

FAITH AND VICTORY

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The Light of God

This is the message we have heard,
It is the gospel call:
That God is Light and in His Word
No darkness is at all!

Oh, God is Light! His Son divine
His fulness has declared
Upon our mortal path to shine,
His holy arm is bared.

To every man this light will come,
But who will walk therein?
Who will depart all evil from?
Who will forsake their sin?

For men are prone their night to love
Because their deeds are wrong—
For this they shun light from above,
In darkness plunge headlong.

But Christ has come to be our Light,
Reproving all our sin;
Bright shining in the darkest night,
Our dying souls to win.

The day has dawned, the night is past,
The way is made so plain
The works of darkness off we cast
With Him to ever reign.

A City on a hill we stand,
Fair Zion now are we;
We seek to know and understand
The truth that sets us free.

The fruit of light is goodness still,
And righteousness and truth,
We want this light our souls to fill
So sweet, so straight, and smooth.

Oh, not in part, but in the whole
We seek the way that's right
That in our very inmost soul
Will shine God's perfect light.

—Leslie C. Busbee

Know the Full Value

One time a kind neighbor gave three little children each a quarter to hold. Since the tots were only 4 years old and younger, the mother explained to them all, that the quarter was worth 25 pennies. The oldest child was very impressed and put his quarter in his pocket for the next time he went to the store. The second child held on to her quarter but sometimes dropped it without knowing it. However, the baby of eighteen months didn't realize the value of her quarter. The mother had to keep up with the quarter because the baby was so careless with it. Finally the mother decided to trade the baby a penny for her quarter so that the whole 25 cents wouldn't be lost. The baby easily made the trade. The second child wanted 2 pennies for her quarter, thinking that two "moneys" would be better than one. But when the mother went to trade a penny for the oldest child's quarter, he quickly responded, "But, Mama, I thought you said my quarter was worth 25 pennies!" He kept his quarter.

Dear ones, let us hold to the full doctrine and true teachings we have been taught from the *Bible*. It is important that every child of God personally learn the Scriptures and know the truth from the *Bible*. This should be the constant desire of every newborn child of God (1 Pet. 2:2), that each one may "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Tim. 2:15. Today there are many winds of doctrine coming from all directions, yet claiming Jesus Christ as their Savior. Jesus said, "Not every-one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 7:21. Therefore it is very important that we understand the truth concerning salvation, sanctification, divine healing, and the other teachings clearly explained in the Word of God. We each need to be rooted in the truth and beware of false prophets who may come to us in sheep's clothing. Matt. 7:15. We must know the *full value* of God's laws and ordinances so that we will not be cheated by the sly deceiver of men.

Our salvation is a full or complete deliverance from *all* sin. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful

and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9. (Other plain Scriptures bearing out this truth are: Gal. 1:4; 1 John 8:5; Rev. 1:5). Then in Rom. 6:1, 2, and 6, we read: "Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." Salvation is a new birth and a complete change in an individual's life. "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3. To humbly believe in Jesus, the Son of God; to willingly forsake the old life of sin; and to clean up within and without are three necessary factors for one to become a member of God's Church. All must come through the door. Jesus said, "I am the door; by me if any man enter in he shall be saved." John 10:10a. Here we are told that the only way to be saved (set free from sin) is to come through the door, Jesus Christ. (1 John 5:11, 12.)

Now we come to the second work of grace—sanctification, which is the consecrating of the clean, new heart and life to God for His service. "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thess. 5:23. Once an individual is born again and begins his new life for Christ, he needs a Guide, a Comforter, to dwell within his heart. While on earth Jesus prayed for the Comforter to come to His disciples. In John 14:16, Jesus said, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." When a child of God consecrates his life to God, the Holy Spirit takes His place, or abode within the heart. Tenderly it directs and leads an obedient child of God. The consecration of a clean life on one's part and the dwelling of the Holy Spirit within the prepared heart brings about sanctification. Rom. 12:1-2. In order for a child of God to endure and overcome the trials and refrain from the allurements of the devil, he must be sanctified. This is the only way to "be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

The Lord desires that His people be healed. "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities: . . . Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Heb. 4:15, 16. Instructions have been given for the sick and afflicted ones to follow. "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." James 5:14, 15. It is good for the afflicted to search their hearts as the Scripture in James 5:16 instructs:

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." The Spirit of the Lord does give special inspirations for the healing of the sick, but it is good to seek the Lord concerning this matter. We must realize that God is a master mind in every situation and knows what is best for each of His children. The Scripture in Heb. 9:27, is very plain also: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die. . . ." Let us learn to submit to God's will concerning *all* things. It is good for each one to know within his own heart that "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man." Psalms. 118:8.

So much more could be said about each of these subjects. From holy anointed writers there are books available explaining in simple form the teachings of the Bible. Each child of God is urged to take time and study these truths. Every one of God's people needs to be "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Let us know the **full value** of God's Word and His promises, lest we be cheated by false prophets of the world.

—Connie Sorrell

—o— "STEADY AS WE GO"

For some time now I have been mentioning this thought in my preaching. About two years ago, the Lord gave me a vision of the strait way that leads to heaven. As I looked down that strait road I saw the road growing narrower as far as I could see. At the end was a really bright light. On each side of this road was a wall about 40 feet high. As I was walking down this road, the walls began to fall toward each other. I knew that I would be crushed to death, so I put up both hands. That is when the Lord said, "Steady as you go."

We hear the President talking of keeping the course. When the Lord made this road to heaven, He only made one road. We surely need to stay that course. We can feel these walls closing in on us. The walls that I saw were painted black. We must push back the darkness together. The Bible says, "For as the body is one, and hath many members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body." Christ is not divided; neither is His Church. We are either in or out. Therefore, there can be no room for a divided ministry. If we are to be the ministry that the Lord is holding in His hand (Rev. 1:20), we must be together. The Lord does not recognize anything but the one body. That does not leave any room for any of us to be independent of the body. We must guard against all independent spirits. We can't work separate from the body, and expect God to honor our labors.

There is no room for individual congregations. When the Lord reproved the congregations in the book of Revelation, He included them all. I would warn the saints to beware of this. We need to beware of someone who tries to draw us into one congregation and says that they are holding a higher standard than the other congregation. This can produce spiritual pride.

Also beware of a minister who wants to work alone and not co-operate with the rest of the body. We also need co-operation in our publishing work. I would like to say here that I appreciate what the *Faith and Victory* paper has stood for over the years. As long as they stand for the truth, I think we should support it. I appreciate those who are willing to give of their time and talent to send out the literature. Some of these young brothers and their families are making quite a sacrifice. We appreciate them.

When it comes to our individual salvation we are personally responsible. When it comes to the work of the Lord we must work together. That is the way the Lord set it up. I feel this is part of those two walls that the Lord showed me was trying to crush the life out of the Church. Brother ministers, let us beware. Saints, mark them that cause division and avoid them. Christ is coming back for a Church that does not have a spot or wrinkle. I send this forth with a burden and concern for the whole body of Christ. "Steady as we go." —Bro. Mart Samons

God's Answer To Man's Wisdom

by Earl Langley

"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." 1 Cor. 1:21-24.

