

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

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"Be of Good Cheer"

Out on the storm-tossed Galilee,
Their hearts dismayed and full of fear,
Christ spoke while walking on the sea:
"Fear not, 'tis I, be of good cheer!"

"Be of good cheer!" A message new
For us who tread the narrow way,
Reminding us life's journey through
That cheerfulness does really pay.

So much of gloom does hang around
And drooping hearts we daily meet;
Can we not let His grace abound
By being cheerful, calm, and sweet?

God is not pleased for us to be
Down in the depths of dark despair
When He has made provision free
For us His happiness to share.

We may not always cheerful feel,
And gladness oft we may not see;
But we should all our pain conceal;
In spite of all, let's cheerful be!

It does not pay to magnify
Or advertise each ache and pain;
'Tis best to stifle every sigh
And cheerfully with Jesus reign.

Your brother may have many a care;
One more from you might make him fall,
But bringing cheer will help him bear
With greater courage after all.

So let us strive to cheerful be!
All gloom and sorrow to subdue:
Be bright with hope and charity,
And press along with courage new.

You'll find the way will not be hard
If you will face it all with cheer,
And let your soul with love be starred
To brighten all your journey here!

—Leslie C. Busbee

Beware of False Prophets and Deception

We are living in such a wicked world. There are many with unbelief, and many deceivers who are trying to prevaricate the Word of God, using deceit, and turning many from the truth. God requires every soul to hold his ground and stand on the Word of God, and not just on what some preacher tells you, or on his explanation of the Scriptures.

There seems to be a fighting Spirit loose in the world, and many have this spirit and do not know it. We seem to want to fight an enemy, or find an alien or enemy to fight with. We do not have to have a good reason—maybe just because someone does not agree with our way of thinking. Jesus taught us to "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Matt. 5:44. In the next verse He tells us why this is required of us: "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven."

One time as Jesus and His disciples were leaving Galilee, they had to pass through Samaria, and came to a city called Sychar, where Jacob's well was. Jesus was tired from His journey and sat down on the well to rest. His disciples went on into the city to buy food. As He sat there, a woman of Samaria came to draw water, to whom Jesus said, "Give me to drink." No doubt this woman was very surprised, as the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans. And besides this, a respectable man did not talk to a woman in public, especially a woman of her character. The woman said unto Him, "How is it that thou being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? . . . Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall

thirst again: 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. . . . The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet." John 4:7-19. Then she began telling Him how they had worshipped in this mountain, but that the Jews say that Jerusalem is the place to worship the Father. Jesus told her that "the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John 4:23, 24.

Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 4:3,4, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." This Scripture is being fulfilled more and more. If a preacher comes along preaching the truth, they will either kick him out or try to get him to preach to please the crowd. They don't want sound doctrine. Jesus said that many would come in His name, deceiving many. There is a man from Ft. Worth, Tx., who is telling people that hell is not a place of everlasting torment. But John said in Rev. 20:10, "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." There are many preaching today who are not saved. They talk about the Holy Spirit, but they do not know Him. The Word says, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." I Cor. 2:14. Friends, read your Bible every day and you will know these deceivers when you hear them. Jesus said, "And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched. Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." Mark 9:45,46.

Remember how Elijah stood alone before Ahab? Ahab had made Israel to sin above all that was before him. He even married a heathen king's daughter, which God had forbidden him to do. Elijah was telling them of their sins, and Ahab had been looking for him in all the nations round about, trying to find him. There was a severe famine in Samaria, so Ahab called Obadiah, his governor, and said, "Go into the land, unto all fountains of water, and unto all brooks: peradventure we may find grass to save the horses and mules alive, that we lose not all the beasts." While Obadiah was going Elijah met him, and said to go tell Ahab that he was there. Obadiah said, "What have I sinned, that thou wouldest deliver thy servant into the hand of Ahab, to slay me?... And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the Lord shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: but I thy servant fear the Lord from my youth... And Elijah said, As the Lord of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, I will surely shew myself unto him to day." When Ahab

saw Elijah, he said, "Art thou he that troubleth Israel?" Elijah answered, "I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Balim." I Kings 18. Friends, here is the problem: folks don't like to hear the truth. The Bible says that God's Word is sharper than a two edged sword. Had Elijah been a false prophet and been telling them things they like to hear, he would have been popular with them and Ahab. Because he obeyed God and kept His commandments, God manifested His great power in the eyes of all Israel that day. Yes, you will be persecuted, but God will deliver you out of the hands of your enemies, and they will know that you are serving the only true God.

Saints, God's wrath is upon our nation. The end is coming faster than we think. Wickedness is on every hand; sex wickedness is all around us. Even little boys and girls are involved. They are taught these things in the schools and on TV. An eight-year old child knows more today than I did at fourteen. The TV is a great teacher and parents do not realize what damage it is doing to their little girls and boys. Then when the children get into trouble or are picked up by the police, the parents say, "Why did you do that? You know you should not have done that!" How should they have known when their parents were the ones that put the TV in front of them and let it educate them. Children have to be taught from their youth up—not when they get in trouble.

—Earl B. Bliss

The Midnight Cry

"And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him." Matt. 25:6. Christ is the bridegroom, and is soon coming as He said. Both saved and unsaved will hear this awful, solemn cry, and will then be compelled to face the judgment. But the most important question is: where shall I be? Shall I be reckoned with the foolish whose lamps have burned dry? or shall I stand redeemed with my lamp brightly burning?

We do not know why the Lord used the term "midnight" in connection with His return unless it was to convey to the minds of the wise the fact that great spiritual darkness would be prevailing. Truly, there is much light shining in the world for those who want it, but men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. When I was first saved, I marvelled at the great darkness by which I had been surrounded, and I had been unaware that it was darkness until the Lord opened my eyes. Surely it is midnight darkness. The world is in an awful condition; and just at the very instant when the cry is made, "Behold the bridegroom cometh," some husband and wife will be quarreling; someone will be drinking intoxicating liquor; someone will be backbiting his neighbor; someone will be accusing and faultfinding the brethren; someone will be trying to gain a higher position by pushing and crowding others; someone will be speaking unkindly to his fellow beings; someone will be committing adultery; someone will be taking his neighbor's life; some will be taking that which does not belong to them; and numbers will be claiming to follow the Lord but living to please the flesh and will not really have an

experience of salvation. Sometimes I shudder when I think of the many evils that are going on around me; and I see and know of a very small percentage. How it must grieve God, who sees and knows everything!

It seems that some think they will get by if they can make their fellowmen think they are all right. Jesus had many rebukes for this class of people when He was here. He said they appeared before men to be righteous, but He called them hypocrites. There will be many hypocrites when the midnight cry is made. Some of these hypocrites claim they are saved but not sanctified, and use the fact they are not sanctified to cover things in their lives that they know are not right. Some of them pretend to be seeking for sanctification, but never seem to gain the experience. Why? God knows the heart. They want a little of the pride of life, and to enjoy some fleshly pleasures; they want to love the things of this world, give way to their ill feelings and hold grudges against others, gossip, and backbite. "The hypocrite's hope shall perish." If one is not clear from all known sins, he is not saved; his lamp is empty. There is no satisfaction nor eternal profit in trying to appear what we are not. We should live unto the Lord and not unto men. If we wear some article of dress for pride before worldly people, we may as well wear it before the saints even if we do know they will count us unsaved for doing so because God counts us unsaved if we have the desire in our hearts, and His opinion is what counts. His Word says if we love the things of the world the love of the Father is not in us. If we are cross at home, we do not need to put on a pious face around others and act like we would never speak an unkind word, for God heard the words at home. Some guard their speech quite closely when around Christian people, but join in with slang, jesting, and joking when around others who indulge in it. We ought to guard our speech more around worldly people than we do around the righteous, for we need to be an example and point them to the right way. If we are pure in heart, our speech will always be pure, and we will not be under a strain for fear we will say any wrong words when in the presence of the righteous. If some people could be known by others as God knows them, they would not appear in daylight. They would be ashamed to let their wives or husbands see them as they really are. These little thoughts and deeds of impurity and deceitfulness, if allowed, will surely cluster around our minds and hearts like cancers, and cancers of the soul should be as nauseating to us as cancers of the body, or more so. We ought to live as purely and conscientiously every day as we would want to be living when the cry is made. Salvation makes men or women appear to be just what they really are, and only those who have salvation will be ready when the Lord comes. God is light, and in Him and His people there is no darkness.

