

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Through Christ, the Veil

Once in Israel's tabernacle
Hung a veil divinely placed
'Twixt the Holy and Most Holy
As the Heav'nly pattern traced.

Once a year the High Priest entered
Through the veil to intercede
For the people who were centered
In the depths of sin and greed.

There before the cherub-spreading
O'er the ark and mercy seat,
He received the gracious shedding
Of God's favor pure and sweet.

Through the veil! What a foretelling
Of more perfect things to come,
Of the Saviour's grace compelling
Father's heart descending from.

For He bore our sin and sorrow
In His body on the tree—
Yesterday, today, tomorrow,
Evermore our King to be.

Thus in death His flesh was riven
And the veil was rent in twain,
And a living hope was given
To the soul of man again.

Having therefore boldness, brethren,
Let us come and enter in
To the secret of His presence
Everlasting life to win.

As the veil was rent on Calv'ry,
Let our lives be broken, too,
That the Spirit's holy dowry
Be upon our hearts so true.

On this high and holy mountain
Of His perfect love we reign,
Drinking at the living fountain,
Sharing His eternal gain.

—Leslie C. Busbee

The Grace of God

"And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." II Cor. 12:9.

This was Paul's true testimony of the grace of God. The Lord has promised to each of us grace sufficient to carry us safely over the billows of life. The sufferings of our brother Paul are quite a striking feature of his ministry, yet God's grace was sufficient, yea abundantly able to carry him safely through. The apostle Paul endured many hardships in various ways during his work in the ministry, but never once did God fail him. God's power and grace were always manifest to deliver him, for the simple fact that he trusted in God.

Just so it is today. God gives His children grace to bear the trials that are thrust in upon them. He never fails us so long as we trust in Him. No matter how great the trial may be, God's grace is sufficient to keep us sweet and joyful.

Sometimes we get in a hurry to work out our own trials or to see the end, but if we will just humbly submit to God's will He can work things out better than we can. We should never let our trials come to the front insomuch that we will forget to trust in God, for it is when we are in trial that God wants to make His strength manifest. The thing for us to do is to keep a good supply of grace in our hearts, so we can be prepared for the battles of life.

Paul's life is an example for us today. If God's grace was able to keep him, it is just as able to keep us. We should never lose sight of God's grace.

It seems so easy for us to look at our circumstances or the things that surround us, instead of trusting God through all these things. Just as soon as we lose sight of God's grace, the enemy is ready to draw our minds and hearts away, and the first thing we know or realize, we are void of the grace of God. This is certainly a sad condition for a soul.

The enemy is at work now just as hard as he ever was; therefore, it behooves each one to keep well supplied with God's grace.

—Mamie H. Bolds

Good, But Not Good Enough!

The title above has been borrowed from a message I heard years ago. It is not my original thought. However, due to a statement made by a dear soul, I feel the need to write concerning the "goodness" of man. The statement was, "I have tried to be good and I've lived the best I know how." The statement implied that because this was so, that person fully expected to go to heaven when death came.

The Scripture in three of the gospels, Matt. 19:16-22; Mark 10:17-22, and Luke 18:18-23; i. e., the story of the rich young ruler, is the basis for these thoughts. The first thing Jesus said to this young man was, "Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God." This did not mean that Jesus was not good, as some have supposed. The Lord's purpose was to help the man see that only when he had the righteousness of God could he be truly "good." We have no righteousness of our own. "All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags," so Isaiah tells us (Isa. 64:6).

To think one is good enough without true repentance and a complete turning away from sin to inherit eternal life, is a momentous error that can lead to eternal damnation. The Bible tells us "all have sinned, and come short [fallen below] of the glory of God." Rom. 3:23. The whole world was plunged into sin by Adam and Eve's disobedience in the garden of Eden. Thereafter, every person born into this world had in him an element that led to sin. Man was forever after helpless to live right without a savior. "All have sinned," is why God promised a Messiah to come who would deliver His people from sin. Before Jesus came, those who believed a savior was coming and looked forward to His righteousness, and obeyed the laws for atonement in every way possible, were **saved by faith** in the coming Messiah. There was, and is, no salvation without faith in the Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The rich young ruler was an exceptional man. He had kept these commandments from his youth up: Do not commit adultery: Do not kill: Do not steal: Do not bear false witness [or lie]: Honor thy father and thy mother. In Matt (chapter 19) there is added, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," and in Mark 10, "Defraud not." How many have kept these commandments from their youth up? **Have you?**

Jesus said, "Yet lackest thou one thing," and then He proceeded to tell the young man to go and sell all that he had, and give to the poor, and take up the cross (of self-denial) "and follow me." The young man was a good moral young man, but he was lacking; he wasn't **good enough!** There was one commandment he had not kept: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength and with all thy mind." No one is able to keep this commandment without first being saved and sanctified. Not many are able to keep all of the other commandments before being saved.

If and when we feel we are good enough without obeying all the Word of God, we are saying in a way, "I do not need a savior: I am good enough without

Him." However, one who has gone deeply into sin can easily feel his need to be saved. It is not hard for such a one to bow, confess his need, and repent before the Lord.

The person who thinks he is *good* and living a good life, feels no need to repent. Perhaps that one thinks because he (or she) has joined a church, been baptized, takes "communion" as often as possible, that that is all that is necessary to be saved.

The devil has many religions and schemes to deceive souls in these last days. It is the devil himself who would deceive you with the thought that "God wouldn't send you to hell, because you are not so bad. You won't be lost, because you live a good life and are trying to do your best."

The human heart deceives man also, as "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" Jer. 17:9. But the next verse says, "I the Lord search the heart, I try [test] the reins [affections], even to give to every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings."

The rich young ruler's affections were on his possessions and riches. Because he loved them more than God, "he went away sorrowful," and, so far as we know, he was never saved.

I would emphasize it **isn't enough** to join a church, be baptized, and take weekly communion. **You must be born again!** Baptism is not the new birth. When one truly repents with godly sorrow, turning away from sin, believing in his heart that the Savior's blood was shed to atone for his sins, he is made a "new creature" in Christ Jesus; old things are passed away and all things have become new. Read 2 Cor. 5:17. The new birth changes one's life, because one has received a new heart and a right spirit. The stony heart of rebellion against God's laws is gone, and instead there is a heart of flesh (tenderness). Anyone who has been **truly** saved is never again the person he once was. Although some may backslide and return to sin, there is yet the knowledge that he was saved from sin and had peace with God at one time. The new birth is a real experience, a know-so experience. "We know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren" 1 John 3:14. When one is saved, love for everyone comes into the heart. One's attitude toward others is changed. There is a desire to see everyone saved, even our enemies. This change comes **before** baptism. Baptism is only an outward sign of what has already taken place within the heart. Sin is already gone. To go down into the water a sinner is to come up a sinner. Water can never wash away our sins; only the blood of Jesus can do that. True repentance toward God brings peace, because our past sins are gone, blotted out by the blood of Jesus. We have grace from that hour to live above sin, if we obey the Bible as God reveals His truth to us. Sin has passed away; it has no dominion over us. Read the sixth chapter of Romans.

Too many people take "conviction" for salvation, or the new birth. The preaching of God's Word, even in man-made churches, sends an uneasiness into the soul of man. Perhaps a trip is made down the aisle to shake the preacher's hand. When he asks, "Do you believe in Jesus Christ and accept Him as your Saviour?" the answer is "yes." Arrangements are made to put your name on the church roll, and to baptize you. One's conscience is eased by these steps, and by the false preacher's doctrines and acceptance of "your profession of faith." What a deception! **"Ye must be born again,"** (John 3:3), and made a new creature in Christ Jesus. As a new creature, the love of the world and sin is gone! There is no delight in the things once loved; instead there are new loves—the saints, the church services, the hymns, praying, and reading the Bible. Old things are gone—no more lying, stealing, getting mad, and pouting. Bad habits are put away. **Have you had this kind of experience?**

Don't deceive yourself with a vain hope that you will be saved because "you have tried to live a good life." Do not be satisfied until you **know** your sins are gone! Only then can you have a real hope for heaven.