There are thousands of redeemed souls in the world today who bear witness to the truth of the above Scripture and who are proving that the wisdom of this world has miserably failed to perceive, recognize, and know God by its own philosophy. "Man by wisdom knew not God," and that fact is as true today as it was two thousand years ago and more. Still the folly and madness of man's wisdom persists in boldly declaring that great strides are being made in the progress for peace and the knowledge of righteousness (as a former, worn-out adage has it: "Day by day and in every way the world is growing better and better"). Actually, nothing could be farther from the truth. With all the attainments in the various departments of natural science the world is not growing better. Our moral and ethical standards have fallen today, hopelessly to the bottom of the scale. A crime wave of very large proportions not only sweeps the nation, but the world. Dishonesty and corruption grow in all branches of society. Murder, infidelity, and other traits of evil are steadily on the increase. Our prisons are full to overflowing as law enforcement agencies stand helplessly by in their bewilderment for a solution. These facts give the lie to the Socratic contention that "Knowledge is virtue."

It would be most unfair, however, not to acknowledge that there does exist a most agreeable element of fact in the claim that science has, in these modern times, made remarkable advancement in many areas of life. In the mechanical skills it has distinguished itself by placing man on the moon; by the innovation

of transporting people and freight through the air, and it has progressed in numerous other avenues of benefaction. In the realm of medicine and the treatment of the disease the achievements have been as outstanding—even to the point of causing man to live with a mechanical heart. These accomplishments, many of them amazing, have led a great many educators and religionists to make the unsound and uneducated claim that knowledge is the underlying virtue and the answer to all our woes. This type of reasoning is very much as implying that a man may actually lift himself by his own bootstraps. This is the sandy shoal upon which the denominations have foundered as they unfurl their banners of education in the hope that more information will bring about the vaunted Utopia—an age of millennial perfection. How unwittingly they have sold their soul to a Pandora's box and a fool's paradise! And, sadly speaking, shouldn't this much be said about any God ordained Christian movement who will sell its great sacred and spiritual birthright for a thin mess of worldly pottage?

But let us listen once more to the beloved apostle Paul: "But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them which are called, . . . Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God." 1 Cor. 1:23, 24. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." John 1:12.

John Ruskin, noted man of letters and lectures, is credited with giving this profound answer to a most pertinent question asked of him by a friend and admirer: "Sir," said the friend, "you, who have had intimate contact with the great; tell me, what is the one thing worth knowing?" He answered, "My dear sir, there are only two things worth knowing. First, I am a great sinner. Second, Jesus Christ is a great Savior. In the knowledge of these two facts as applied to my own personal experience lies all my happiness and all my hope."

Solomon, credited with being the wisest among men, never found this out. His was a wisdom "under the sun," and, "The world by wisdom knew not God."

"IMMORTALITY"

"If the Father deigns to touch with Divine power the cold and pulseless heart of the buried acorn to make it burst forth from its prison walls, will He leave neglected in the earth the soul of man, made in the image of his Creator? If He stoops to give to the rosebush, whose withered blossoms float upon the autumn breezes, the sweet assurance of another springtime, will He refuse the words of hope to the sons of man when the frosts of winter come? If matter, mute and inanimate, though changed by the forces of nature into a multitude of forms, can never die, will the spirit of man suffer annihilation when it has paid a brief visit like a royal guest to this tenement of clay?

"I am as sure that there is another life as I am that I live today." —Wm. J. Bryan

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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 Randall D. Flynn, assisted by Wayne Murphey and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044 (USPS184-660)

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Write for prices on larger quantities.

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.

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P.O. Box 518 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044
Office phone 405-282-1479; Home phone 405-282-2262

EDITORIALS



Once again we greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. It is through this name only that we are redeemed from sin. We read in Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Man has tried to place himself on a pedestal or in an exalted position requiring the honor and worship of his fellowman (and some do receive the worship and honor for which they seek), but is man truly worthy of such praise and adoration? Psalms 18:3, says, "I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies." And in Rev. 4:11, we read, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power. . . ." There is only one Lord, and to Him is all glory and honor due.

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We wish to extend sympathy to Sisters Evelyn McCoy, Thelma Busbee, Beatrice Eck, and other members of the family in the passing of their brother, George Davis, who passed suddenly in the early morning hours of Jan. 23, 1983. May the Lord comfort their hearts is our prayer.

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On Jan. 21, 1983, transactions were completed in the purchase of 7.39 acres of land by the Church of God congregation at Guthrie. The property is located approximately 3 1/2 miles south of Guthrie. Purchase was made with the thought in mind of having sufficient room for locating a chapel, camp meeting facilities, and the Path of Life school. The school has been operating under very crowded conditions; therefore the construction of a new school is planned for the near future. There are no immediate plans for the construction of a chapel or camp meeting facilities. The prayers of the saints are requested that the Lord will direct and prosper this new venture, and that the will of God be done in all things. If anyone should desire to contribute to this project, they may do so by sending their contribution to the local treasurer: Sis. Bertha Miles, 10 Magnolia Ct., Guthrie, Ok. 73044. Please specify that it be for the school building project.

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Feeling directed of the Lord to do so, Sis. Sandra Whitson has returned to her home in Alabama. Though she resigned from most of her duties here at the Print Shop, she is continuing to prepare and edit the lessons of the *Beautiful Way* quarterly Sunday school paper. Her years of consecrated labor spent here at the Print Shop are greatly appreciated. We pray the Lord to richly bless and reward her for her labor in His vineyard.

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Needed: Camp Meeting Dates for 1983. . .

Many of our readers would like to know the dates of the Church of God camp meetings for the summer of 1983, so they can pre-arrange their vacations. Those of you who have this information, please send

in the camp meeting dates by Feb. 15, 1983. We would like to be able to publish the entire list in the March issue.

The dates of the next National Camp Meeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo., are set for July 22-31, Lord willing.

The next Oklahoma State Camp Meeting to be held here at Guthrie is set for May 27-June 5, Lord willing.

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The publishing of this February issue marks the end of 60 years of publishing this *Faith and Victory* paper. With grateful hearts we give thanks to God for those who, through the years, were submitted and yielded to God, and were faithful to lift the banner of holiness through the publishing and spreading of the gospel by the printed page. It is our desire and intention that the gospel in its purity and fullness will continue to go forth in the pages of this *Faith and Victory* publication. We truly appreciate the readers who have faithfully prayed for and supported this gospel publishing work. In so doing you are laying up for yourselves "treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matt. 6:20, 21.

—Randall Flynn

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The 76th annual Oklahoma Assembly Meeting convened in Guthrie on December 24th and extended through January 2nd, 1983, with three regular services daily. The Lord blessed us with good weather and many were able to attend from distant states. We appreciate the manifestation of tenderness toward God that was displayed among the assembly and are glad to report that the altar was filled several times.

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Bro. Robert Benson wishes to express appreciation for all the cards, calls, and concern shown him by the saints during his severe illness. He is able to be up and back to work and is thankful for what the Lord has done for him.

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We once again have 1983 wall calendars in stock. We ran out of our original stock, but because of a demand for them, we have restocked. The calendar measures 7 1/4" by 13 1/2" and has a colorful nature scene for each month. If you would like to have one, send \$2.35 for each calendar you order. This covers the postage and handling.