People are becoming accustomed to being warned about the coming of the Lord and the midnight cry, and it is becoming as an old tale to them. People would live quite differently if they really believed from the heart that they would have to stand before the flaming bar of God to give an account of the way they have spent their time here. Unbelief along this line is another sign that the midnight hour is fast approaching. And yet we hesitate to call it total unbelief, for even though they act like they do not

believe it, yet their actions in times of sudden calamity show that they really do believe that there is an instinct in each heart to make them know that at the coming of the Lord there will be "tribulations and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil . . . but glory, honor, and peace, to every man that worketh good . . . For there is no respect of persons with God." Rom. 2:9.

We are told that in the summer of 1952, during the Bakersfield, Calif. earthquake many thought the Lord was coming and began to pray and confess their sins. One woman was living in adultery with another woman's husband. She had justified herself in this condition until the earth began to shake, then she cried out, "Oh, Lord, if I had known you were coming so soon, I would not have been living here with this man!" But when the earthquake was over and all seemed quiet again, she settled down in her life of sin. Oh! the mercy of God to bear with sinful humanity!

A few years ago we knew of a family of saints. The father was becoming careless and unconcerned about the things of God. The rest of the family seemed to want to do better, but because of the father's example and influence, the family was seldom ever seen at prayer meeting. One Wednesday night they were listening to the radio. A program came over the radio which they thought was real and they thought the end of the world was upon them. Immediately they began to repent of their carelessness and indifference, and even that night they got ready and came to the prayer meeting, though it was late.

These are only examples of what men will do when they really hear the midnight cry. But it will be too late then to repent or to change our way of living. We need to live at all times so we can look up to God with a sweet assurance in our hearts that we have lived to please Him. Read again these words concerning the coming of the Lord. Acts 1:9-11, "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Does your heart thrill with joy when you read these words? and can you say, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus," without having to pray another prayer, or finish some neglected work, or make a wrong right?

—Geneva Ray

PRAYER

Oh! that mine eye might closed be
To what concerns not me to see.
That deafness might possess my ear
To what concerns me not to hear:
That truth my tongue might ever tie
From speaking words of vanity.
That no vain thought might ever rest
Or be conceived within my breast;
So that in deed and word and thought,
Glory may unto God be wrought.

—Selected

FAITH AND VICTORY

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend campmeetings) by 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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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.

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EDITORIALS



As this issue comes your way, we pray that you have the victory in your soul and that the joybells of praise are ringing forth to the One who framed the worlds and set the universe in motion. We are grateful that God has once again made it possible to bring to you the story of Christ, the dealings of God, answers to prayer, testimonies of the redeemed, the needs of others, and announcements of the gathering together of His people. As in the past, the material for this paper has been carefully gathered and edited with the desire that what is printed will show forth the true glory of God. If the Lord has blessed you with some good thoughts, we urge you to write and send them in.

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Once again we are facing the summer months which will include many camp meetings, and revival meetings. We hope you will be able to attend some of these and receive a renewal of strength to your soul. Pray that souls will be saved during this time that God's hand is extended. There are many who have never heard the true plan of salvation, and we do not know how much longer the Lord will spare this wicked generation.

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May 13, is Mother's Day, and we would like to contribute a little space in honor of mothers. The following poem was written several years ago by Sis. Olive A. (Phillips) Davenport.

AN ODE TO MY MOTHER

It is to you, so kind and true,
I write these words of gratitude;
For all the things you've done for me
In motherly sincerity.

When I was young, so young indeed,
And knew not of my daily need,
You took me in your arms of care,
And all my pains were yours to share.

Each day you watched my little feet,
And prayed that God my steps should keep,
Lest I should wander far away
Into the paths that led astray.

And as in years I older grew,
You taught me of the Saviour true,
And of His love for all mankind—
His wond'rous grace and love divine.

Yes, you would stop some daily toil,
Lest Satan should your purpose foil,
And bid me cease my childish play,
And sing with you, and read, and pray.

And then my heart I gave to God;
He washed me with His cleansing blood.
'Tis wonderful indeed to know,
That Christ did make me white as snow.

And now by grace divine, 'tis true,
That Christ your Saviour is mine, too,
And I shall labor, watch, and pray,
Pressing up the heav'nly way.

And when my life on earth is through,
I'll dwell with Him along with you.
Such glory we'll together share
With Christ and all the angels there.

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In the February *Faith and Victory*, we printed an article entitled "Religion Versus Salvation" by Phillip Matthews. This article may now be obtained in a tract form. It is four pages in length, and sells at the rate of 20 copies for 45¢, or 100 copies for \$1.50.

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We have recently revised our book list. Twenty books have been added to it. The booklist now contains 131 books that we stock. It will be mailed to you free of charge upon your request.

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We extend our sympathy to Vera Gellenbeck and the family of Brother Harry Gellenbeck who was suddenly stricken with a cerebral hemorrhage and passed away on April 15. Bro. Harry had been a member of the Guthrie congregation in the past, and at the time of his death was residing in Bethany, Ok. Several of his children and their families are in the Guthrie congregation. Remember them in prayer.

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We also extend sympathy to the family, friends, and all those who knew Sis. Maria Breckenridge. We have received word that her funeral was held March 29, 1984, in Hennessey, Ok.

—Wayne Murphey

NOTE OF THANKS

We want to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to those who so kindly responded to the notice in last month's paper regarding a needy family. As of this date, over \$1700 has been received, and the family has expressed their sincere, heartfelt thanks to you and the Lord. May the Lord richly bless you.

—Maybelle 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.

Prophetic Lectures on Daniel and the Revelation by F. G. Smith. It contains 260 pages in heavy paper cover. Price, \$3.50 each.

What The Bible Teaches by F. G. Smith. A reprint of the original 1914 edition, containing 576 pages in cloth binding. This is a book that should be in every home. Price, \$5.50 each.

Holy Spirit Baptism and the Second Cleansing by R. R. Byrum. Consists of 108 pages in heavy paper cover. Price 75¢ each, or three for \$2.00.

Personal Experiences of S. O. Susag was written by himself, a Norwegian who had many marvelous experiences and answers to prayer as an early-day minister in the Church of God. 192 pages are bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.75 each.

The Last Reformation by F. G. Smith. Just recently made available, this reprint edition contains 256 pages. Nice paper binding is priced at \$3.50 each, and the cloth binding is \$5.00 each.

Guided By the Unseen Hand by Murphy Allen. An 84-page book bound in heavy paper cover relating many experiences and inspiring answers to prayer centering around the 44 years of Bro. Allen's ministry. Price, 75¢ each.

The Cleansing of the Sanctuary by D. S. Warner and H. M. Riggle. Reprinted verbatim in 541 pages, cloth binding. Price \$5.50 each.