—Thelma Sprague

"I'll Never Go Back"

Sometimes we see those who seem to never really get spiritually established, but are always up and down. Then we see those who seem to be enjoying salvation, then disappoint many by suddenly stating they have nothing, and give up altogether. Yes, they all have reasons. Some are easily discouraged; others are short on grace or strength when things get to going hard; still others are negligent.

We thank God, however, for another group that especially draws our attention. They may be the only one in their family who is saved, or one of the few at school who will say "no" to the pleasure-mad crowds of youth. Their achievements go unnoticed. They are not always the ones who shout or speak in church meetings. Yet, these precious souls are testifying by the fruits of their lives that God's grace can keep them year after year. What makes the difference? The Lord said in Romans 12:9, "My grace is sufficient," so there is no lack on His part. The answer must then be this: a strong, positive decision for Christ made daily. The Apostle Paul said in Romans 8 that "nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God." We acknowledge that to be a strong statement; however, our decision must be just that positive if we are to stand in this twentieth century age of pleasure, leisure, and sinful living.

In Matthew 13:44, Jesus told about a man that found a treasure. There is no doubt that this treasure was what the man had always wanted. This one offered deliverance from a guilty conscience. It would be an everlasting investment, offering eternal dividends. So, he sold everything (earthly ties) and bought that treasure field. Yes, it was a big decision,

and he probably spent some time weighing up the matter; however, we never read where he traded that field for the worthless gutters of sin. He probably found some hard spots digging in that field, but he never sold his title of ownership. If we fail sometime, or make a mistake requiring restitution, then let us make restitution. But no matter what happens, we must keep our eyes on the Celestial City to which we are headed. We will never get there by turning back. It is only a *sold out* experience, and a positive daily decision that will keep us saved. It is then we will experience the really satisfying peace. The real meaning of life will unfold. When Satan paints his picture of the glamour of sin, it will seem dull and far away. Let us not look back, as Lot's wife did. Luke 17:32. God expects us to be intelligent enough to look at the end results. Therefore, we must proclaim that by the grace of God, **"I'll never go back."**

—Paul Sorrell

Man Triumphant Through Christ

What is Man?—was the philosophical question the title asked. It was a book teeming with photographs of people and their environments—pictures of children in the fair and beautiful stage of innocence, adults in the glowing prime of maturity, and old, wizened creatures ravaged by time and the elements. There were grisly depictions of the ultimate end of man, the sad revelation of a futile struggle against inevitable death.

"Oh, the indignity of it all," my soul mourned. "Where in that heaping mound of decaying humanity is the glory of man? What an ignoble end; what a vile finale! What a wretched collapse!" That mound of clay had once enveloped loving hearts and active minds, felt the whispered sweetness of gentle breezes, enclosed eyes that had witnessed the versatile beauties of nature, encased hearts that had soared to the heights of gladness and plummeted to the depths of despair, that had been touched by the inspiration of greatness and the despicableness of wickedness. "Was this then the end of man?" I asked myself, as a mournful gloom enshrouded my mind and weighted my soul.

"My soul, my soul!" A light through the tunnel of gloom—the building of a great triumphant hope borne upon the wings of truth—were the echoing words that banished the powers of darkness: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom. 8:38,39.

—Mary Murphey

A man may go to heaven without health, without honor, without wealth, without learning, and without friends, but he can never go to heaven without Christ.

—Sel. by E. Miller

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This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21 and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the same gospel which Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including the divine healing of the body. James 5:14,15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the 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 service 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; 1 Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Freewill 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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EDITORIALS



GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS on this first day of autumn, 1980: The campmeetings have about ended for the summer season, but some evangelistic tent meetings are continuing. Sad to say, but many souls will lament: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jer. 8:20. However, as long as the Lord extends time to this sinful world of mankind, in winter and summer, the great gospel invitation goes out to every soul in these words, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isa. 1:18. Every guilty soul can be delivered from sin if he will come repenting with godly sorrow for sin and appropriating that active faith in the merits of the atoning blood of Christ which was shed on Calvary's cross for every soul. "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Rev. 22:17. Come while Jesus is calling, and find the abundant joy and peace of salvation. It is the greatest blessing that mortal ever found. Make haste to seek the Lord, for time is running out.

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MAIL YEARLY GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW! . . .

Write or **PRINT PLAINLY** the names and addresses of your relatives, friends, and neighbors on a **SEPARATE SHEET** of paper from your letter, and send in the list and remittance at these rates:—Single copy for one year, 35c; and additional yearly subscriptions are priced at three addresses for \$1.00. Please send in all the subscriptions that you can, and do it **NOW**, so we can start sending this gospel paper of vital Bible truth. Let us continue to be "workers together" in God's great cause to rescue the perishing. The reward will be eternal joy in the presence of our Lord and Saviour when the "golden sheaves" are brought in. Thank you, and may the Lord bless and prosper your efforts in this gospel literature ministry.

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Gospel Work Continuing in the Philippines . . .

Almost every month letters are received from the native missionaries in the Philippine Islands in the far west Pacific Ocean. These are the ones whom Bro. George Hammond contacted when he was there year before last. They include Brothers Policarpo Encabo, Alberto Jover, Cel Candelas, Matias S. Tanguan, and Mauricio Santiago.

This year large shipments of Cebuano and Ilocano language Bibles and New Testaments, as well as Gospels of St. John and tracts, were sent to these missionaries for free distribution to precious souls in that great mission field. Pray that the gospel seed sown will produce a bountiful harvest of souls.

Pray especially for Bro. Cel Candelas who was involved in an auto accident in which a man riding with him was killed. He was charged with negligent

homicide. Because the insurance company was slow in paying the assessed judgment to the family of the deceased, the authorities placed Bro. Candelas in jail until the judgment is paid. Pray that Bro. Candelas will be released to his family, and that he will be able to continue his mission work.

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Tent Meeting in Crescent, Oklahoma . . .

An evangelistic outreach is being made by the Guthrie congregation. The tent and equipment from the South, recently used at Norwood, Mo., was secured and brought to Crescent, Okla., (15 miles from Guthrie) where the tent was erected and evangelistic services begun on Saturday night, Sept. 20. The Lord sent Bro. Leonard Roberts of Bristow, Okla., to help in the meeting, and good messages of truth have been coming forth to the hearers. The local ministers and saints are co-operating well in this worthy effort, and we pray that precious souls will receive many spiritual benefits before the meeting is closed. Even if one soul gains heaven, the time and labors will have been well spent.

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Tragic Automobile Wreck in Oklahoma City . . .

On Saturday night, Sept. 20, about 9:15, Sister Maxine (Dean) Busbee, accompanied by her daughter Janice, aged 15, and Colleen Meek, aged 16, was driving west on Northeast 23rd Street in Oklahoma City. The car she was driving was struck head-on by a drunk man driving in her lane of traffic. The two girls died within a short time that night, and Sister Maxine Busbee is now (Sept. 26) in a critical condition in the hospital. Colleen is the daughter of Troy and Wilma (Melot) Meek. Both of these families attend the services of the Crutch Church of God on Northeast 23rd St., Oklahoma City. Thank God for the bright hope we have that these young women are at rest with the Lord.

This writer and co-workers at the Lord's Print Shop extend our heartfelt sympathy to all the bereaved relatives, and may the Lord comfort each one in a special way. Let us agree in prayer for the speedy recovery of Sister Maxine Busbee.