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"And the Lord spake unto Moses that selfsame day, saying, Get thee up into this mountain Abarim, unto mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab, that is over against Jericho; and behold the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel for a possession: And die in the mount whither thou goest up, and be gathered unto thy people; As Aaron thy brother died in mount Hor, and was gathered unto his people." Deut. 32:48-50.

We find that the time came when Moses climbed his last mountain. No doubt, in the process of leading

the children of Israel, he had crossed many mountains. From the aerial heights he could do two things: survey the land before him, and see from whence he came.

All of us face mountains in our spiritual journey. There are seasons when we revel in abundant heavenly blessings and feel unhindered by Satan or his devices. Perhaps we even discover a smooth plateau over which to travel unhurriedly and without harassment. However, as time passes and we advance toward the celestial city, the lay of the land drops. Satan begins to advance with diabolical fury. The future looks grim and we may become bewildered in the face of this onslaught of trial and temptation.

In Proverbs 4:26, we are exhorted thus: "Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established." The mountain top offers an opportunity to chart our course and establish a direction. From the heights, we can fix our eyes on the next mountain and map out a path for our feet. As we descend from the peaks of spiritual bliss and enter the valley of care, Satan will manipulate our emotions. He will work to depress and confuse us. It may become difficult to make sound decisions based on rational thinking, but if we continue steadfastly in the course we have set toward God, our feet will not stray from the path of righteousness.

Some day, like Moses, we will climb our last mountain. The trail of life will lay behind, and eternity will lie before us. What glory it will be if we have passed from one height to another, always carefully charting our course and considering our path. Alas, how sad it will be for those who have become confused and wandered astray, only to find themselves at the yawning pit of death and hell. —Wayne Murphey

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

Evening Light Songs, shaped notes, with 512 pages in a cloth binding. The right hymnal for the Church of God. Price, \$5.00 each. A 10 percent discount is granted on orders of 12 copies or more placed at one time.

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 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.

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, 25¢ each, or five copies for \$1.00.

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THESIS

Death is not a period bringing the sentence of life to a close

Like the spilling of a moment or the dissolution of an hour.

Death is a useful comma which punctuates, and labors to convince

Of more to follow.

—William Walter De Bolt

MEETING NOTICES

SPECIAL SERVICES FOR EASTER

The Shreveport, La., congregation extends a hearty "Welcome, please come!" to the services planned for Easter weekend on April 2-3, 1983. A service of singing and praise is planned for Saturday night, and regular preaching and worship service on Sunday morning. Dinner will be served following the Sunday morning worship service.

This early announcement is made with the specific hope and desire that the different congregations within reasonable distance will join in and make plans to come be with us if they possibly can. A hearty invitation is extended to all ages to attend these services. We are expecting a time of fellowship and sweet communion with God's people who will come.

Prayer is being made by the Shreveport congregation that the Lord, who knows all things, will give the very message from His own heart that He knows is needed at this time.

For further information, please contact Bro. & Sis. Arnett Carver at 3608 Maywood Dr., Shreveport, La., 71109, or phone (318) 635-2214.

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MEXICO CAMP MEETING

Due to circumstances in the Mexico work, the workers feel that one camp meeting held from March 27 through April 3rd in Ojos Negros will be all that is possible this year.

Accommodations are not what one would expect in the States, but the best available ones will be at your disposal. The camp meeting expenses are met on the free-will offering plan. Interpreters will be on hand for English spoken messages. Please come praying for lost souls and for many to be drawn closer to the Lord. We trust that the Lord will burden some of His ministers to come and feel their responsibility in preaching the truth in its fullness.

For those going for the first time, stay on Calif. Interstate 5 until you reach the line at Tijuana. After getting through customs, watch for a sign within the next block pointing to Ensenada Cuota (Toll-road). Follow these signs, paying the required tolls until you reach Ensenada (about 65 miles). Take La Vigia through Ensenada until you come to the statue of Benito Juarez. Take highway 11 east, which changes to 16 and follow this road all the way (about 29 miles) to a "Y." Take the left branch of the "Y" to Ojos Negros (about two miles). The chapel (built of concrete blocks) is about six blocks north and one block east of the end of the pavement, showing a brush arbor on the west side of the building.

For more information write to: Sis. Opal Kelly, 1002 N.W. 90, Okla. City, Ok. 73114.

A hearty welcome has been extended to all from the Escobars.

Yours for souls of the Spanish speaking people,
—Sis. Opal Kelly

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SUBSCRIBE TO THIS PAPER — 3 years for \$1.00.

In Memorial

Paul B. Slifer was born in Richland, Pa., on April 14, 1899. He departed this life on Dec. 31, 1982, at his home in Perkaspie, Pa.

He leaves to mourn his passing: his wife, Cora (Raub) Slifer; one son, Parker F. Slifer of Perkaspie, Pa.; and one brother, Samuel B. Slifer, of Bedminster, Pa.

Funeral services were held at Somers Funeral Home, Telford, Pa., officiated by Bro. Mart Samons. Burial was at Kellers Church Cemetery, Perkaspie, Pa.

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John Whipple of Forest City, Mo., passed from this life on Dec. 22, 1982, at the age of 82 years.

He was a member of the Church of God.

He is survived by his wife, Emma, and one son, Wayne Whipple, both of the home; one brother, B. H. Whipple of Kans. City, Mo.; two sisters, Cora Bathauer of Anderson, Ind., and Susan Laughlin of Carthage, Mo.

Funeral service was held at the Pettijohn-Crawford Funeral Home in Mound City, Mo., and burial was in the Oregon Cemetery in Oregon, Mo.

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Virginia Mae (Elwell) Taylor was born Virginia Wilson June 3, 1916, at Branson, Colorado, and went home to be with the Lord on December 21, 1982, at Gladstone, Oregon, at the age of 66 years, 6 months, and 18 days.

On Jan. 17, 1933, she was married to William Roy Elwell in Los Angeles, Calif. To this union ten children were born, 6 sons and 4 daughters. Her husband, William, preceded her in death in 1956. In 1964 she was married to Royal Taylor who also preceded her in death in 1975.

At a young age Virginia received Christ as her personal Savior and was filled with His divine nature, manifesting the grace of Christ in her life. Her great heart of love touched many lives, especially those who knew her best. She was instrumental in the eternal salvation of her husband, and by her life and works taught her children and many others the way of eternal life. She was a wonderful mother not only to her own ten children, but also to many other children and young people who appreciated her love and shared her life and interest. Not many services went by without her requesting prayer for some underprivileged or unfortunate child in California, Washington, or Oregon for whom she was deeply burdened and keeping in contact with and trying to help.

Though difficult, we must submit to God's will as well as Mother's fervent prayer that she might lay down her armour and take up her crown and rejoice with the Lord eternally. (I, Ostis B. Wilson, and my wife Evelyn, were at her bed side about a week before her passing. We sang and prayed with her and she asked what day it was. Evelyn told her it was Tuesday and I said, "What day do you want it to be,

Virginia?" The answer came right back just like a bouncing ball. She said, "Crowning Day.") She repeatedly affirmed all through her illness that she wanted to go "Home."