Bible Readings for Bible Students and for the Home and Fireside compiled by S. L. Speck and H. M. Riggle. Originally published in 1902, this excellent volume contains 432 pages of Scripture references and comments on many Bible subjects. Nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.50 each.

The Revelation Explained by F. G. Smith. Reprint of 1906 original edition, plus two 17x22 inch wall charts in two colors. 464 pages in nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.50 each.

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

Beyond the Tomb by H. M. Riggle. This excellent book of 288 pages deals with man, his present and future, in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$4.00.

Christian Baptism, Feet Washing, and the Lord's Supper by H. M. Riggle. This excellent doctrinal book on the three ordinances of the New Testament contains 264 pages in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$3.50 each.

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, \$6.00 each. A 10% 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.

Life's Story and Healings by 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.

The Double Cure, or Redemption Twofold by D. O. Teasley. This book should enlighten the reader on the two works of grace, and correct the thinking of those who deny the cleansing element in sanctification. 160 pages of large print in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50.

The Battle of Armageddon by O. B. Wilson. A clear exposition of this much misunderstood subject in an enlarged 24-page booklet by the author. Price, 20¢ each, or six copies for \$1.00.

Divine Healing for Soul and Body by E. E. Byrum. Available ONLY in the German language, it contains 282 pages bound in a heavy paper cover. Price \$2.50.

Bible Humility by J. W. Byers. An excellent treatise of this subject in 32 pages with a heavy paper cover. The

price is 35¢ each, or three copies for \$1.00.

The Hero of Hill House by Mabel Hale. A very interesting and inspiring true story, this book contains 224 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.00 each.

Lest We Forget by Sis. Margaret Eck. 72 pages of many encouraging experiences with the Lord bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 75¢ each, or three for \$2.00.

Memoirs of George E. Harmon, sponsored by Vera M. Forbes. This is a brief 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 are bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 60¢ each, or two copies for \$1.00.

Food For Lambs by C. E. Orr in the English language. This English version contains 168 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50 each.

Food For Lambs by C. E. Orr in the German language. It consists of 127 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00 each.

Tim and His Lamp, re-written by Fern Stubblefield. This excellent booklet of 52 pages for children and young people is bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 40¢ each, or three copies for \$1.00.

Harry the Newsboy and Other Stories by Sis. Isabel Byrum. 32 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, 35¢ each, or three copies for \$1.00.

Heart Talks by C. W. Naylor. Consists of 59 chapters with a different subject treated in each chapter. It contains 280 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.50 each.

St. Paul and His Gospel by G. P. Tasker who was an early-day minister and missionary of the Church of God Reformation. This inspiring book contains 88 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00 each.

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SIN IS LIKE THE WORM

How does a worm get inside an apple? Perhaps you think the worm burrows from the outside in. No, scientists have discovered that the worm comes from the inside out. But how does he get in there?

Simple! An insect lays an egg in the apple blossom. Some time later the worm hatches in the heart of the apple, then eats his way out.

Sin, like the worm, begins in the heart and works out through a person's thoughts, words, and actions. For this reason David once wrote, "Create in me a clean heart, O God." Psalm 51:10.

Camp Meeting Dates for 1984

Orland, Calif.—May 23-27.

Oklahoma State Camp Meeting at Guthrie, Ok.

May 25-June 3.

Holly Hill, S. C.—June 1-10.

Tulsa, Ok.—June 8-17.

Jefferson, Ore.—June 8-17.

Duncannon, Pa.—June 8-17.

Chilliwack, B. C., Canada—June 18-24.

General Southern at Loranger, La.—June 22-July 1.

Oakland, Calif.—June 22-July 1.

Prince George, B. C., Canada—June 27-July 1.

Greenbank, W. Va.—June 29-July 8.

Fresno, Calif.—July 6-15.

National Camp Meeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo.—July 20-29.

Missouri State at Myrtle, Mo.—July 30-Aug. 5.

Bakersfield, Calif.—Aug. 3-12.

Boley, Ok.—Aug. 17-26.

California State Camp Meeting at Pacoima, Ca. August 24-Sept. 2.

In Memorial

Dollie (Elder) Gentry Sorrell, daughter of the late Frank and Mollie Elder, was born Oct. 12, 1911, and passed from this life on March 23, 1984, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Leslie Adams, at the age of 72 years.

On May 21, 1927, Sis. Dollie was united in marriage with Arthur Gentry. He preceded her in death in February, 1963. On December 15, 1968, she was married to Alsie Sorrell. He preceded her in death in 1977.

Sis. Dollie was a faithful member of the Church of God for many years, and she trusted the Lord faithfully until her passing.

Survivors include: two sons, Troy Gentry, Loranger, La., and Ed Gentry, Hornersville, Mo.; two daughters, Hassie Palmer, Shreveport, La., and Eula Adams of Hornersville, Mo.; four stepsons, Lehman E. Sorrell, Newton, Ks., Clifford Sorrell, Garden City, Ks., Fred Sorrell, Denver, Co., and Thurman Sorrell, Myrtle, Mo.; two stepdaughters, Lillian Eck, Goltry, Ok., and Dora L. Beisley, Guthrie, Ok.; three brothers; one sister; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; sixteen stepgrandchildren; six stepgreat-grandchildren; many other relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were conducted at the Gish-Bowles and Codor Chapel, Greenville, Mo., with Bro. Clifford Wilson officiating. Burial was in the Center Ridge Cemetery near Greenville.

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Bro. Harry Dempsey Gellenbeck was born in Lafayette, Ind., on Sept. 25, 1927, to Harry and Gladys Gellenbeck. He passed from this life on April 15, 1984, at the age of 56 years 6 months and 20 days.

Harry was married to Vera Mae Gibson on Oct. 24, 1948, and to this union were born six sons and two daughters. He was preceded in death by his mother and one son.

Harry was a skilled carpenter by trade, and worked a number of years in Oklahoma where he and his family made their home.

As a young boy, Harry gave his heart to the Lord and embraced the truth of the teachings of the Church of God. Through many battles and hard trials he endeavored to serve the Lord, and was still seeking to draw closer to Him at the time of his passing. He gave a testimony not long before his death that he was ready to meet the Lord.

He is survived by his wife, Vera, of the home; five sons, Paul of Bethany, Ok., Mark, Steven, Phillip, and Daniel, all of Guthrie, Ok.; two daughters, Jeannine Miles of Guthrie, Ok., and Carla, of the home; his father and stepmother, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gellenbeck of Indianapolis, In.; two sisters, Mary Gibson of Springfield, Mo., and Gladys Averett of Crosby, Tx.; one half brother, Ronald Gellenbeck of Indianapolis, In.; one half sister, Kathy Wetzell of Hartford City, In.; two stepbrothers; three stepsisters; seven grandchildren; and a host of other relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Ed Wilson and Leslie Busbee at the Bill Merrett Funeral Chapel, Bethany, Ok. Interment was in Bethany Cemetery.

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William J. Benson was born Sept. 16, 1902, at Aurora, Missouri, and departed this life March 12, 1984 at his home in Stayton, Oregon, at the age of 81 years. He grew up in Missouri, later he lived in Oklahoma City, and then for some years in southern California. The last 15 years or more of his life were spent in Oregon.

On July 19, 1924, he was united in marriage with Violet P. Cokely. To this union six children were born. Two of these died in infancy. The others grew to adulthood; however, three of them preceded him in death—one son, Neil, and two daughters, Twila and Margaret.

He accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as a propitiation for his sins and trusted Him as his Savior and served Him many years to the end of his life. He was faithful to the end and died trusting in the Lord. He was in the Los Angeles congregation of the Church of God for a good number of years and served as deacon in that church and also served the church in other capacities. He was also very active in maintaining the saints' camp ground in Pacoima, California, and in managing the services and grounds during the camp meetings. His finger prints are also on many things on the Jefferson, Oregon, camp ground as he was very diligent in keeping things in order there. He worshipped in that congregation during all the years he lived in Oregon and served as chairman of the Board of Trustees of that church a good number of years. He was very diligent in the services until failing health limited him for the last 2 or 3 years.

He is survived by his wife, Violet; one son, Paul of Stayton, Oregon, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, other relatives, friends, and saints.

Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Charles Elwell and Ostis Wilson at the Weddle Funeral Home in Stayton, Oregon, on March 17th. Burial was in the Fox Valley Cemetery at Lyons, Oregon.

In Remembrance of Bro. Benson

He was a saint that was staunch and true
He served the Lord the best he knew.
When we needed help he was always there
Bringing his tools to build and repair.
A friend to all, of enemies he had none.
But now his work is finished
And his tasks on earth are done.
Oh how we will miss him but we know that he's
at rest.
And we again will meet him in that city of the
blest.

By Grace Jones

MEETING NOTICES

ORLAND, CALIFORNIA CAMP MEETING

The Orland Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, May 23, beginning at 7:30 p. m., and continuing through May 27, 1984, at the chapel located at the corner of "A" and Colusa St., Orland, Ca. There will be three services daily: 10:00 a. m., 2:30 p. m., and 7:30 p. m., on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

We extend a hearty welcome to all people to come and be with us. We are looking to the Lord to send ministers and workers of His choice to help in the meeting. Bring sleeping bags, folding cots, campers, and mobile homes, as well as bedding. Please phone Sister Loretta Harmon at (916) 865-3711, or Bro. Brian Rich at (916) 824-2824 in advance so arrangements can be made for your lodging. The meeting will be supported by free-will offerings.

For those coming from either the north or south on Interstate 5, exit to the east on California state highway 32 and follow 32 (which makes a jog one block to the right at old 99) to "A" Street, turn right and go one block. The chapel address is 731 "A" St.

For further information or directions, please call Sis. Loretta Harmon or Bro. Brian Rich at the above mentioned phone numbers.

—Letha M. Reece

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OKLAHOMA STATE CAMP MEETING

The annual Church of God Camp Meeting will be held at the Church of God camp grounds, 624 W. Warner, Guthrie, Oklahoma, beginning, Lord willing, at 10:30 a. m. May 25, and continuing through June 3, 1984. There will be three services daily at 10:30 a. m., 2:00 p. m., and 7:30 p. m., besides early morning prayer meeting at 6:30 a. m., and Children's and Young People's services also as will be announced.

We are praying for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and a refreshing from heaven upon these services. We welcome all who are searching for truth and hungering for righteousness to come and join with us as we worship the Lord Jesus in this camp meeting. There are dormitory spaces, hookups for campers and trailers, and plenty of hospitality in the homes of the saints. Bring bedding as you are able as we could have damp weather and cool nights. But above all, come with your soul open for the admonition of the Lord.

The meeting will be financed through free-will offerings. Bro. Randall Flynn has been newly elected

as treasurer for the camp meeting upon the resignation of Sis. Frances Deforth who served so faithfully in that capacity for many years. You may send your free-will offerings for the support of this meeting directly to him at his address: Rt. 3 Box 208, Guthrie, Ok. 73044.

For more information contact the pastor, Bro. Leslie Busbee, 417 N. 11th, Guthrie, Ok. 73044, phone (405) 282-2421.

—Leslie Busbee

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HOLLY HILL, S. CAROLINA CAMP MEETING

The saints at Holly Hill, S. Carolina, extend a hearty invitation for all to attend camp meeting which will be held, Lord willing, June 1-10, 1984. We are praying that it will be greatly blessed with God's rich blessings, and that it will be ruled by the Holy Spirit. We are looking to God to send the ministers of His choosing. The expenses will be met by free-will offering. We want all to feel free to come, and will take care of all.

For further information you may write to the undersigned at Rt. 1 Box 34, Holly Hill, S. C. 29059, or phone (803) 496-5759.

Yours in Christian love,

—Utson Platt

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JEFFERSON, OREGON CAMP MEETING

The annual camp meeting of the Church of God at Jefferson, Oregon, is scheduled to be held, Lord willing, on the camp ground near Jefferson from June 7 to 19, 1984. There will be three regular services daily. Everyone is cordially invited to attend these services. The meeting will supported on the freewill offering basis, and the meals will be served in the dining hall on the grounds.

Bring sleeping bags and folding canvas cots, as well as bedding. Please let Bro. Wilson know in advance of your coming so arrangements can be made for your lodging.

Directions to camp ground: Go to the Texaco service station at the north edge of Jefferson, turn right on Marion Road for about ¼ mile, then turn left on Sheldon Road, go ½ 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.

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TENT CAMP MEETING AT DUNCANNON, PA.

This is a reminder of our tent meeting here at Duncannon, Pa., scheduled to be held, Lord willing, June 8-17, 1984. We want to encourage the dear saints everywhere to see if the Lord would have you come help in this new area. We feel the Lord has a work here, and we are anxious about having another tent meeting again this year. We have had some outside interest for awhile, so do pray the Holy Spirit will do His work here as opportunity is given for souls to be saved.

We have a fair amount of sleeping quarters, and space for campers and trailers.

For more information, please write or call Bro. Kinney Farris at Rt. 2 Box 891, Duncannon, Pa.

17020, phone 717-567-3982, or Sis. Virginia Myers at Rt. 2 Box 1033, Duncannon, Pa. 17020, phone 717-834-4595.

—Virginia Myers

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TULSA, OKLAHOMA CAMP MEETING

The 1984 Tulsa, Okla. Camp Meeting will be held, Lord willing, June 8-17, 1984. We extend to all a hearty welcome. Please pray that the Lord will send ministers and workers of His choosing.

For further information, contact Sis. Eva Hardman at 2232 N. Norfolk, Tulsa, Ok., phone (918) 583-2929, or Bro. Norman Simpson at 1333 E. 8th Street, Tulsa, Ok., phone (918) 583-2096. The chapel is located at 1102 E. Pine Place, and the phone number at the chapel is (918) 584-8438.

—Maple Littlejohn

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PRINCE GEORGE, B. C. CAMP MEETING

The saints at Prince George, British Columbia, Canada, are planning a camp meeting to be held there at the chapel in Prince George, beginning June 27 and continuing through July 1, 1984. Pray for this meeting and the work of the Lord in this place, and come if at all possible as the Lord directs. If possible, bring bedding with you. For further information, contact Ed and Sue Shire, P. O. Box 563, Prince George, B. C. Canada, telephone (604) 562-2142, or John and Daisy Rabel, R. R. 7, Site 24, Comp. 35, Prince George, B. C., Canada V2N 2J5, telephone (604) 963-7093.

—Daisy Rabel

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GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMP MEETING AT LORANGER, LA.

A hearty invitation is given for you to come to the General Southern Camp Meeting at Loranger, La. The meeting will begin, Lord willing, the evening of Friday, June 22, with services daily through Sunday, July 1, 1984. We desire the Spirit of the Lord to prevail in this meeting.

There will be accommodations for all who come. There is a dormitory for the sisters, and one for the brethren. Power outlets and water hookups will be on the grounds for campers. Motels in Hammond (approx. 15 miles distance) are available to any desiring such; however, reservations should be made due to the upcoming world's fair in New Orleans. If you possibly can, please bring your own bedding. Meals will be served on the grounds, and the expenses of the meeting will be met by free-will offerings.