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To say the least, one of the most dangerous religions in America today is Secular Humanism—the ungodly philosophy and doctrine which is “centered solely on human interests and values.” Webster's Dictionary defines humanism: “The modern, nontheistic, rationalist movement that holds that man is capable of self-fulfillment and ethical conduct without recourse to supernaturalism; the doctrine that man may perfect his own nature without divine aid; the doctrine that Jesus was of a human, not a divine, nature.”

This religion is so dangerous because it is so deceptive and subtle like the serpent in the Garden of Eden. The devil appealed to Eve's egotism (self-interest) and her desire to be wise like God. Strange but true, a multitude of adherents of the doctrine of secular humanism belong to and practically control

all the nominal churches today. They promote liberalism, modernism, and a “social gospel” in the so-called Christian churches. They deny the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, the virgin birth of Christ, the atoning death of Christ, the bodily resurrection of Christ, and the second coming of Christ. They dethrone and obliterate God, but they exalt man as being sufficient to chart his own course and to create his own destiny. A minister wrote this warning observation: “Today . . . we are witnessing a Satanic work of deception and substitution that is intended to deceive even the very elect. This giant hoax is the substitution of humanism for Christianity.” May God grant Holy Ghost discernment to His people that they may detect and resist every temptation of the foul, anti-christ spirit of secular humanism, which is one of the most dangerous religions abroad today.

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As far as this writer knows, there is only one visible body of God's people which has consistently maintained, taught, and practiced the glorious Bible principles which brought forth the prophetic “evening time” Church of God restoration movement one hundred years ago. Many groups claim to be that same Church of God, but they have more or less repudiated and departed from the Bible practices of the first thirty years of the Reformation.

The largest schism was that of 1910-17 when the great majority accepted the innovations of the division makers. Brother C. E. Orr, who was well acquainted with the compromise, wrote in the year of 1933 that the acceptance of the innovations “set the movement on the fastest decline ever known to any religious movement in the history of the church,” and now it is “recognized by the sects as a sect among the sects.” It has lost its identity as the Church of God, and if Bro. Warner and his associates were resurrected today they would not be permitted to preach in their pulpits as they did in their day. The truth they preached then is still the truth today, and that is why the true Church has maintained that Bible truth for the past 100 years. This writer pleads for every lover of the truth to renounce the counterfeits and come home to Mount Zion, for no doubt many honest souls are longing for the presence and anointing of God as in days of yore.

We challenge those who are walking in the truth to rededicate their lives, time, talents, and fortunes to carry this glorious truth to the present and future generations until Jesus comes for His Church without spot or wrinkle. God is looking for men and women, boys and girls, who will “stand in the gap.” Can He count on YOU?

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God Rules in the Kingdoms of Men . . .

Another presidential election is approaching in November. Our concern is to remind our readers that God rules in the kingdoms of men. A holy one from heaven told King Nebuchadnezzar these words in a dream: “This matter is by the decree of the

watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men." Daniel 4:17. The interpreter of the dream told Nebuchadnezzar that he would be banished from his throne "until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will." Daniel 4:32. After the dream was fulfilled and the king had learned that vital lesson of God's authority over all, he gladly acknowledged that God "doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" Daniel 4:35.

Let us ever remember that above and beyond the popular vote, the electoral college vote, and regardless of the millions of dollars spent on political campaigns, God rules and places in the presidential office the man whom He chooses. May we always acknowledge God's rulership in the kingdoms of men as well as in "the army of heaven." —L. D. Pruitt

Partial List of Items Available

Birth of a Reformation—Life and Labors of D. S. Warner by A. L. Byers. A reprint with additional pictures of pioneer ministers. Cloth bound, 496 pages. Price, \$5.50 each.

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Life's Golden Gleanings by Ruby E. Stover. She records many experiences of her childhood, and how God answered prayer in marvelous ways in her family and through the years in the gospel work. 94 pages in nice paper cover. Price, \$1.00.

The Christian Church; Its Rise and Progress, by H. M. Riggle. Bound in cloth cover, 488 pages. Price, \$5.00.

Must We Sin? by D. S. Warner. This 24-page booklet records the supposed conversation between Bro. Light and Bro. Foggy on the sin question. Price, 25c each, or five copies for \$1.00.

God's Gracious Dealings by Fred and L. D. Pruitt. This enlarged Seventh Edition is a history of this gospel publishing ministry in the Church of God for the past sixty years, as well as a record of the work of the Church at large. Contains 496 pages, including more than 100 pictures, in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.00 each.

Life's Story and Healings by Sister Nellie Poulos. This is a reprint of her first book, plus additional material. This volume contains 160 pages with a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50 each.

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Memoirs of George E. Harmon, sponsored by Vera M. Forbes. Recently off the press, this book is an autobiography of our beloved Bro. George Harmon, a long-time minister in the Church of God, including the record of the memories of a few others who knew him. It will inspire your faith in God. Its 56 pages with four pictures is bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 60c each, or two copies for \$1.00.

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Protected, Soothed, and Shielded

Dear Jesus, when the cares of life
Frighten and alarm,
I flee to the blessed comfort
Of Thine everlasting arms.

There, cradled with Thy precious love,
I'm safe, secure, and warmed,
Protected, soothed, and shielded,
Through life's every storm.

No burden can defeat me,
No worry, Lord, alarms,
For I find rest and reassurance
In Thine everlasting arms.

—Edward M. Brandt

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In Memorial

Earl Anderson Walker was born March 20, 1926, in Wichita, Kansas, and passed away August 27, 1980, at the age of 54 years, 4 months, and 7 days. He was one of 11 children born to James Jefferson and Emma Avis Walker, and three of them preceded him in death, as did both of his parents.

Earl married Virgie Lee House on October 14, 1950. They were blessed with four children. Eight years ago he took the Lord as his personal Saviour and loved Him unto the end.

He leaves to mourn his passing: his faithful wife, Virgie; four children, Richard, Avis, Timothy, and Connie, all of Wichita; one grandson, six sisters, one brother, and a host of other relatives and friends.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

James Franklin McLester, the son of Thomas Edmon and Daisy Furr McLester, was born in Albemarle, N. C., on March 25, 1908, and departed this life in High Point, N. C., on Sept. 13, 1980, at the age of 72 years, following a serious illness of three weeks.

On Dec. 16, 1955, he was married to Virginia Mae Ball.

Survivors include his wife of the home, and two sisters, both of Concord, N. C.

The funeral was conducted by Elder J. Charles Monk Jr. Burial was in the Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church Cemetery.

For a number of years Bro. McLester had been an appreciative reader of the literature from this office, as well as a faithful supporter of this gospel literature ministry. We trust that he is at rest with the Lord, awaiting his final reward on the merits of Christ's atoning sacrifice.

—Editor

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Colleen Larisa Meek, the daughter of Troy and Wilma Meek, was born on May 22, 1964, at Enid, Okla., and departed this life to be with the Lord on Sept. 21, 1980, in Oklahoma City at the age of 16 years, 3 months, and 29 days.

Colleen had always loved the Lord and tried even as a child to please Him. When she grew older she yielded to God, and He made her His child through the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ. She was a faithful member of the Church of God in Oklahoma City.

Colleen is survived by her parents, Troy and Wilma Meek, and one sister, Lorraine, all of the home in Edmond, Okla.; two brothers, Robbin of Lafayette, Ind., and Steven of Edmond, Okla.; her paternal grandfather, Jess Meek of Holdenville, Okla.; maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. M. X. Melot of Guthrie, Okla.; great grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Stubblefield of Earlsboro, Okla., and a host of other relatives, friends, and saints.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Archie Souder and Eddie Wilson. Interment was in the Grace Lawn Cemetery, Edmond, Okla.