She is survived by six sons: William, Wesley, and Donald Elwell, all of Phoenix, Arizona, Charles, of Gladstone, Oregon, David, of Coos Bay, Oregon, Stephen, of Hubbard, Oregon; four daughters: Mrs. Carolyn Shirrell, Eagle Creek, Oregon, Jennie Culpepper, Phoenix, Arizona, Mrs. Mildred Fod, Hemet, California, and Mrs. Marlene Zinzer, Aloha, Oregon; four brothers: Sam and Sid Wilson, Covina, California, Joe Wilson, Highland Park, California, and Dan Wilson of Los Angeles, California; two sisters: Mrs. Mildred Minkler, San Marcos, California, and Mrs. Jean Lancaster, Chehalis, Washington; 27 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Funeral service was held at the Hillside Funeral Chapel in Oregon City, Oregon, on December 23. Another funeral service was held in the Mountain View Funeral Chapel in Alta Dena, California, on Monday, December 27th, and interment was in the Mt. View Cemetery, Alta Dena, California. Bro. Ostis B. Wilson officiated at both services.

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Catherine Helen (Davis) Halladay was born June 13, 1910, in Clymer, Pa. She passed from this life January 2, 1983, at Guthrie, Oklahoma, at the age of 72 years, 6 months, and 19 days.

As a young girl she accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior, and held fast to her faith all her life. She developed an unselfish way of life, always thinking of those about her and their welfare. When Catherine was 13 years old, her mother died, leaving a family of young children to be cared for. She proved faithful to this responsibility. She was also very dutiful to go where there were loved ones in affliction and need, and stay with them to help.

She was united in marriage to Ralph R. Halladay on June 13, 1943. Her husband and one son preceded her in death.

She leaves to mourn her passing: 3 sons: Harry Halladay, of Overland Park, Kans., Ralph and Cameron Halladay of Guthrie, Oklahoma; 1 sister: Clare Rankin, of Commodore, Pennsylvania; 5 brothers: Everett Hale Davis, of South Carolina, George, Arthur, Cameron, and Harold, all of Pennsylvania; three grandchildren, and many saints and friends.

Funeral services were conducted at Guthrie, Oklahoma by Bro. Leslie Busbee. Burial was at Wirth, Arkansas.

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One ship drives east and another west

With the self-same winds that blow;

'Tis the set of the sail, and not the gale

That determines the way they go.

Like the winds of the sea the ways of fate

As we voyage along through life;

'Tis the set of the soul that decides the goal

And not the calm or the strife.

—Sel.

Prayer Requests



La.—Bro. Nathan Carver has been severely suffering for a number of months from a skin disorder. He is trusting the Lord and looking earnestly to the saints for prayer. At times the irritation of his skin is nearly unbearable. Pray earnestly for his healing, and also for some other needs he has.

Calif.—"Pray for me that I may see the light. I enjoy the *Faith and Victory*." —A Reader

Calif.—"We need the prayers of the saints as we are both sorely afflicted in our bodies."

—Bro. & Sis. H. P. Huskey

La.—Sis. Doris Jones has been confined to her home for a number of months due to a serious affliction. She and her husband are fully trusting God and are patiently waiting for His healing balm. Remember them in earnest prayer.

Philippines—Bro. Tangunan has requested prayer for Bro. Jose Balmediano. He writes: "We need the urgent prayers of the saints for him. He is suffering serious headaches for about one week. Many times he fainted and lost consciousness. He has not taken any food . . . so he is now very weak."

Okla.—Sis. Ruby Quave is very frail in body, suffering from diabetes. Her faith and trust are in God, and she appreciates the saints' prayers.

Mo.—Sis. Jewell Lane requests the prayers of the saints for some unspoken requests.

Ore.—Bro. Ostis Wilson has been having some trouble with his legs recently. Pray that the Lord will correct any disorder there may be and bless him with good health.

Wash.—Sis. Martha Fischer has been afflicted with shingles since 1981. She suffers much and is in much need of the saints' prayers.

Ore.—Sis. Margaret Olson has suffered a stroke. Pray the Lord will show mercy in her behalf and restore her to good health.

La.—"I have some real trials to face—it surely takes patience and humility. Please pray for me to be true to the Lord."

—Sis. Mary Bush

Because of our faith and trust in God for the supplying of our needs, the healing of our bodies, the solving of perplexing problems, etc., we may become the object of much ridicule and, in some cases, severe persecution. There may be times that some unsaved loved ones (maybe being right in the home) will strongly oppose our faith and trust in God. What effect should we allow this to have upon us? Should we allow these things to weaken or destroy our faith and trust in God? Notice what Jesus said in Matt. 5:10, 11: "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." And then in Romans 8:35-39, Paul tells of when he prayed to the Lord for the removal of a certain trial. The Lord said unto him, "My grace is sufficient for thee." Dear ones, if you should become the object of persecution and ridicule,

just remember Jesus' words: "Blessed are they. . . . Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward. . . ." "My grace is sufficient for thee."

—Randall Flynn

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

LETTER FROM NIGERIA

Nigeria (Dec. 14)—Dear Brethren in the body of Christ: Holy greetings in the most highly exalted name of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Praise be to God always through the only worthy name of his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

The purpose of this letter is to express our heartfelt sympathy to all the brethren who work in the Lord's printing shop there, for the departure of our beloved Bro. Pruitt, whose communication with us lasted nearly two decades before his passing away. Although we never saw him throughout his earthly pilgrimage, it is our sincere hope that we will meet him in heaven, our eternal home, where we shall part no more. Let's all endure to the end.

In spite of the fact that there was much rainfall in our area this year, the Lord enabled us to carry out the gospel work to a certain village called Abalama for three consecutive times. But at our last trip to the same village this month, we discovered that only one man and one woman have been convicted of sins. We are praying earnestly for the conversion of many more precious souls in that village.

In all the evangelistic trips we made to Abalama we hired engine-boats, whose charges are rather exorbitant. The Lord supplies all our needs, therefore urgent as an engine-boat is for His work in our area, we are praying earnestly to God for providing it in due time.

Pray for us as we do for you.

Yours in the Lord's service,

—Bro. Onimite B. Alalibo

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MEXICO MISSION REPORT

Mexico—Dear Brethren: I greet you in the precious name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, desiring that this finds you well in health and enjoying the rich blessings of God with victory over sin. These are my desires and prayers.

Dear saints, I write this letter with much love, giving thanks to God for His great blessings which He has poured out upon our lives and the work here in Ojos Negros.

We have had some beautiful services where the presence of God is felt. The members are very encouraged in the way of the Lord. We have had services with a family in Chapultepec, about forty miles from here. Sister Amparo is very much encouraged in the Lord and it is so precious that the whole family loves the Lord (there are five children). Always when we have services there, other families come, too.

We have also had services in the Valley of the Trinity. The brethren from Pacoima, Pamona, and Bakersfield, along with Sis. Edith Lara and her family have gone with us. We appreciate their visits to us here, too. We believe that all this is the work of the Lord and are very thankful to the Lord. In actuality, in the work here, we need much communion with others for it helps us to live more in unity because we are all one in Christ through His love. We desire that the Lord occupy the first place in our lives, loving Him, and worshipping Him in the Spirit and in truth. Amen.