The camp grounds are located, from Loranger, two miles south and approx. three and one-half miles east on La. Hwy. 40. Those traveling I-55, take the Tickfaw exit and go east to La. Hwy 40; the grounds are located approx. nine and one-half miles east on Hwy. 40. For those traveling I-12, take the Robert exit, and go north on La. Hwy. 445 until you intersect Hwy. 40. Turn west on 40 and go approx. one and one-half miles.

For more information you may call Bro. Bob Forbes at (504) 748-4957, or Sis. LaVerne Manuel at (504) 878-6176, or Nelson Doolittle at (504) 878-6111.

—Nelson Doolittle

SINGING AND ALL DAY SERVICES AT HOFFMAN, OKLAHOMA

You are cordially invited to attend a gospel singing to be held, Lord willing, on Saturday night, May 12, at 7:30 p. m., at the Church of God Chapel at Hoffman, Ok. There will be all-day services Sunday, May 13. Everyone is welcome and urged to attend these services. For further information, contact the pastor, Brother Woodrow Warren, at 810 N. Porter, Okmulgee, Ok. 74447, phone (918)756-6425.

—Lorene Payne

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SINGING AT WEBB CITY, MISSOURI

It has been announced by the congregation at Webb City, Mo., Lord willing, they will hold a singing on Saturday, May 19. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. For more information, contact Bro. Paul Taylor, 1804 W. Briar, Webb City, Mo. 64870.

Prayer Requests

Miss.—“Please pray for my healing.”

—Sis. Dorothy Bridges

Ohio—Sis. Harley Hiles requests prayer for her healing and for her daughter; she also has a very urgent request for a loved one.

Okla.—Bro. Roy Meek is not well in body and would appreciate the saints' prayers.

Ind.—“Pray for me, also for my son, Roy, who had the flu and possibly pneumonia; his lungs are not right yet. Pray for the salvation of my loved ones.”

—Sis. Dessie Wilson

Ore.—Remember Sisters Anneta Williamson and Ruby Hutchinson in prayer for healing.

Fla.—“Please pray for me and my son for healing.”

—Flora Knight

Mich.—“My father, Bro. Earl Parsons, still needs much help from God for his body. Please continue to pray for him.”

—Milford Parsons

There were a number of unspoken requests received, some of which are very urgent. The Lord knows just what these needs are and is fully able to master every situation. Let's be faithful to hold one another up before the throne of grace. We are living in a time when the pressure from the world and Satan is very great. The enemy is after every soul he can get, but if we expect to see inside of Heaven, we must be faithful unto death. It is only through the grace of God that we can prevail, and God has promised, “My grace is sufficient for thee.” “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” Gal. 6:9 —Randall Flynn

MOTHERHOOD

Motherhood means going to the depths with her children, loving them there; going to the heights with her children; loving them there. In the depths her prayers are that they would arise. In the heights her prayers are that they do not fall. Motherhood is feeling the keenest pain and the keenest joy that life can bring, and feeling either, to go on loving, praying, and protecting still.

—Sel.

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

REPORT FROM PHILIPPINE MISSION

San Jose City—Dear Bro. Hammond: Greetings of love in the precious name of Jesus. He is the vine and we are the branches; without Him we have no life and can do nothing to bear fruit.

My family and I were so happy again to receive your loving letter with your precious gift for the gospel work here. Thank you so much for the *Faith and Victory* paper which always gives us encouragement about the church work as a whole. We are being strengthened by the rich and delicious spiritual food for our souls that it contains.

We are so happy that you are now preparing for your coming. We are all praying for you.

Our agreement about the lots across the road is finished. We are all very happy and thankful. We feel this is the Lord's will. The lawyer is now preparing the necessary papers for transfer. . . . We are praying fervently for the Lord to settle everything for His glory.

May we say again “thank you” for all your wonderful sacrifices for us in the Philippines. May God reward you so richly for your untiring love for us.

Your brother in Christ,

—M. S. Tangunan and family

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REPORT OF MISSION WORK IN MEXICO

Ojos Negros, Baja Cfa.—Dear Sis. Pruitt and saints: We greet you in the holy and precious name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, desiring that you are rejoicing in good health and the rich blessings of God with victory over sin. This is my desire and prayer.

Esteemed brethren, I write this letter with joy and love, giving thanks to God principally for the salvation and sanctification of my soul. We are serving God with love, and will present and teach the pure and clear truths of the Word without error or hypocrisy. Babylon has fallen and all of us are in the truth which is the Church of God. We are spectacles to those of the world. May we present a Church pure and blameless. . . .

We have been working for the Lord and have been having some wonderful services here in Ojos Negros. We have been doing some visiting, also. We need much prayer every day. There is much work here in Mexico. Let us pray for the Lord to send a worker here; one that lives the truth and that will not be a wolf in sheep's clothing, but filled with the Holy Spirit, not serving nor pleasing the people, but God.

We've been having services in Chapultepec each Thursday. There are now five ladies who are coming to the services and are very interested in the things of God. Two of them are saved. They have not, as yet, seen the truth very well, but the Lord is working. There are many places to work in God's work. Here there is a city of 10,000, and nearby is a city of 200,000 people. Pray much for me because I desire to do all I can as unto the Lord. . . .

Thank the Lord, the house in Chapultepec is paid for and we have the money for the windows. We thank God for all. The Lara family brought doors. It hasn't been long since the Shermans, Jim Kutra,

Carnel Montgomery, Paulino and Edith Lara came. We had services both in Ojos Negros and Chapultepec. These dear ones have had and have a great burden for Mexico. They come often and have been a blessing to all.

We have received the offerings, and I appreciate them with all of my heart. I thank God for all who have helped to further the gospel and extend it to those who have not heard it. May the Lord bless each of you richly.

Pray much for the work here and in Chapultepec. We are planning to have a camp meeting in Chapultepec, Lord willing, August 5-12. May God be there first, then us.

With much Christian love,

—Mayarino Escobar and family

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NATIVE MISSIONARY REPORTS FROM NIGERIA

Nigeria (Apr. 10)—Dear Bro. Hammond: Greetings of love to you and all the saints in the precious name of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your kind letter dated March 5, and the enclosures were noted with much appreciation. I am sorry that letters are not faster to reach their place on time. Your letter arrived on April 7.

On March 20, we held an open air service for three days. The Spirit helped us preach the Word. Many listeners brought their Bibles, and as we quoted the Scriptures, they searched the Scriptures as the Berean did in Paul's day.

Sister Keiser has written us that she and Bro. Jim Akwasi will come and visit us. We have replied to their letter telling them to come. Please pray much for this, that God may work much through them in Nigeria.

We are praying for you and all the workers there. May the Lord bless all of you.

Yours in Christ,

—B. Ben Taylor

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MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Mar. 20)—Dear Sis. Pruitt, all the Print Shop workers, and saints everywhere: Greetings of Christian love and joy to you all again in the sweetest name of Jesus Christ.

Thank you very much for your letter dated Mar. 7, and the enclosures were noted with much appreciation and gratitude. In general, the Church in India is going on fine.

The local conventions at Vilayanthur and Kootarville were very blessed meetings. The needs of the local congregations are many. Please uphold the needy saints in India in your prayers every day.