Janice Busbee, the daughter of Loren and Maxine Busbee, was born at Guthrie, Okla., on April 27, 1965, and departed this life to be with the Lord in Oklahoma City on Sept. 21, 1980, at the age of 15 years, 4 months, and 24 days.

Through her short life, Janice kept a tender heart toward the Lord and endeavored to love and serve Him. A number of times she sought help at the altar of prayer, and according to her pastor she was one of the most outstanding young Christians of the Crutch Church of God congregation in Oklahoma City.

Survivors include her parents of their home in Edmond, Okla.; two sisters, Charissa and Sarah of the home; paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Busbee of Neosho, Mo.; maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Max Dean of Guthrie, Okla., and many other relatives, friends, and saints.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Archie Souder and Eddie Wilson. Interment was in Summit View Cemetery, Guthrie, Okla.

REPORT OF BOLEY, OKLA., CAMPMEETING

We, the saints in Boley, Okla., thank and praise the Lord for His faithfulness to us in the Boley campmeeting of the Church of God—the Lamb's Bride. "She is the only one of her mother." Song of Sol. 6:9. Oh, bless the Lord!

The Word of God was preached under the anointing of the Holy Ghost. Souls wept their way to the cross. A few were saved, and others sought spiritual help and healing of their bodies.

We thank God for the ministers, workers, and saints that came from far and near to help in the battle against sin. The spirit of the meeting was precious! The attendance was very good.

To God be the glory for all that was accomplished. We give Him all the praise and honor.

—Sis. Katherine Williams

OKMULGEE, OKLA., AUTUMN REVIVAL

The annual autumn revival at Okmulgee, Okla., will begin, Lord willing, on Monday night, Oct. 20, and continue nightly at 7:30 through Oct. 26, 1980. There will be noonday prayer services, and all-day regular services on Saturday and Sunday.

The saints of Okmulgee send a warm welcome to all to attend these revival services. We are trusting the Lord to take full control and work in our midst again. Perishing souls are still at stake.

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Woodrow Warren at 810 N. Porter, or phone (918) 756-6425.

—Sister Erma Johnson

AUTUMN MEETING AT WICHITA, KANSAS

The fall meeting at Wichita, Kansas, will be held, Lord willing, Oct. 31 to November 9, 1980. We are looking to God to send the ministers of His choice, and asking Him to take complete charge of the whole

meeting. We want Him to send what is needed and who is needed to help every soul that will attend.

We know that hearts are really hard in these evil days, but God's Word is still filled with power and can break up and melt down some of these hearts. We desire the saints everywhere to be praying for the meeting.

The chapel is located at 1701 No. Ash. Phone number is (316) 267-9582.

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Lewis Williams, by phone at (316) 264-8481, or his address is 2643 N. Spruce, Wichita, Kansas 67219.

HOFFMAN, OKLAHOMA, AUTUMN MEETING

Lord willing, the Hoffman, Okla., annual autumn meeting will be held November 12, through the 16, 1980. Everyone is cordially invited to attend these services. We will appreciate your prayers and presence.

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Woodrow Warren, 810 North Porter, Okmulgee, Okla. 74447, or phone (918) 756-6425. —Lorene Payne

ASSEMBLY MEETING AT JEFFERSON, OREGON

The Assembly meeting on the Church of God campground near Jefferson, Oregon, is scheduled to be held from Nov. 7 to 16, 1980. There will be three regular services daily. The meeting will be supported on the free-will offering basis, and the meals will be served in the dining hall on the grounds. Everyone is cordially invited to attend these services.

Directions to the grounds: Go to the Texaco service station at the north edge of Jefferson, turn right on Marion Road for about 3/4 mile, then turn left on Sheldon Road 1/2 mile to the chapel.

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Ostis B. Wilson, 6505 N.E. Sunset Dr., Albany, Ore. 97321, phone (503) 928-7223. The chapel phone is (503) 327-9916.

HAMMOND, LA., ASSEMBLY MEETING CANCELLED THIS YEAR

Bro. Bob Forbes, pastor at Hammond, La., advised us to inform our readers that the November Assembly meeting, which had been held annually on the General Southern campground at Hammond for many years, will not be held this year. Negotiations are now in progress to sell the campground, and it is very uncertain whether or not the church will have possession of the property in November. Plans are to move the annual summer and winter meetings to the Oak Grove Church ground near Loranger, La., which is about ten miles from Hammond. Pray that the Lord will bless and have His way in this move, as it will take much time, labor, and expense to get the new ground and buildings ready for these annual meetings which were started back in the early 1900's in Hammond. This writer attended his first annual meeting on the General Southern campground in

Hammond in December of 1928 (52 years ago), when Bro. C. E. Orr was the pastor.

Many of the pioneer ministers had preached on the General Southern campground, among whom were B. E. Warren, Willis M. Brown, W. W. Bradley, Robert H. Owen, J. E. Forrest, W. H. Jackson, C. E. Orr, and F. M. Williamson. About 1907, Bro. Frank Williamson and his family helped build the large tabernacle which still stands on the campground. His son, Bro. Max Williamson, is the present pastor of the church in Baton Rouge, La., and his grandson, Bro. Bob Forbes, is the present pastor at Hammond.

When the "landslide compromise" came in 1910-17, a number of saints and ministers in Hammond and that vicinity, would not accept the innovations. A division resulted, and the courts decreed that the compromise movement with headquarters in Anderson, Ind., was not entitled to the property of the General Southern campground at Hammond because they had departed from the Bible truths which they taught in the prior 30 years of the Church of God reformation. Therefore, the church which remained true to the revealed Bible principles has retained possession of that campground property for the past 72 years.

—Editor

Prayer Requests



Okla.—"Prayer changes things. . . . Confusions have intervened and delayed the services time after time [here at the McAlester prison] . . . I believe that Satan is at the bottom of it all, because he does not want the truth established here. Please help me pray for the next monthly service. . . . I am thankful for the faithful brethren who have been coming to be with us in this service."

—Elbert Johnson

Okla.—Remember Maxine Busbee who was in an automobile accident. She sustained broken ribs, shoulder, leg, neck bone, arm, and punctured lung; also bruises and other injuries. Besides this, the sorrow of losing her daughter in the accident is very great. Pray for her recovery.

Colo.—"Remember Sis. Amy Tombleson . . . She is so nervous and run down. She needs your prayers. My right arm and shoulder bother me. . . . I need your prayers."

—Sis. Addie McEndree

Ohio—"I have neurodermatitis . . . I believe in the healing power of our Lord, so I am requesting prayer."

—Walter Van Scoder

There are times in an extended illness when the devil would try to bring a feeling of "You will never be well again." This is the trick of the devil to hinder your faith. Be encouraged to know that God cares and is looking down upon you. He will not let the furnace of affliction get any more severe than you can bear. He kept His eye upon the three Hebrew children and brought them out. We are serving the same God. He will bring you out. I have been there, and can testify that God brought me through the

same trials and gave me healing. Oh, it pays to trust God and hold our confidence firm in Him.

—Sis. Marie Miles

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

South India (Aug. 18)—My dearly beloved Bro. Pruitt and the dear saints in America: Greetings of Christian love to all of you again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ.

Thank you very much for your kind letter dated Aug. 1, 1980, and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude.

The last week of August is our national festival days known as Onam. We plan to hold gospel meetings on those days at Nadukkunnu in the south and at Kodali in the north of Kerala state. We decided to conduct public meetings on the streets. The monthly meeting of the Church will be conducted at Vilayanthur chapel on Aug. 30. We purchased the land and started to build the chapel at Koottervila. The construction is now in progress. The building on the Bethel convention ground is also in progress toward completion.