We went to the Valley on Jan. 3, to visit the brethren there. One of them pleaded for much prayer for souls. Bro. Antonio has a very sick wife, and she was being attended by a doctor. I talked to them about divine healing and they decided to trust the Lord. Let us pray for them. They cried a lot. They want to be faithful to the Lord and pleaded for special prayer for her. I ask that you pray much for the work there; in Chapultepec, La Huerta, and especially for the work here in Ojos Negros, and for us that we will complete in love, that which the Lord has given us to do. For this we were called. We desire to be useful in all to the Lord. I have a very special request that the Lord knows all about. It concerns some problems that some in the congregation are having. I desire for all this to be put in the *Faith and Victory* paper, please. Pray for all in Mexico. There is much to do in the work here.

Greetings to all the saints and thanks for your most generous offering for the work. May God bless you all. Accept greetings from my wife and children, also.

With much Christian love and prayers,

—Mayarino Escobar and family

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PHILIPPINE MISSION REPORT

Philippines (Dec. 21)—Our dearest Bro. Hammond: Greetings of Christian love in the precious name of our Savior Jesus Christ. We received your very kind letter and an enclosure. Thank you so much, dear brother, for the amount you sent me for down payment of a lot. Most of the lots listed in the list of the Philippine National Bank that I sent you were already sold. There are now only two lots left that are good for church buildings. The prices of lots are rising fast. There are now many big buildings being constructed in the city. Perhaps we can not afford to buy any of these two lots because the prices are too high. I think the lot here in Sibut across the road from our home is better but they will sell it only in cash. We are praying fervently for the saints to continue to respond to this need of a church building in the Philippines.

I'm so happy to report to you that five families are scheduled to be baptized in Puncan on Thursday, December 23. Ruth is now staying in Puncan to preach. She has many schedules of home Bible studies day and night. Brother Villanueva was going

there to assist her every Sunday.

A young girl in Puncan went to the river to take a bath. When the girl arrived home she was very sick and suffering awful pain. In the evening she could not move at all—her body was paralyzed. The old folks said that a devil was hurting her. When Ruth arrived in their home, they were preparing a cake and a chicken for a peace offering to the devils. Ruth advised them not to do that because it is a great sin before God. She asked them to trust God and they knelt down together in prayer. They prayed fervently to God to heal the girl and show His great mercy and power to them. A miracle happened at that very moment; the girl was healed instantly and they were all praising God for His goodness. Praise His holy name!

When Ruth was relating this to me, her tears were flowing down for joy. She said it was her first experience of a wonderful divine healing. She has read most of the books you sent me, and she said she was very much encouraged about the experiences of Nellie Poulos. She said she was much concerned for people to be freed from sin and that they will experience the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Please pray for her, Brother. She has only a little time to sleep because of her many appointments. She became a little bit thin and pale this time. She always said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

We say again thank you, dear Brother, for your unwearied and sacrificial love for us and the mission work in the Philippines. Please give my thanks to all the saints who gave the offering you sent me. We are praying for God's rich blessings to them.

With much Christian love,

—M. S. Tangunan and family

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Kan.—Dear Saints of God: We thank the Lord for His goodness to us; surely His mercy endureth forever.

A few days before Thanksgiving, our son Daniel became very ill. He had a high fever and his throat seemed to be congested, making it difficult for him to breathe. Many times when he tried to nurse from the bottle he'd start coughing and lose most of what he was able to drink. Someone thought that he was close to pneumonia; some thought he had it. We don't know just what it was, but we are thankful that God heard and answered prayer. He spared Daniel's life and healed him. We are grateful to all who lifted their voice in prayer on our behalf. —Bro. & Sis. E. Gracey

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Okla.—Dear *Faith and Victory* readers: I would like to tell a little of what God has done for me lately. I was saved in July, 1976, sanctified some time later, and have yielded all to God for His glory. . . .

Last week, a sister in the Lord gave me the book, *Was the Devil Ever in Heaven?* by Ostis B. Wilson.

Having read the book through, I find this brother gives a fair and honest answer to the question; and I now report that God has shown me (contrary to past teaching) that, No! the devil wasn't ever in heaven. Praise the Lord! I have the victory in this.

Another thing happened, too. Since being saved, I have believed in divine healing. I had prayed for different ones, but had never been anointed and prayed for myself at any time. This past week I became sick with some type of flu and was very weak all Sunday afternoon. In church when prayer requests were being taken, God reminded me that I could be anointed and prayed for and that we, as young men, were to be examples of the believers. So I . . . put in my request, was anointed, but felt no direct results. The next morning, to the surprise of the rest, I was up at 5:30, and was going out to do the chores. Someone questioned me as I started out the door why I was doing the chores so early. Then thinking a second, I realized that God had healed me through the night and I was so full of energy that I was up way before I usually was. . . .

I want to say that I know it pays to walk in the light of God's precious Word. Christ has come and set up His kingdom in my heart, and it is ever increasing as I walk in the light.

Your brother in Christ, —Jeff Redington

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Mo.—Dear Saints: Greetings! Seven months ago my husband passed away. Along with the grief, I suffered two weeks of intense persecution, but the Lord delivered me out of the hands of the enemy. Thank the Lord!

I would like to tell how we found the saints. Forty years ago my grandmother passed away. When the family was going through her home and possessions, among her things was a tract entitled, *48 Hours in Hell*, printed by Faith Publishing House. It is a mystery where my grandmother got the tract and why she kept it as she was from Germany and could hardly speak English and could not read any English. Truly, the Lord knew who would need that tract. After corresponding with the Print Shop we received other tracts and the *Faith and Victory* paper. . . .

I would like very much for the saints to pray that I will be able to find a place to relocate closer to my children. I'm living alone now, but the Lord is with me.

—Alice Rhoades

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Ore.—Dear Saints: Greetings in Jesus' Name. While on our way home from church on Sunday night, Nov. 21, 1982, as we were coming in to Stayton, my husband began swerving the car. I asked, "What's the trouble, Dear?" He said, "The car is swerving." (Later he said that he thought both front tires were flat.) I said, "No, I believe it's you. Pull to the curb and stop." This he did, and at that moment he slumped over on me, repeating, "I can't see."

We both began calling on the Lord aloud. Soon he could see, thank God. My husband said, "We're in trouble." We called more on God to help us—to guide

our minds and direct our footsteps. My husband, my strong fort, was broken down, and oh, how helpless we wives feel in such a sudden crisis. By calling on God, we put the reins in His hands, and thank God, He steered us through. Praise the Lord! With the help of the Lord, I was able to drive us home. Then Husband couldn't walk into the house. I called some of the saints for help. Sis. Glidewell's son, Ralph, and his son came and helped W. J. into the house and to bed. By then Bro. Ostis Wilson had arrived, and soon Bro. Clifford Smith came. After much prayer and singing, Bro. Wilson went home about 1:30 a.m. Bro. Clifford spent the night and part of Monday with us. Brethren from the congregation split wood and placed it on the service porch. . . .

It is marvelous how God gave me the strength to carry on (as I am not well in body, either): carrying in wood, building fires, doing all of W. J.'s chores, and mine, too. Some mornings I could not get out of bed until I prayed to God for strength. My husband is much better, and is able to be up and around a lot even without his walker. Oh, what a mighty God we serve!