It is my desire to expand the gospel to Tamilnadu, which is our neighboring state where they speak the Tamil language. I remember the Scripture, "Where there is no vision, the people perish, but he that keepeth the law is happy." Prov. 29:18. How true! Multitudes are perishing simply because we have no vision. Christless masses for whom Jesus died may never hear God's message of salvation unless we get a vision. Our great centers of population for which we are responsible do not know the gospel of God's grace because we, His followers, are without a vision. When will we get the burden and become conscious of our

responsibility? . . . A God-given faith and God-given pains will accomplish the apparently impossible. . . . There must be a new call to separation from the world, and whole hearted devotion to Jesus Christ. The enemy is upon us; the storm is gathering and is about to break. Nothing but the preaching of the gospel under the power of the Holy Spirit can stem the tide.

Please remember the needs of the newly started congregation in India. You can be a missionary even though you never go. Your heart can be in the foreign field; and where your heart is, there will your treasure be also.

Our prayers are for the expansion of the Church in America. Your prosperity is our prosperity, and your joy is our joy. May God bless you all.

Yours in His service,

—John Varghese

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MISSION REPORT FROM GHANA, W. AFRICA

Ghana, W. Africa (Mar. 10)—Dear Bro. Flynn and all the dear saints at home and abroad: Greetings from Ghana in Jesus' dear name.

I have been in Akumadan-Ash for two months now, and I am feeling quite well. We are not in the mission house yet as it has been hard to get the supplies that we need to finish with. We are hoping that before the May issue of the *Faith and Victory* goes to press we will be moved in and settled.

This is the harvest season for some of their crops (tomatoes, yams, tapioca, onions, peppers). Most everyone has a little plot of ground on which they grow their living. Many pass by my dwelling each day going to and from their little farms, carrying all kinds of produce on their heads.

About three or four weeks ago I was in Afrancho one Sunday afternoon when a man came up to me and asked if I would come to his village and preach to them. I said I would when the time came to go. We went to the village which was about twelve miles from here. Sekyere, the little man, had really worked to get the village people out for the service. By noon we had preached a salvation message, and when the invitation was given, Sekyere and two of his four children came forward to be saved. I thought this was the result of the trip, but in the afternoon a young man came back and wanted to get saved. When he came forward, nineteen others came with him. . . . In the meantime, this number has grown to around fifty people, and they are asking for a Church of God to be established in that village. . . . It was over an 18-hour day. I had a few crackers and one pint of boiled water in that time. I was on my cot about midnight, thinking over the events of the day. I could but praise God for the souls saved and the strength He had given me to see the day through...

The work is coming along fine here. There is hardly a service goes by but what someone gets saved. The preaching, testimonies, praying, and singing are all anointed. Surely, Ghana is having an opportunity to get saved, and many are taking advantage of the open door to the gospel. Continue to pray for the work here.

Your missionary to Ghana, Dorothy Keiser
c/o Jim Akwasi Kinadu, Yiadom
Box 44, Akumadan-Ash, Ghana, W. Africa

[We have been made aware of some political turmoil in Ghana recently. We have not received any correspondence from Sis. Keiser since the above published letter, and some of the other saints with whom she had corresponded report that they have not received any since the first part of March. A CARE official reported to one of the saints that all food shipments to Ghana had been stopped, and that mail was being censured and confiscated at the post offices, registered letters being opened and money removed. I feel it would be good to continue trying to correspond, but do not send any money or packages. Earnest prayer should be made in behalf of Sis. Keiser's safety and physical welfare. —Editor]

From the Mail Box . . .

Ala.—Greetings in the name of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, I thank and praise God for giving me His precious Son to be my Savior and Lord. I would not exchange Him for the whole world. There are not enough riches in this world that can make me give up my Lord. When I am down and out, He lifts me up. When I feel like I have gone the last mile of the way, He strengthens me.

I am not ashamed to testify that Jesus saved me, and I'm not ashamed to let the world know that He lives within me. Oh, praise the Lord! I am not ashamed to call His name in prayer, and I'm not ashamed to sing the songs He wants me to, nor to step out and claim His blessings. Praise the Lord, I am not ashamed.

A servant of the true and living God, and His Son, Jesus Christ, —May Bell Dunaway
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Texas—Greetings of love in the precious name of Jesus Christ. We have a beautiful day for which I am so thankful. . . . These few lines leave me saved and sanctified, pressing my way to the Glory World to be with my Lord forever. Bless the name of the Lord!

I'm sending a little offering to help spread the gospel to the lost and dying world. I can't preach, but maybe it will encourage the preacher. . . .

May the good Lord bless and keep you
Christian love and prayers, —Nellie Lovell
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Fla.—Greetings of love to all the readers of the *Faith and Victory*: I am still pressing on toward the high calling of God, and looking forward to that great day of God Almighty, when we will shout the praises of our King; when all the trials and tribulations of this earth will be gone. Praise the dear Lord!

I am still spending the winter months down here in Florida; not because I like Florida, but because of my health and the high cost of living in Indiana in the winter months. I do appreciate how God takes care of me, being all alone in this world and having to do everything for myself. It is a hard life, especially for the elderly when we become afflicted, but it is then we become more dependent on God for our help. Prayer changes things! God has promised to supply all our needs, and I am surely thankful that He does just that. —Earl Bliss

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Ark.—Happy greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus, our Savior, to every saint of God. I am happy in the Lord today for the many wonderful blessings that He bestows upon us each day.

Thank the Lord for His goodness to His people everywhere, regardless of color or race. Glory be to His name! Oh, if men would praise Him for His wonderful works toward the children of men, what a wonderful world this would be. I am so glad for the truth of His Word. "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:32, 36. Glory be to God, His Word will stand forever.

I feel so good in my soul this morning as I think of God's goodness to me; and not to me only, but to every one of His children. I do want to love Him more and more each day for His goodness to me. If I had ten thousand lives to live, I could not enough my blessed Lord adore.

May the dear Lord bless every saint of God everywhere this morning is my prayer.

A brother in Christ, —A. C. Gilleland
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Pa.—Dear saints: Greetings to all of you at the Print Shop and elsewhere. My heart rejoiced as I read the missionary reports in the March issue of the *Faith and Victory*. The paper is always a great blessing to me, and I praise God for the work that is being done.

I thank and praise God for the missionary efforts both at home and abroad. As I read the letters concerning the overseas work, I could not help but think how people in other lands are hungry for the truth and not foolishness or man-made values. How beautiful Heaven will be when saints from everywhere, of every race and color can rejoice around the throne throughout eternity.

Let us be encouraged! Every tract, every testimony, every visitation, every prayer, every fasting—all of it is counting whether we can see the results or not. It isn't always for us to see. It is God's place to bless, and He is faithful! Matt. 10:42, says, "And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward." Only eternity will tell what prayer and obedience have wrought. Let us occupy till He comes.

Remember me in prayer; also my unsaved loved ones, friends, neighbors, enemies, and others that they will seek Jesus Christ in the pardoning of their sins before it is everlasting too late.

Yours in Christ, —Sister Sally Johnson
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Ark.—Greetings of love to all in Jesus' name. I love Him and have a desire to serve Him and do the little things I can do for Him. Thankful for the beautiful sunshine this morning.

I am so thankful that the Lord made it possible for us to have a little service in our home recently. I feel that it was all ordered by the Lord. Bro. Randel and Sis. DeLoris Bradley and their two children were here from Kansas, and Bro. Smith from Oklahoma. Bro. Smith preached a good message. Our daughter and her family were here, and also our son, David,

was here from Texas. It was the first time that he's been in service for a long time. May they all come again some time. . . .

I want to say I thank the Lord for the truth and for the saints. I enjoy the *Faith and Victory* paper and do not want to miss a one. I thank the Lord for touching my body many times.

Remember us in prayer; I have some special requests.

May God bless all the saints the world over.