The political conditions in India are getting worse, resulting in chaos, agitation, and rivalry. This is the last age of time, and the saints must be ready to meet many persecutions. Let us be faithful and steadfast until the coming of Christ.

We continually pray for your healing. My wife sends her love to your wife and to all other sisters there and abroad.

With love and prayers, I am yours in Him,

—John Varghese

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria (Aug. 25)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the matchless name of Jesus, by whom our enemies are brought to subjection and their plans crushed. Praise Him forever!

Thank you for your letter dated Aug. 1, 1980, which came to hand safely with its enclosures for two purposes. The Lord is mighty to answer the prayers of His saints, and in a short time I shall own a used or secondhand car for the performance of my divine duties. The Lord should be praised that in His family there are saints of liberal-mindedness and sympathy. It is a matter of much interest that brethren in faraway America should be given the vision to know the need in the harvest field of the Lord in Africa. . . . We are thankful to Him that our voices are heard on His throne above and answered.

Preparations are in progress in Kwale to attend the forthcoming National campmeeting in Tombia, which will be held from Nov. 14 to 23, 1980. Prayers are ascending to the throne for special blessings on the occasion with soul-saving messages from His holy sanctuary. It is likely that up to two buses will be hired, as a large crowd will be attending from

Kwale where brethren are donating generously to a spiritual task that must be done. . . .

Yours in Him, —Titus U. E. Enu

From the Mailbox . . .

Alabama—Dear ones: I thank the dear Lord today for seeing me through this long, hot summer, which is a reminder that the summer for winning souls will soon be past, and reaping time is surely at hand. Oh, that we could just reach out and bring in all the lost ones to Jesus, especially those whom we know and love so dearly! But we know that number will be few in comparison to the ones who will reject Him.

Please continue to pray for strength and comfort in my body, and for the salvation of my lost loved ones.

Yours in Christ, —Leora Frink

Kansas—Dear Bro. Pruitt, Sis. Miles, and workers: I am still saved and very much encouraged to press on.

I was in all the campmeeting at Pacoima, California this summer. The out-of-state ministers were Bro. Leonard Roberts and Bro. Woodrow Warren of Oklahoma, and Bro. O. B. Wilson of Oregon. The Lord surely did bless His Word. There were quite a few saved, and many got spiritual help.

The saints here in Wichita are very much encouraged after the very good meeting held here by Bro. H. Hargrave.

May the Lord bless all of you in the work of the Lord.

—Sis. E. Freeman

Ohio—Dear ones: I am 85 years of age and enjoy the *Faith and Victory* paper very much. When reading it, I have memories of the Church of God people and their ministry when I was a young lad. My mother began getting the *Gospel Trumpet* when I was about 12 years old, and we began going to the Church of God services. I long for such old-time services again.

I am enclosing an order for some books.

Yours in Christ's name, —Grant Hammond

Louisiana—Dear ones in Christ: We arrived back home August 19, after an 11,000 mile trip in a little over three months' time. The Lord surely has been good to us to keep us in good health to make the trip. From Guthrie we stopped over in Jefferson, Oregon, for the meeting there, and then went on to Gladstone, Oregon, for a few nights' meeting there. We spent a day or two at Chilliwack, British Columbia, then went on to Prince George, British Columbia, for the meeting, there. We thank the Lord for each meeting, for the opportunity to be present, and much more thanks for God's presence at each meeting and for the saints at each place.

When the meeting was over at Prince George, we made our way across Canada to Fairbanks, Alaska,

where our son and his family live and stayed about two weeks with them. We then left Alaska and returned across Canada to Michigan where our younger son and family live, and stayed about a week there. We then came home.

We surely thank God for traveling mercy and for the prayers of the saints in our behalf. We appreciate the saints, and I am glad to be one of them. Pray for us that we will ever be true.

Your brother in Christ, —Albert Green

Missouri—Greetings in Jesus' name to all the saints abroad: We do hope and trust all are well and much encouraged.

We are still under the hand of affliction and suffer much, but we are encouraged and determined by the help of the Lord and the prayers of the saints to trust the Lord all the way. We want to hear Him say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

You never will know how much your letters, prayers, and acts of love, have meant to us. We are sure the Lord will not forget your works and labors of love. We are still able to preach occasionally through much effort and the help of the Lord.

We have been asked if we were still the pastor of the Church here in Springfield. No, we resigned as pastor some time ago. We felt it should be made known, that all correspondence concerning the Church here should be addressed to the Church of God, 718 N. Kansas, Springfield, Mo. 65802 or telephone (417) 736-2400. All personal mail to us should still be addressed to Murphy and Natalie Allen, 1808 W. Thoman, Springfield, Mo. 65803. We are always glad to hear from you dear saints. If we can be of any spiritual help to you in any way, feel free to contact us.

We will appreciate your continued prayers.

Yours in the Master's service,

—Murphy and Natalie Allen

Ohio—Greetings in the Name of Christ: I am a young minister just starting out in the ministry, and I am building my library. I would like to have the works of the pioneer ministers of the Church of God, but the official publishing house of our movement does not publish them anymore. I would like a listing of the books that you publish, along with their prices.

Yours in Christ, —Donald McCauley

It is a blessed privilege to go off some place in a private room, or to the woods, or to some secluded spot and have a talk with Jesus. But our communion with Him need not stop with this; while we are walking along leisurely, or at our work, or wherever we are we can keep up our communion with the Lord.

Prayer should be offered in the Spirit, not as if unconcerned, nor with too much self-exertion without the Lord's help. A person may pray at the top of his voice and make great physical gestures, and such like, and yet not pray in the Spirit in the least. The apostle says, "I will pray with the Spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also." I Cor. 14:15.

—E. E. Byrum

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



Calif.—Dearest Sister Marie: I am happy to say I am in the narrow way and pressing to higher heights in the Lord. I wish I could tell how the Lord is helping this body of mine. I am so much improved! I am up all day and doing some canning. Praise the Lord! Thank all of you there for your love and concern. Oh, how true are the words: "To share joy is to show love. To show love is to know God. To know God is to do good, and to do good is to spread happiness." As I read these lines, I saw it more clearly through you precious saints there. I read my Bible and repeat those blessed Scriptures I learned. I love my precious books and the good, old-time ones of the saints of the Church of God of yesteryears. . . .

We do remember all of you there in our prayers.

—Sister Margaret Hall

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Calif.—Dear saints, I am glad I can say I am yet saved, sanctified, healed, and happy in the Lord. I had seven teeth pulled and a partial plate put in. The Lord has blessed me so much. I haven't had any sleepless or restless nights. I do thank the Lord! It pays to trust the Lord for everything. Pray for us. . . .

—Sis. Flora B. Davis

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Louisiana: Dear saints: Warm greetings of love to each and every one of you in the blessed name of Jesus, the name that opens the great storehouse of heaven to us; the name that is a strong, high tower into which we can run and be safe! Praise the Lord! We are much encouraged in our souls and endeavoring to move up and press onward in the army of our Lord.

We have just finished reading the September *Faith and Victory*. It was a real inspiration and blessing to our souls. We love to hear news of our sisters and brothers in the Lord, and enjoy reading the testimonies and hearing what God is doing for His people. We always take the prayer requests upon our hearts and bear them up before the throne of grace.

Our hearts are burdened for the afflictions upon God's people. We truly believe that there can be no real "fellow-feeling" with another except in the heart of one who has been afflicted like him. We cannot do good to others save at a cost to ourselves, and our afflictions are the price we pay for our ability to sympathize. I have read that the richest qualities of a Christian often come out under the "north wind" of suffering and adversity. God does not want us to be "hot-house plants," but "storm-beaten oaks"; not "sand dunes" driven with every gust of wind, but "granite rocks" withstanding the fiercest storms.