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, WANTING NOTHING." James 1:2-4.

For a long time I've known that I am nothing—just a branch off the True Vine, Jesus Christ. If I don't bear fruit, I'll wither up and be cut off and cast into the fire. And how can we bear fruit unless God opens the way? Through trials such as this one. We can't just go out and bear fruit of ourselves; God has to open the way and give us an opportunity. We count it joy that we've had this wonderful opportunity to bear fruit for our precious Lord . . . God is so great! My heart magnifies God.

Please pray for us.

Christian love, —Violet and W. J. Benson
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Calif.—Dear ones at the Print Shop: Holy greetings in Jesus' dear Name. What a mighty God we serve! We are embarking upon a new year that is an adventure; we know not what it holds, but trust it holds spiritual advancement for all of us. It's my determination it will be for us.

We are still in the furnace of affliction. God gives strength day by day—"one day at a time." We are looking for better things for us in the new year.

I want to give a little testimony here of how the Lord especially blessed us when we (my sister and I) brought Bro. Gene home from Pacoima on Friday, Sept. 19. He was really confused and didn't recognize anything. We were trying to go out the front door to bring in some things from the car. He didn't want us to go back out, and stumbled and fell against one of our end tables, cutting a deep gash in his head. It just made us sick to look at it. We prayed for him and the Lord stopped the bleeding. Then it seemed that he would just pass out, but we prayed again and the

Lord kept him from passing out. We knew it would require stitches as it was so open, but being a weekend, no doctors were available. We prayed and put him in our Father's hands. The next morning it was closed by the congealed blood and stayed that way until it healed. Of course, there is a scar but the Lord closed and healed it without stitches. Praise the Lord! Bro. Gene has had so many falls, but the Lord protects him from broken bones. When we pray we expect an answer and the Lord never fails. . . . We both need your prayers. I am much afflicted in body after the long care of him.

May God bless each one with new courage and faith to press the battle on in this new year.

Our love and prayers,

—Bro. Gene and Sis. Loretta Harmon

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

To all the readers of the "Question and Answer" column I send greetings. I am not dealing with a particular question this time, but as we have just crossed the threshold of a new year, I feel impressed to insert here for this time a treatise on TIME. True, when this article appears in the *Faith and Victory* more than one month of the year will have already passed, and it might be thought by some to be a little late to be giving a New Year message. But at the time of writing we have just crossed the line only a few days ago. So let us earnestly consider "Time"—its value and importance.

A famous artist was once asked which of his paintings he considered to be the best. His answer was simple and direct: "My next one." Here was a professional man who felt he possessed the potential of constant and continual improvement and that each production would be better than the one before. This is a grand outlook for life, too. Let us adopt it for ourselves. We have just entered into a new year. Let us look forward by faith to it being our best year yet in serving God and in our spiritual lives. Let us resolve that it **shall** be, by the grace of God, and labor earnestly to develop the potential within us, and make it our best year of spiritual development and growth.

A year is a distinct segment of time and of our lives. Each year contains 365 $\frac{1}{4}$ days. Each day is a complete package within itself. Let us learn to live one day at a time. Let us not be foolish in trying to live our life by the year; let us live it by the day. It is very important that we get settled down to dealing with the time at hand and not try to relive yesterday nor live tomorrow in advance. One Greek philosopher said, "Perform thy worst tomorrow for I have lived today." Jesus warned us very faithfully about getting our days mixed up or intermingled. He taught us to pray in Matt. 6:11: "Give us THIS DAY our daily bread." Again in Matt. 6:34, He said, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take

thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." Let us grasp the importance of what Jesus said here. Each day will have sufficient problems, duties, responsibilities, privileges, and opportunities to keep us busy. It is worrying over the forebodings of the future and lamenting over the mistakes of the past that mar the present and render us less capable and efficient to cope effectively with the situations and problems of now. George McDonald said, "No man ever sank under the burden of the day. It is when tomorrow's burden is added to the burden of today that the weight is more than a man can bear. Never load yourself so. If you find yourself so loaded, at least remember this: it is your own doings, not God's. He begs you to leave the future with Him and mind the present." Let us break this year up into 365 units (days) and face them one at a time. Let us face each day with full confidence in the promise of God's Word: "As thy days, so also shall your strength be." Deut. 33:25. Let us face the future in the confidence that God has it in His hands and when we get there He will be there and have every thing under control. Let us move forward in this year with optimism, hope, strong faith, and courage. Let us be joyful and jubilant; let us be exuberant and excited in the anticipation of the possibilities each of the days which lie ahead will bring to us. The Psalmist said in Psalms 68:19, "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits." And again in Psalms 118:24, he said, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Then Eccl. 9:11, says, "... Time and chance happeneth to them all." Let us believe this, and that as the days come and go we will have our share of "time and chances" right along with all the others; let us keep ready and prepared to seize them and make the most of them as time brings them to us.

But all folks do not do this. How sad but alas, 'tis true. We read in Heb. 5:12, "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat." These folks were not making the best use of their time and chances, and were not growing and prospering spiritually as they should. But they were the losers when time had passed them by with all its opportunities. This is indeed sad but, alas, how many there are like this. Oh, let us all be awake and alert to grasp those chances and opportunities as they are brought to us on the stream of time, because they will not wait and they may not pass our way again. The chorus of one song says, "Those golden hours will never wait; We must seize them as they come, or forever be too late; Oh, do not wait for something great; Do whatever you find to do and do it right." Fenelon said, "God, who is liberal in all His other gifts, shows us, by the wise economy of His providence, how circumspect we ought to be in the management of our time, for He never gives us two moments together." Frederick William Faber said, "The surest way of arriving at a knowledge of God's eternal purposes about us is to be found in the

right use of the present moment. Each hour comes with some little fagot of God's will fastened upon its back." Legh Richmond said, "There is a time to be born and a time to die, says Solomon, and it is the momento of a truly wise man, but there is an interval between these two times of infinite importance." This is very true and let us all grasp its import. This intervening time is our lives which we are now passing through and using or wasting as the case may be.

My father used to say to me, "Son, live every day just like it was the last day you had to live." With the passing of years and as the advancing of age brings me nearer to the end of my life, I value and appreciate that admonition more and more. On Jan. 30th this year, my father will have been gone 34 years; but that admonition is still with me in a very distinct and real way, and comes into focus more clearly and with greater force with each passing year.

There is an old cliché which says, "Never put off until tomorrow what should be done today." The wisdom of this can be clearly seen. But, alas, there are too many today living by the modern version of, "Never do today what you can put off until tomorrow." But all who live by this code (and many do) are sure to find themselves loaded up somewhere down the line and unable to cope with an accumulation of situations and problems and will go under. Prov. 27:1, says, "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."



Dear workers of the Print Shop: We just wanted to write a few lines in thanksgiving for the little paper and the godly articles we have found in its pages.

Our hearts are turned in particular to the *Home Life* exhortation for which there is a great need. Since the Spirit of God is not an entertainment Spirit but of truth and wisdom, we always read it prayerfully, desiring to add to what we have been previously taught.