—Sis. Nellie West

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Okla.—Dear saints: I want to thank and praise the Lord for saving my soul. I was born again March 17, 1984. What sweet peace I have! I love Jesus and intend to press on and never turn back. 2 Cor. 5:17, says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." I am in Christ and I'm a new creature; all my sins were forgiven, and all things are become new. It is a new life for me. The Word is new to me because now I have understanding. I'm new in the family of God. Praise the Lord! I need to make my pathway straight. . . .

Pray that I'll ever be faithful and be in His will and do His will in all things.

Love to all, —Sis. Claudine Martin

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

N. Carolina—Dear precious ones: Today and every day I am walking with Jesus in robes of white on the bright pathway of holiness. There are so many great, unceasing battles ahead, and only those who are shod in gospel preparation shall stand.

Two of my favorite songs are "Soldiers of Christ, Arise," and "I Surrender All." We who are living the crucified life can sing these glad tiding with assurance of victory through Christ Jesus. Yes, though hot may be the fray, our souls shall boldly say that we are on the winning side with Jesus. When we are in the conquest for truth, we can defy the ranks of Satan and his stronghold, though he be ever so hostile.

Down through the ages, the Church has been in this type of bloody battle, but she has come out purer and purer. When Satan saw that he could not terrify the Church through persecution, turmoil, and even martyrdom, he sought to employ men to contrive man-made organizations and delusive divisions. Today we find these same organizations deceiving multitudes by the thousands. Multitudes are in the valley of decision, deciding which way is right. May we not find ourselves tottering and tottering with the modern religions of our day, but with the true spirit of bravery, fighting to receive our "golden crowns and purple hearts."

—Sister Ivy Lennon

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mo.—Dear Sis. Pruitt and workers at the Print Shop: The good Lord has been so good to us that we felt like we wanted to tell about it. You know, it is pretty easy for us to receive blessings and answers to prayer from the Lord, and at the time we appreciate it, but it is easy for us to soon forget and not show our appreciation as much as we should; then when the next trial comes we are about thrown off our feet.

I have been studying about the children of Israel. The Lord would deliver them from their enemies or

miraculously feed them, and then just a few days later another trial would come and they would be wishing they were back in Egypt eating the leeks and garlic. We can read this and wonder why they were so slow to understand and to have faith and trust, but if we are not careful we can easily do some things about as bad.

The Lord is so good and merciful to us. We hear so much now about trusting God and praying that He will guide the doctors in knowing how to treat our ailment. Some feel that if your faith is weak that it is okay to go to the doctors, but I can testify that God is big enough and that He does not need any help. It displeases and grieves Him for us to turn to the arm of flesh.

We have trusted God all of our life and since we have been married. Seven children were born into our home. God saw fit to take one, but we have reared six to adulthood, and some of them have married and have families of their own. Through the years we have had about all kinds of illness, accidents, and troubles. We have trusted God and can truthfully say that not one time did God fail us. Dora has had heart attacks where it just looked like she was about gone, and she was looking forward to the crossing, but God raised her up. She now has severe arthritis. The Lord has not seen fit to completely heal her, but has many times given her special healing touches. I have muscular dystrophy, and according to the nature of the disease, I should have been dead about twenty years ago. Our prayer has been that God would see fit to spare us both to rear our children. Sandy, the youngest, is nearly grown, so who knows how much longer we have—but that is in God's hands. We know He does all things well.

Just a few weeks ago my back gave way and it looked real serious. I could only get relief by lying flat in bed. Over the years I have begged the Lord to spare me from being confined to a wheelchair, but after a few days in a hospital bed, a wheelchair looked pretty good! But God has done better than that—I am up and about, getting around just pretty well! Oh, I may walk sort of sideways at times, or stumble and fall once in awhile, but folks, unless it's taken away from you for awhile, you don't know how to appreciate being able to walk outside and see a beautiful sunrise or sunset, and the different things God has provided for us.

I know God is fully able to completely heal us. Why He does not I do not really know, but sometimes He does want to use some of us to show that one can trust Him through it all—with victory in the trial. If through this we can somehow lift someone's load or be an encouragement, we will surely feel that it is worth it, because with each trial or test He gives us, He sprinkles blessings all through it.

Saints, thanks so much for your prayers, phone calls, and concern. We are all one big, happy family, and we want to help each other along life's way.

—Dale and Dora Doolittle

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Causing division and dissension among the people of God is a serious offence to the Holy Spirit. It is the work of the flesh, and all who participate in false doctrines contrary to the truth will be lost eternally.

—L. Busbee

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Please comment on Ezekiel 34:2-6 (Who are these shepherds?); also taking into consideration verse 12 "The cloudy and dark day".

Answer: The shepherds spoken of in these verses would be those whom God had appointed to guide, care for, and feed His flock, the children of Israel. This would refer to their priest and prophets. Also in this case since Israel's government was a combination of church and state, it might include their kings and rulers as well. These were all set over the children of Israel to seek their welfare and best interests and to guide them in both sacred and secular things. We get a good view of the good shepherd in the 23rd Psalm. We see the good shepherd here providing all the wants of his sheep, leading them to the still waters and providing for them security and sufficiency so that they lie down in peace in green pastures. He never forsakes his flock but is with them in trouble and adversity the same as in prosperity which is evidenced by his walking with them through the valley of the shadow of death. He always provides abundance for them even to the overflowing stage and sets them a table right in the presence of their enemies.

In John 10:11, Jesus declares Himself to be the good Shepherd and declares that the good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep. Then in verse 12 He speaks of the hireling, whose own the sheep are not, and when he sees the wolf coming he leaves the sheep and fleeth; the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. Jesus further explained in verse 13 that the reason the hireling flees when danger and trouble threatens is because he is just a hireling and is primarily interested in his hire and temporal gain and does not care for the sheep.

Again in Luke 15:3-7, Jesus presents another graphic picture of a good shepherd looking after his sheep. He has a hundred sheep and one wanders away and gets lost. He leaves the ninety-nine in the fold and goes in search of the lost one until he finds it; then he puts it on his shoulder and carries it home. He cares for all his sheep and when one is in trouble, that is the one he seeks to help.

These shepherds spoken of in Ezekiel 34:2-6, were supposed to be like this and like the Good Shepherd of John 10:11, and the Shepherd featured in the twenty-third Psalm. But, oh, how different they were! They were like the hireling Jesus mentioned in John 10:12-13, and were looking after their own comforts and gain. They were entirely insensitive to the needs of the flock; they fed themselves instead of feeding the flock. They did not strengthen the diseased, heal the sick, bind up the broken, bring back those who were driven away, nor seek that which was lost. They ruled with force and cruelty. They were totally unfaithful and entirely insensitive to their responsibilities as shepherds of a flock. As a result, the sheep were scattered and wandered through all the mountains and high hills of the whole earth and became meat to be devoured by the beasts of the field. This

all actually happened to the children of Israel again and again because of their wickedness and idolatry which was instigated by their priests, prophets, and rulers. It is also a type of what has happened to the people of God (spiritual Israel) during this gospel dispensation and has a second fulfillment there.

In Isaiah 9:16, we read, "For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed." Again we read in Isaiah 3:12, "O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths." In Jeremiah 23, beginning with verse nine is a strong indictment against the prophets and priests of Israel. Verse eleven says, "For both prophet and priest are profane; yea, in my house have I found their wickedness, saith the Lord." We also read in verse thirteen, "And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria; they prophesied in Baal, and caused my people to err." Clear on down through verse 32, God is strongly proclaiming against the prophets who prophesy in His name declaring that "the Lord Hath said," but they prophecy lies and falsehoods.