Let us take courage, dear suffering saints. Our God's ability is beyond our largest asking. He may leave us in the furnace for a season, but praise God, "when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."

I'd like to request prayer for Sis. Ione Strebog of Indiana. She is not at all well and is losing her eye-

sight, so that she can hardly read or write. Being isolated, it is very hard for her to keep encouraged when she cannot read to feed her soul.

Bro. Lawrence, we are still holding on to God for your healing, and trusting that He will soon deliver you. We, too, are still in the furnace of affliction, but our trust is in God, and we know that He will deliver us in His own time. Pray for us.

In Christian love, —Sybil Goldsberry

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Oklahoma—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt: I have not been very well the last few days. I had an awful pain in my side, and was nauseated, along with a very weak, run-down feeling. I called Sis. Erma Johnson to come and be with me. She called Bro. Woodrow Warren, our pastor, and some of the saints, to pray. The Lord came to my rescue and touched my body. I fell off to sleep, and I don't know when Sis. Erma left around 3:30 a.m. I'm putting my trust in the Lord completely. I don't use home remedies at all. . . . I want to be ready for that better place—no more sickness, pain, sorrow, nor crying over there. . . .

—Sis. Lizzie B. Jordan

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

Ohio—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in Jesus' name, which is a strong tower; "the righteous runneth into it and are safe." We thank God for still being saved and encouraged to go on. I want to see the end of it. Praise God! We thank the Lord for salvation, the gift of God. We can have this treasure in earthen vessels.

We appreciate the revival the Lord permitted us to have last month in Sandusky. We thank the Lord for Bro. Keith Fuller and the congregation in Akron for their support in the meeting. The Lord blessed, and the saints were much encouraged. I am so thankful that the Lord is still blessing His work here.

Pray for us and for the work here.

Yours in Christ, —Bro. James Bruner

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Okla.—Dear saints: Thank God for an inheritance among all them which are sanctified, which is by His grace, a pure gift from heaven. I'm saved today, and pressing along amid trouble and strife, through the paths of disappointment and through the cares of this life. Onward and upward, I am pressing toward the "mark" for the "prize" that awaits us.

We must keep encouraged and not be afraid to stand up for Jesus at any cost. Time is running out! Soon the Master will return for His own. Let us be ready and waiting, watching, praying, trusting, and obeying, lest that day come upon us as a thief in the night. Let us keep our lamps trimmed and burning bright, and have an extra supply of oil on hand.

When I think of the continuous heat wave we have experienced this summer, I'm reminded of the end of time when the earth shall melt with fervent heat, in that last great and dreadful day of God Almighty. The "angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire." (Rev. 16:8) Assuredly, we are recognizing the signs of the time. Judgment is surely coming to you and me. Read 1 Thess. 1:7-12. So let us stand fast in

one Spirit with one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel. Phil. 1:27.

May the good Lord add a blessing to you and these words.

—Erma Johnson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Oklahoma—Dear Sis. Marie and saints: I love the Lord with all my heart, and mean to make heaven my home. We thank God for consecrated workers in His service. Thank you for showing us around the Print Shop when we were there with the Florida saints.

We want to take this means to thank all the dear saints for their prayers, and the love that helped us to bear up under the loss of our dear husband. Continue to pray for us that we will always please the dear Lord with our life. We want to live so we may live again when this life is over.

—Sis. Mary Ellen Harris

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Greetings in Jesus' name this lovely fall day the Lord has given us. We are thankful for it, but most of all for His love and mercy in salvation. When I was lost and undone in this old dark world, He lifted me up into the Light, and set my feet on the pathway of faith, joy, and peace. The trials, problems, and afflictions in this life are but stair steps to higher ground. Praise the Lord! The old song says, "Lord, lift me up and let me stand by faith on heaven's table land. Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

We pray this finds all of you and each reader of *Faith and Victory* pressing to higher ground. The *Faith and Victory* is truly a blessing to us, and I still hand them out with a prayer that some soul might find the truth. . . .

—Doris Bowers

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Please comment on Luke 21:25-27. Is this speaking literally or spiritually? Also Mark 13:19-20.

Answer: Luke 21:25-27 reads thus: "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

Mark 13:19-20 says, "For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be. And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days."

It must surely be evident that some very cataclysmic and catastrophic things are being set forth

here. Let us at once drop the idea of any literal interpretation on these Scriptures. But in a very real sense, spiritually and figuratively, this Scripture spoken by Jesus Himself has been fearfully and wonderfully fulfilled and these things have come to pass. Both of the passages incorporated in this question are a part of Christ's discourse to His disciples concerning the destruction of Jerusalem, the complete overthrow of the Jewish polity, the end of the world, and of the signs of His second coming. Luke merely refers to signs in the sun, moon, and stars; but Matthew goes a little further in describing those signs. I wish to insert here Matthew 24:29 which says, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken." Since Matthew identifies those signs in more detail, I would like to transfer the emphasis to Matt. 24:29 for the time being.

We must recognize that many prophecies have a twofold fulfillment, especially prophecies concerning the Jews and ancient Israel. The reason for this can be easily explained because literal Israel was a type of spiritual Israel, and some of the things which happened to them have been repeated in the history of the Church in this age of time.

This Scripture probably had its primary fulfillment in the destruction of Jerusalem and the Jewish nation, and Adam Clarke applies it totally to that, excluding all other explanations. He says, "In the prophetic language, great commotions upon earth are often represented under the notion of commotions and changes in the heavens. The fall of Babylon is represented by the stars and constellations of heaven withdrawing their light, and the sun and moon being darkened—Isa. 13:9, 10; the destruction of Egypt, by the heavens being covered, the sun enveloped with a cloud, and the moon withholding her light—Ezek. 32:7, 8. The destruction of the Jews by Antiochus Epiphanes is represented by casting down some of the host of heaven, and the stars to the ground—Dan. 8:10." He further says in regard to this particular Scripture, "The Jewish heaven shall perish, and the sun and moon of its glory and happiness shall be darkened—brought to nothing. The sun is the religion of the church; the moon is the government of the state; and the stars are the judges and doctors of both."

I will not make any argument with this, as the application seems to fit all right. But I do not at all consider that to be the end of this prophecy. If it had a fulfillment at that time, the historic annals of the Church in this age of time surely show a terrible fulfillment of it in the Church. However, I agree that it had a very catastrophic fulfillment in the Jewish nation. I want to discuss it now as it pertains to the history of the Church.

In Isa. 21:11, 12 we read, "The burden of Dumah. He calleth to me out of Seir, Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night? The watchman

said, The morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will enquire, enquire ye: return, come." The reference here is to a time of night and darkness—a time when men groped for the Word of God and could not find it—Amos 8:11, 12. Dumah means "silence" and, no doubt, refers to the period of about 400 years between Malachi and Christ when there was no prophet or voice from God; just silence. When the call came to the watchman, "What of the night?" or what time of night is it? The answer came back, "The morning cometh." Surely that was a comforting message for night and silence-weary Israel. Accordingly, the morning came, the gospel day dawned and Jesus, the Sun of righteousness arose with healing in His wings (Mal. 4:2), and "The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up." (Matt. 4:16) Jesus is the Light of the world (John 8:12). The dawning of the gospel day was a great event to the human race, and Jesus during His ministry healed their dread diseases, cast out the devils, bore the burdens, and alleviated the sufferings of those who came to Him. His apostles and the early Christian Church continued the same work and manifested the power and glory of God and the light continued to shine for a considerable period of time.