We also are made to think of our own home life. My parents were not saved when I was very young. Therefore we did not have reading of the Word and prayer in the home. The Lord has laid it upon our heart to uphold it in my home, which we believe we

have done faithfully according to God's Word. The Bible and song books are brought in and everyone sits around on the floor.

Anyone who is in the home at the time (the children's little friends) are invited to join in. As of yet no one has refused.

After the Scripture is read we allow the children to give their definitions or thoughts before we give ours. We encourage them to speak freely and we do not let the others mock or taunt them for the wrong answers.

The one or two hours that are spent in this manner is never wasted or considered lost time. Seeing that children started early this way will quite naturally confide in their parents and they will treat their home as a refuge from the outside world. They will enjoy the restful and loving time that they spend within its walls.

Pray for my home. I have six children; all but one are boys. Pray that God's precious will may be done.

In Christian love, —Sis. Elaine Carter
o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Dear Bro. Murphey: In your article *Home Life*—may I suggest an encouragement to women to maintain their place in the home as a God-given calling—one of the "highest."

May God bless each saint who is endeavoring to have a godly home and rearing children up in the love and fear of Him!

In the days of ERA and other things that would break up the home, if we aren't careful, the luxuries of life will tempt one to get a job—something where you will feel "useful" in life. But just as all the vital organs of the body are hidden—how much of a child's future is hidden in the life of a mother's love. Baby-sitters can never replace a true mother and will have its side effects just as a medicine might cure one problem and leave another.

If one reads the history of the leaders of our land, one will find that many of the presidents; including James Garfield, Harry Truman, and Dwight Eisenhower, all attribute their greatness to their mothers.

Of our spiritual leaders, study their lives and see where their mothers were. . . .

One of our kindergarten teachers, after having had a baby, quit teaching, and meeting her in the grocery store one day, I remarked how much she would be missed. She replied, "Having taught school for some time, I can tell when that child walks through the door if he has a working mother or not. I do not want my child to grow up as such and will not teach until my own children are in school themselves."

The hours are long and sometimes seemingly unrewarding. But to nourish and cherish these jewels that God loans to us is one of His greatest callings!

Seeking to do my part in God's service,

—Mary Ann Atnip

A Richer Treasure

I have been thinking a lot of late on the following verse of song, "There's no thirsting for life's pleasures, nor adorning rich and gay, for I've found a **richer treasure**, one that fadeth not away." This Scripture comes to mind: Matt. 6:19-21, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." It brings sorrow to my heart to think that many souls are laying up treasures here in this temporal world. The trend of the world is to see how large a house one can obtain, how fine a car, or how large a bank account. I understand that people are now into the fad of designer clothes. They think that clothes are not good enough if they don't have someone else's name on them. Women of the world are running crazy after these things: labels on jeans (which they shouldn't be wearing anyway!), labels on their purses, shoes, etc. People are pursuing these things and trying to satisfy the outer man, but these things will only leave them void of what they really need to satisfy the soul.

The song, "Is Not This the Land of Beulah?" says, "I am drinking at the fountain, where I ever would abide; for I've tasted life's pure river, and my soul is satisfied; There's no thirsting for life's pleasures, nor adorning rich and gay, for I've found a richer treasure, one that fadeth not away." I'm not seeking after fame, fortune, or honor of men; no, not since I've tasted of the good things my Father has for me. I'm seeking after righteousness that my soul may be filled with the rich blessings from heaven. Matt. 5:6, says, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

Luke 12:33, says, "Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old; a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth." If we wish to obtain lasting treasure, we need to seek after the things that will afford us these treasures. We need to seek after the kingdom of heaven and its righteousness. The only lasting treasure is that which affords your soul comfort, peace, and the assurance of your name in heaven. Matt. 6:33, tells us, "seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." All our temporal needs will be met. Romans 14:17, tells us that the kingdom of God is "righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." Let us seek after righteousness; set our affections on things above. This is the richer treasure.

Psalms 49:6-8, says, "They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; none of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth forever." Psalms 49:17, says, "For when he

dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him." Psalms 49:10, says, "For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others." Dear precious soul, get your eyes off the fleeting treasures of this life. They, as our lives, will soon pass away and will be no more. Our soul is the only thing we'll take whenever we leave this world. All else will be left behind, no matter how much we treasure them. If you desire a richer treasure (a *lasting* treasure), set not your affections on fame, fortune, and honor of men, but seek after the Lord. Matt. 19:21, says, "Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me."

—Sis. Nancy Wagoner

Decision

Decision is one of the most necessary principles of the human character, and, when actuated by the Spirit of God, it becomes a mighty thunderbolt against the forces of the devil. It is that which every child of God must have in order to ever reach heaven and immortal glory; for there are so many ways which Satan has schemed to bewitch and seduce God's elect from the path of righteousness, that, in order to keep under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, we must have a decided "No" to all his suggestions, and a decision to go through at any cost. Just as soon as our decision weakens, our faith becomes weak, and inroads to our souls are made by the devil. We are not able to trust God for the fulfillment of His contract if we are letting down a little here and there, and are undecided.

When we first started out in this blessed way to serve God with all our heart, it took all there was of us, and how gladly did we lay aside every weight and the sin which did so easily beset us. We felt that we could run with patience the race that was set before us. But how is it today? Are the same weights laid aside never to be taken up again? Are you as decided against them as you were then, or have you, like Lot's wife, looked back? The Word tells us that "No man having put his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Lk. 9:62.

One of the most successful ways Satan has of weakening the decision is by getting you to neglect secret prayer and earnest devotion to God by perhaps making you feel that your work is so rushing, or temporal duties so great, that you must attend to them first. If you will let down just a little the first time, he will try it again and again, until God finally lets you get into a good hard battle with the devil, and you are awakened to the fact that you are weak, and God is afar off. Little by little you have been bending to the devil's forces, until you are captured and overcome.

"Let us run with patience." I like this thought, and truly it is sweet to the soul who is all given up to God, and whose only object in life is to live to please

the great Giver of all good. Do you feel yourself to be as patient in this race for God as you were ten years ago when you first gave your heart to Him, or has your patience grown threadbare at times, and have you given away a little? If this be the case, stop and examine the heart. Look well to it before another day shall pass by, that you are decided to go the whole way with God. Satan would like to have you pass on with a profession without the real possession. If this is not your experience, and you are on the Bible line, then give no listening ear to the enemy of your soul. We are weak of ourselves, but if wholly given up into the hands of God, He will uphold us and be to us strength in every battle. "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him." Isa. 59:19. We have no time to grow faint-hearted, but the Lord commanded, "Be strong and of a good courage." What are the trials of this life to compare with the grandeur and beauties of heaven?

—Grace E. Kriebel

Taken from *Gospel Trumpet* of 1903

"EXCEPT"

There came to Jesus a man, named Nicodemus, who was one of the Pharisees and a ruler of the Jews. (John 3:1-5) With all of his religion he felt that there was something that he did not possess. His thoughts were manifest to God's Son, and Jesus told him, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." God's kingdom does not come by observation, it is not lo here, or there; it is within you. You must be born into it, not by the will of man, but by the Spirit of God.

