." I Peter 2:9. God is not willing that any should perish but that all come to repentance. "Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, . . . For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel; Neither because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children; but, in Isaac shall thy seed be called." Romans 9:4,6,7. Isaac was a child of faith. The Jews were Abraham's seed after the flesh by keeping the law. The Christians are Abraham's seed through the righteousness of faith. Abraham had faith before he had works. "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth." Rom. 10:4. "Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham." Galatians 3:7.

—A. D. Seaton