After he had announced the coming of the morning, the watchman followed up by saying, "And also the night." There was another night coming after the dawning of the morning. In Amos 8:9 we read, "And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord God, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day." The term, "In that day," was often used by the prophets to signify this gospel day in which we live. In this day, right at noon when the sun was at its zenith and shining in its glory and brilliance, it would suddenly drop out of sight, and the clear day would become dark. Read Micah 3:5-7, telling that the sun would go down over the prophets, and it would be dark unto them and they would have no vision.

In Isa. 63:18 we read, "The people of thy holiness have possessed it but a little while: our adversaries have trodden down thy sanctuary." This actually came to pass in the great apostasy from the truth which came in about 270 A.D. About this time a worldly and ambitious spirit began to work in many of the ministers. Instead of the humble, lowly ministry which characterized the early Church, ministers began to strive and compete one with another for power, position, preeminence, and worldly gain. Some became exalted above others and still others became exalted over them, and this trend finally resulted in the establishment of the Pope of Rome as the universal head of the church.

Paul wrote in 2 Thes. 2:3, 4 about the falling away which would come after his time and the revealing of the man of sin, the son of perdition "who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped, so that he as

God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." In verses 9 and 10 he says, "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." In verse 9 he spoke of the "mystery of iniquity" and said it was already working. This "mystery of iniquity" was the worldly, ambitious, striving, competing spirit for preeminence and position which laid the groundwork for this "man of sin" to be exalted to his supreme position.

The historian Mosheim wrote of these men that they "Imperceptibly extended the limits of their authority, turned their influence into dominion, and their councils into laws; and openly asserted at length, that Christ had empowered them to prescribe to his people, authoritative rules of faith and manners."—Taken from page 106 of *The Revelation Explained* by F. G. Smith.

F. G. Smith again quotes from D'Aubigne's *History of the Reformation* on page 195 of *Revelation Explained*. "Salvation no longer flowing from the Word, which was henceforward put out of sight, the priests affirmed that it was conveyed by means of the forms they had themselves invented, and that no one could attain it except by these channels. . . . Christ communicated to the apostles, and these to the bishops, the unction of the Holy Spirit; and this Spirit is to be procured only in that order of succession. . . . Faith in the heart no longer connected the members of the Church, and they were united by means of bishops, archbishops, popes, mitres, canons and ceremonies."

One more quotation from D'Aubigne from page 185 of the same book, "The living church retiring gradually within the lonely sanctuary of a few solitary hearts, an external church was substituted in its place, and all its forms were declared to be of divine appointment."

When the "man of sin" exalted himself above all that is called God, this pushed Christ into the background and put Him out of sight. When these exalted men declared they had authority to prescribe authoritative rules of faith and manners for the people of God, that pushed the Word of God into the background and put it out of sight. Jesus was the Sun of righteousness; the Light of the world. He was darkened. The stars, which symbolize ministers (Rev. 1:20) and those who apostatized and departed from the true faith, fell from their high and heavenly position.

This is my understanding, and so far as I know the understanding of my brethren in general of this text of Scripture.

My understanding of Mark 13:20, "And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: . . .," is this: The passage was in reference to the destruction of Jerusalem and the overthrow of the Jewish nation, and this statement

referred specifically to them. The destruction of human life was so extensive (Josephus, a Jewish historian accounts for at least 1,357,000 that perished in the conquest of Judaea) that had it gone on much longer, perhaps not a single Jew would have been spared. The "tribulation of these days" in Matt. 24:29 and the severe affliction spoken of in Mark 13:29 refer to the extremely severe conditions prevailing with the Jews during the time of the destruction of Jerusalem and the overthrow of the Jewish nation. The detailed description of this given by Josephus is terrifying and sickening. Jesus said there had never been any thing like it from the beginning of the creation and never would be any thing to match it again. The wrath and vengeance of Him to Whom vengeance belongs against sin, rebellion, and rejection of His Son is a dreadful thing. Heb. 10:31 says, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." I urge all who read this to flee from the wrath to come.

It was soon after these things that the conditions began to develop which plunged the world into the Dark Ages referred to in figure in Matt. 24:29.

Consistency, Please

By Earl Langley

A few evenings ago I received a rather interesting experience. I had turned on the radio to a 24-hour religious station and heard the introduction of a certain doctor of divinity who was to speak for that period. But, not being greatly impressed, I was about to turn it off when the doctor announced his Scripture text in Rev. 1:7. My mind became immediately excited and I decided to listen. The text reads: "Behold he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."

Said the doctor, "Now I know that this Scripture says that every eye shall see him, but that doesn't necessarily mean that all shall see Him. Let me illustrate by comparing this to a big event in your hometown, a baseball event, perhaps. The report goes out that the whole town turned out, but that doesn't necessarily mean that every one in town was there. The baseball fans were there, and, presumably, a large share of the population."

This illustrates clearly to what extremes carnal minds will go in their attempt to prove a fanciful but false theory. You see, the man was trying to show that there must, of necessity, be two resurrections if the righteous dead are to rise prior to the millennium and the wicked dead after. The passage stood squarely across his way. He neither could get around it, under it, over it, nor through it, and, being a learned man, he dared not ignore it. So, with the aid of the powers of darkness, he devised a plan whereby he thought he had discovered a way to deny outright the enormity of this sacred truth which reads, "Every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him."

This emphatic statement poses a problem that no millennialist on earth has ever yet been able to circumvent, nor can it ever be opposed nor rebuffed, for, since the Bible mentions only one future coming of Christ, this text stands indomitably in his path.

Likewise, I am reminded of a similar passage where Christ said, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:28, 29). Brother F. G. Smith related an incident in one of his books, where a preacher friend was using this text to show that there is to be a general judgment. He hadn't proceeded far, when a feminine voice called out from the midst of the audience, "There's got to be a thousand years in between there." She had heard, through "futurist" teachers, that the "hour" mentioned is to be taken figuratively, and must represent a thousand years which, of course, necessitates some such device if a future thousand-year reign of Christ on earth can be shown to be Scriptural. But, where in Bible or classical history has an hour ever been used to represent, precisely one thousand years? Or, what indication is there that Christ was using a metaphor of speech? He was using the common, conventional language of the day to declare one of the most solemn, if not the greatest, truth of human life and history, namely, the world awaits a time of general judgment. Now let me please note that in both of these incidents of wresting Scripture, and with such type of violent Biblical exegesis, I, for one, shall have absolutely no part.

Just previous to Christ's declaration of a general judgment at His coming, He had been teaching the need for a spiritual resurrection—same chapter, verses 24 and 25, which read, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation: but is passed from death unto life. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live." The governing thought in this Scripture is that: he who lives in sin lives in death, and, if sin is continued, death shall reign eternally; but "now," "he that heareth my word [the gospel] and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed [resurrected] from death unto life." There are numerous places in Scripture where a sinful life is spoken of as a state of death. Example: Paul said, "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth" (Tim. 5:6). To the Ephesians Paul said, "And you hath he quickened [resurrected] who were dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1). It stands only to reason, then, that if a soul is dead, the only way to restore such a one to life is by a resurrection. It should be noted that, in simple logic, spiritual death calls for spiritual resurrection, and this is also a pure Bible concept. This is either a

positive fact, or, for many years, I have failed to grasp the high point in the fine art of polemics which is, in major part, to assemble and impart the obvious truth in the application of the laws of reason.

Now, God had said to Adam and Eve, "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Gen. 2:17). Well, they disobeyed God, they sinned, they ate of the tree, and they died. It must have been a spiritual death, for they continued to operate physically as before. There is a spiritual death which is an estrangement from God and His holy favor. To be restored, then, to spiritual life can only be effected through a spiritual resurrection and is, in point of time, "the first resurrection" (Rev. 20:6). "On such the second death hath no power." The Scripture teaches very positively that a physical, literal resurrection makes men no better and no worse, and in no way makes men holy: but "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still" (Rev. 22:11).