Jesus set forth some positive teaching that each of us must accept if we are to enter into the kingdom of God. (Luke 13:1-5) It is not how great the sin is, but the fact that we have sinned, (for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God). Therefore we must repent and turn away from sin. Jesus said, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:3.

We must make our earthly dwelling place in the house that the Lord built, which is the Church and the city which the Lord keeps free from sin. Psalms 127:1, says, "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it [this is man-made religious organizations]: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." God, through His Holy Spirit, will maintain His kingdom.

Many cannot believe unless they see a sign. (Read John 4:47-50). Here we find that the father believed the Word and promise of Jesus, departed homeward, and found his son healed. Jesus said to Thomas, "Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." John 20:29.

Enoch walked with God, and God took him. This was because he pleased God. (Amos 2:4-5) They walked together because Enoch agreed with God. ("Except they be agreed.")

We must realize that God, through His Son, provides us with a way even though storm winds

rage and our craft is tossed about by the waves. We must stay with what God has provided. (Acts 27:30-31). The storm raged and danger was on every side. Some decided to desert the ship and go their way. Paul's message was, "Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved."
—Elias McCart

What Would You Give In Exchange for Your Soul?

This title poses a very serious question. What would you give in exchange for your soul? Dear ones, our soul will live on and never die. Even when our body turns back to dust, the spirit will go back to God who gave it. Our soul will live forever with God, or with the devil and his angels in the lake of fire. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. This time world is only a dressing room or place for us to prepare to meet God. Matt. 7:13, 14, says, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Jesus tells us in John 3:3-8, "... Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit." In John 5:24, Jesus said, "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."

In John 4:14, Jesus compares salvation to a well of water: "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." This "well" produces many wonderful blessings in this life—blessings of joy, peace, and contentment. No matter what the world has to offer, it is not worth anything compared to the Christian life, much less to eternal life in heaven where the soul never dies. The things of this world are passing and only please the desires of the flesh for a short time. In 1 John 2:15, 16, John instructed us, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the

world." "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."

The Bible teaches us that we cannot love God and the world, too. This should be easy to understand since they are such opposites. Jesus told us in Matt. 6:24, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Let us not be double minded, but serve God with a single eye. Our highest values should be placed on heavenly things and not earthly. Matt. 6:19-21: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Jesus tells us in Matt. 16:25, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." In Matt. 16:26, Jesus asks a question: "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

There is a story in the Bible that tells of a man losing his soul because he thought he had security in the riches of this world. In Luke 12:16-21, we find, "The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: and he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." We all should be very careful and pray God to keep our hearts pure and perfect in His sight.

The Bible tells us to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. Let us love God and each other with a pure heart. Eph. 6:11-17, says, "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Phil. 4:7, says, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Our souls are our dearest possessions. When it comes our

time to pass through death's door, many of the things we now highly value will drop to their true value—a passing earthly possession. May God help us to realize the true value of things now, while we can live our lives in a way pleasing to God. Let us be a help and comfort to one another. —Pearlene Whitson

Everlasting Punishment

Those who oppose the idea of eternal punishment for the wicked argue that the doctrine is inconsistent, and out of harmony with the nature and character of God; that the penalty is incomparably greater than the crime. But we wish to show that the doctrine is both reasonable and righteous. God is infinite: He is the author of infinite law. An infinite God could only be expected to execute justice and judgment in harmony with His nature and the nature of the law violated. If the keeping of an infinite law is to be rewarded with eternal happiness, then the violation of such a law must be rewarded with eternal punishment.

To sin against God is more than to sin against finite beings. The civil laws of our land deal out punishment for crime according to its nature. For example, the penalty for murder is fixed on the principle of "an eye for an eye." If a man takes life in cold blood, he must give his own life as a penalty. It must be understood, however, that this involves only the natural life. Civil law does not deal with the spiritual side of the question. Most people consider it just that for another man's life the slayer gives his own. Why? For certain outrageous crimes the horror and indignation of the whole community is often stirred and nothing will nearly appease their wrath. In the very nature of things, they consider the act worthy of the bitterest suffering. Justice demands it. For the sake of protection, and for the purpose of putting down sin and crime in the land, such a course is pursued. During Old Testament times, "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy. . . of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God. . . and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?" Heb. 10:28, 29.

Under Moses' law, the death penalty, inflicted for more than thirty different kinds of sin, gives us a clue by which to determine the nature of future punishment. For one such sin, man suffered death. This shows the attitude of God toward sin—how He hates it, and is meant to teach us that a "much sorer punishment" awaits those who sin against an infinite Creator. If for a whole lifetime of disobedience here, against the holiness, justice, and mercy of God, a man is to receive only capital punishment, is to be burned up as stubble—utterly annihilated—pray tell me what this is in comparison with the same kind of "death" inflicted for the simple sin of gathering sticks on the Sabbath, for which act under the Mosaic law a man was stoned to death? The reader should see at a glance that he who has sinned against his Maker thousands of times could

not, in justice, pay the penalty by a few moments of bodily suffering while his life was being extinguished.

Moreover, the preaching of such a "hell" (?), or punishment, is not calculated to arouse and awaken the slumbering millions in sin, to bring conviction for sin, a fear and trembling to their guilty souls. It will have just the opposite effect. Convince a man who is bound by the love and appetites of sin, that "hell" is only annihilation, and he will not become alarmed. Such a doctrine despises the value of a soul; it lowers the standard of moral justice; it involves God in an absurdity, and leaves man in a delusion. If future punishment for sin is an annihilation—simply a common death and blotting out of man's existence—why not rather fear man than God? But Jesus says, "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matt. 10:28. If we are to fear God rather than man, then any punishment inflicted by man is not to be dreaded as much as the future punishment that awaits the ungodly. This being true, the torments of hell to exceed the tortures endured by the early Christians for days and years at a time, must be much more than simply annihilation. This is the only logical conclusion that can be derived from the words of the Master.

When Paul reasoned of *righteousness, temperance and judgment to come*, Felix trembled. Why did he tremble? Because the Spirit of God made him to feel that his soul was in danger of eternal condemnation. I dare say that the doctrine of "no-hell," though preached and expounded in thousands of homes has never made a single soul feel his guilt for sin nor made him tremble with God's fear. It is absolutely destitute of such a characteristic, and hence, is not Scriptural. When the apostles preached the gospel on and after Pentecost, it was clothed with power, and great fear fell upon the people. They were pricked in their hearts, and cried out for salvation. There has never been a spiritual reformation but it was characterized with radical preaching on eternal damnation of the wicked. Nor could there ever be. It is one of the fundamental themes of the gospel. "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." Matt. 25:46. We can not substitute the word "fire" here for "punishment." While in other texts we are shown that the NATURE of the punishment is signified by the use of the word "fire," yet in this one the Author of all Scripture has precluded all successful contradiction by stating clearly "everlasting punishment."

The same word that measures the duration of hell also measures the duration of man's punishment. It is impossible to harmonize annihilation with punishment eternal. They admit of no comparison whatever. "And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever"; not the smoke of THE torment simply; but "the smoke of *their* torment ascendeth up for ever and ever." Perpetual smoke ascending from the perpetual torment of the ungodly.

—J. E. Forrest
Selected from *Gospel Trumpet* 1911.