After Jesus had been teaching the power of a spiritual resurrection to transform men's lives from a state of spiritual death and condemnation to that heavenly state of eternal life, He went on to declare that, as marvelous and decisive as is this "first resurrection" which makes them "blessed and holy," "the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth."

It would seem then to be only the supreme height of idolatry to classify, in any sense, the awesome, but sublime and glorious appearing of our Lord in the clouds with a mere worldly baseball game. Bible doctrine teaches that, in order to overcome our handicap of spiritual death, spiritual life must ensue through the renewing or quickening of our moral nature (a rebirth of spiritual life) from spiritual death; that our future bodily life—whatever that may pertain to—shall be restored when He comes in glory to gather His loved ones Home. This has been the traditional belief and teaching of the Christian Church for past ages, and it is the only concept that is consistent with what the Bible teaches throughout.

The Mighty Spiritual Weapons

Man has developed many weapons. From the ancient days there are the spears, the swords, bows, and slings. Today there are nuclear weapons of devastating potential. All are effective in destroying life, but II Cor. 10:3-5 says, "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." The Diaglott says it this way: "For though we are walking in the flesh, we are not war-

ring according to the flesh. Since the arms of our warfare are not of the flesh, but Divinely powered for the demolition of fortresses; demolishing reasonings and every height rearing itself against the knowledge of God, and leading captive every mind to the obedience of the Anointed One."

It is of correct interpretation to place all the bombs, guns, and missiles under the heading of "carnal weapons," yet there is a deeper application. Things which are carnal "have or show a physical rather than intellectual or spiritual origin." Taking this into consideration, all things that do not have a spiritual origin (one free from sin) are carnal.

Consider warfare: It is a battle between two parties or individuals, and since Christians are human, they have enemies, as do all men. Consider how two persons, who are at a strong variance with each other, fight their battle. They lie, hate, seek revenge, and try to ruin reputations. These are their carnal weapons. But, thanks be to God, we walk not after the flesh.

Now if we consider hatred, envy, malice, lying, and hypocrisy, as being carnal weapons, what are the spiritual weapons that are "mighty through God [Divinely powered] to the pulling down of strong holds [demolishing of fortresses]; casting down imaginations [demolishing reasonings] and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God"? We can see that the third and fourth verses speak plainly of mental and spiritual warfare. All those strong holds of opinions and teachings contrary to the Word of God are cast down. All the imaginations, or the better term "reasonings," are destroyed. When one notices a shortcoming in his life, and the Spirit deals with him, there is always the temptation to reason the thing out, excuse, and rationalize situations to justify one's self. Imagination is the end result of reasoning. When several situations that offend a person come to his mind, they are weighed, analyzed, and expanded by the devil so that the end of all the reasoning is a distorted view or imagination. Both of these situations have a root of pride, and our weapons deal a death blow to all these. These spiritual weapons also bring into subjection every thought to the obedience of Christ (Phil. 2:5). Every thought that we have (not those placed in our minds by the devil to be cast out), and every motive is brought under the guidance of Christ.

What kind of weapons can these be that are so powerful that they stop people from justifying their own actions; they stop people from imagining evil against a person; and they stop minds from seeking their own well-being instead of the will of God? Rom. 12:20 says, "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head." If you have an enemy and you follow this Scripture with the motive of heaping coals on his head, you have erred from the Scripture's meaning. Jesus said to "love your enemies . . . , do good to them that hate you . . . , that ye may be the children of your Father

which is in heaven." Children take the characteristics of their parents. God is doing good—blessing and loving all His enemies—and so do His children, not in their own strength, which is the righteousness of the law, but in the strength and righteousness of Christ, which is the law of righteousness. To recompense good for evil is a seed destined to become a great tree planted in a pure heart by the Spirit of God.

Col. 3:12-13 has a list of spiritual weapons: mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, forbearing, and forgiving. I Cor. 13:4-7, also has an arsenal of weapons. These are our weapons, and all are founded on love. They are only obtained by sanctification. Then they are developed and maintained through prayer, reading the Word, and meditating.

—Kevin Cornelius

Beware of the Concision

"Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision." Phil. 3:2. Definition of concision: Greek: cut up or cut down, mutilation, partial cutting. Dictionary: a schism, a faction, a division, a sect.

Beware of those of an organization that teach or preach a partial cutting away of sin. This type of people mutilate sin in the Bible to please the flesh. They are the graduates of Sin-You-Must College. Beware of false prophets, clean on the outside (they appear that way to the blind), but have only had a part of sin removed. They had a partial operation. Members of such sects haven't been circumcised. They cut a little here and a little there (that is mutilation). They need a complete operation; it (sin) all needs to be cut out. There needs to be a circumcision.

We Are the Circumcision

"For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh." Phil. 3:3. "In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ." Col. 2:11. Definition of circumcision: Greek: extinction, removal, separation. Dictionary: spiritual purification, rejection of sin of the flesh.

What an operation! Circumcision is the cleansing through sanctification. Man attempts concision, but Jesus performs the circumcision of the heart. Christ did this so we could obey the commands of: "Be ye therefore perfect," (Matt. 5:48); "Be ye holy; for I am holy," (1 Peter 1:16); and "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin." 1 John 3:9.

If you are of the concision, you will have to fight the fleshly desires in you. If you are of the circumcision, you have been sanctified wholly, walking in the Spirit and not after the flesh.

There are two battles in Ephesians 6:12. One is for the natural man and the other for the spiritual man. Which one is yours? If you are still fighting the first battle listed, you need to let 1 Thess. 5:23, operate and pursue Hebrews 6:1.

—Jack Morrison

Testimonies

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony." Rev. 12:11.

Men are witnesses either for or against Christ; they are either uplifting Him or pressing the cruel crown of thorns tighter on His brow. O my brother, are you today a living witness for Jesus? Do you realize what it means to be a witness for Christ amid the sneers and jeers of this world?

Do you know of the various ways in which we testify either for or against Christ? Remember, we do this each day in different ways.

One way in which we testify either for or against Christ is in our *words*. Oh, how much they embrace! We never should let an opportunity pass unimproved where we might have spoken a word for Jesus. If we confess Him before men, He will confess us before His Father and all the holy angels. But Satan dislikes our testifying for Christ, and, if possible, always would hinder us. Then is the time to "quit you like men; be strong"—overcome him by the word of your testimony. You know not the good which your testimony may do. Souls may be encouraged and led to Christ by your words for Him and what He is to you.

Not only in words are we witnesses, but also in *actions*. Many will not deny Christ in words, but by their actions they are saying, "Away with Him! Crucify Him! Give us sin and the world." Dear soul, each passing day you are testifying for or against Christ either in words or in actions.

Paul informs us of some who "profess that they know God; but in *works* they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate." Tit. 1:16. No matter how loud our profession apart from obedience, if we are disobeying God day after day, we are that surely denying Him. Now let us notice Paul's testimony in Acts 26. No doubt he told again and again how Jesus appeared to him. I am glad that the Lord has thousands of witnesses today who can testify how He manifests Himself to them, for He manifests Himself to His converts to make them His witnesses, even as He told Paul in verse 16. And we today, as Paul of old, should go tell what great things God has done for us.

Our hearts' desire should be that men should not be ignorant, but that they may *know, believe* and understand the grace of God. John 3:11 reads thus: "We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness." How true this is today! Men are speaking that they do know and testifying to that they have seen by faith, and yet so many will not receive their witness. I John 5:10 says we that believe have the witness in us. But so many will in no wise believe, though we declare it unto them. How sad! Such should beware lest they be classed with the people spoken of in Acts 13:41.

It is our duty to declare this work of grace to all mankind, and we should exhort one another daily. We should be instant in season and out of season.

—Minnie McIntire