The awful consequences of all this false prophesying and the profanity among priests and prophets is found in Jer. 14:13-16, which I will insert here in full. "Then said I, Ah, Lord God! behold, the prophets say unto them, Ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine; but I will give you assured peace in this place. Then the Lord said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart. Therefore thus saith the Lord concerning the prophets that prophesy in my name, and I sent them not, yet they say, Sword and famine shall not be in this land; By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed. And the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword . . ." It becomes apparent here that the people who listen to the prophets who prophesy falsehoods and offer security in those falsehoods and doctrines that are not according to God's Word, shall become victims of those prophets (be devoured by the beasts of the field—the false prophets) and share the same fate with them.

In Hosea 5:10, it says "The princes of Judah were like them that remove the bound: therefore I will pour out my wrath upon them like water." A few other texts regarding landmarks and bounds will add a little emphasis to this text where it says "The princes of Judah were like them that remove the bound." When the Israelites entered into Canaan land, everyone received an inheritance consisting of a piece of land secured by bounds and landmarks. This was to remain in that family throughout their generations. This inheritance was considered such a valuable and sacred thing that the daughters of one tribe were forbidden to marry into another tribe because it would affect their inheritance which was not transferable to any other tribe. In Deut. 27:17, a curse was pronounced upon anyone who tampered with the landmark and altered the bounds of his neighbor's field. Also read Prov. 22:28, and Deut. 19:14. We see this was a very strong charge against the princes of Judah who were like them that removed the bound.

The princes of Judah would be their prophets, priests, and rulers. They had tampered with God's Word and law, and prophesied falsely to the people and led them into error and idolatry, and God's wrath was against them.

This whole discussion describes the class and condition of the shepherds in Ezek. 34, and the awful consequences of their lordship over the people. It will be necessary to wait until another time to consider the other part of the question, "the cloudy and dark day."



HOME LIFE

Be Wiser Than Solomon

In the cool of the day, God came down to visit with Adam—but where was Adam? Adam was hiding among the trees of the garden, ashamed to face God. He knew he had sinned. When God questioned Adam about the forbidden fruit, Adam replied, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." (Gen. 3:18-21). Eve, the woman, blamed the serpent. God punished the serpent, Eve, and the man, Adam.

God already knew what had happened before He even came to visit, but He asked Adam, "Where art thou?" Why did God call and question Adam first? God had put Adam in the garden to dress and keep it. He had commanded this man to not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Scripture never mentions God commanding the woman to not eat of the fruit. Adam probably told her all about it. She did know it was wrong, but God called Adam first even though Eve had sinned first.

The familiar text in Eph. 5:23, tells us, "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church." This puts a responsibility on the husband. He is to be the leader and spiritual guide for his wife and household. When there is a discussion among the family members over whether something is right or wrong, the husband needs to be anchored in the Lord and wisely rule in the decision. If his decision is given in love, the wife and children will find it easier to abide within his ruling. Then he needs to set the right example before them. The husband should live in such a way that his children can follow in his footsteps and make it into heaven.

It takes much wisdom to be the head of the household. Be wiser than Solomon. King Solomon is known as being the wisest man who ever lived. He wrote hundreds of proverbs; judged wisely over the people of Israel for forty years; built beautiful buildings; was rich in gold and silver; and had peace with the neighboring kings. He pleased the Lord God in many ways, but he had a flaw which ruined him and destroyed Israel. King Solomon could not rule over his own household. He loved strange women, having seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines. They turned away his heart from God. (1 Kings 11:1-13.) They persuaded Solomon to build altars for their strange gods, and he let them burn incense and sacrifice to them. The Lord God was angry with Solomon over this very thing, but Solomon would not listen to God's warnings. Finally, God punished Solomon and took the kingdom away from his son (all but one tribe, Judah, for King David's sake.) The entire nation of Israel was divided and in turmoil from that time on. Because King Solomon could not rule over his own household, the nation of Israel suffered. The gods that Solomon's wives introduced to the Israelites were a curse to them from that day forward. King Solomon was counted a wise man, but his own household destroyed his kingdom. Therefore, be wiser than Solomon.

As James 3:5, tells us, God has wisdom for whoever seeks Him for it. This wisdom comes from above and it is "first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, full of mercy, and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." James 3:17. If the head of the household has a pure heart, then things will go more peaceably and there will be good fruits. In the Church of God today, there are men who rule their household with the wisdom from above. These are honorable men, valuable in the Lord's eyes. They are in well keeping of God's plan.

Sad to say, many men of the world do not esteem their place as the head of their household. Some ignore their duty and let other men raise their own flesh and blood. God is not pleased with this. At the final judgment, God will ask every man, "Where art thou?" God will hold each man (and woman) responsible for their own actions. No one will be able to lay blame on anyone else—God will ask you.

The happy Christian household will have cooperation among its members. Therefore, husbands, wives, children, let us all seek after more wisdom from above.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH JESUS?

What will you do with Jesus?

Neutral you cannot be.

Either accept the Saviour,

Or face hell for eternity.

What will you do with Jesus?

Your answer means much, my friend.

Whatever your decision may be today,

Eternity upon it depends.

What will you do with Jesus?

Yield your heart and soul today.

To live for Christ is fullest joy,

And He will show the way.

—Edward M. Brandt

Conformity to the World



"Be ye not conformed to this world." (Rom. 12:2). Conformity to this world is the opposite of being conformed to Jesus. Jesus and the world are enemies. The world crucified Jesus. The world persecuted and killed the apostles. The world murdered the early saints. And the world hates righteousness and Christ today. The spirit of the world is the disposition that rules unregenerated man, and that disposition came from the devil, who planted it in man at the disobedience in Eden. All worldly people are under the dominion of the devil, subjects of his kingdom. The spirit of this world and the spirit of God exclude each other; where one is enthroned, the other can not be.

How does the spirit of the world manifest itself? John says: "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." (1 John 2:15-17).

This plainly sets forth the spirit of the world. Conformity to this spirit means to crave for worldly pleasure, to desire to enjoy the world; to crave for property, or to desire to possess this world; to crave for glory, or to desire to be honored by this world—these are the chief manifestations of the spirit of the world: viz, to have pleasure, to have property, to have fame.

The manifestations of the spirit of the world all have one end—the glorification of man. This spirit of the world makes man himself the central point of the world; all creation, so far as he can control it, is to serve him. This man seeks his life in the visible and in the present time. Man himself becomes the end, center, and whole of everything. He seeks his own life, his own blessings, his own pleasure and prosperity. Let others do the same, he says. And they do; and so the world has clashes—strifes, wars, and constant trouble. The spirit of Christ is to live, not for self and not for the visible, but for God and for the eternal and invisible.

One can easily know for himself as to whether he is moved by the Spirit of God or by the spirit of the world. Whenever we care for the earthly, for what we shall eat, drink, or wear, for what we possess or hope to possess, for what we can have brought forth and made to increase, when these are the chief concern of our lives, then we are moved by the worldly spirit; we are conformed to the world.

When one looks at the average Christian professor he is forced to say that most of them are moved by a worldly spirit. If the young convert does not make for his aim in life a higher mark than the average Christian, he might as well not have started.

Worldly pleasure is perhaps the most deadly foe of young people lately converted. Youth's natural exuberance of spirit calls for something as a diversion. The worldly spirit has made thousands of inventions which cater to this spirit of youth. And many inventions are used to gratify the intense craving for excitement that exists in most young people. The spirit of this world invented the modern dance, with

its intermingling of sexes, it invented the theatre, the card games, and many others.

Young convert, you will not find Christ in these places of amusement. Be not conformed to this world. There are plenty of ways, innocent ways, in which you can find wholesome amusement. It is entirely right to play most of the common games, the only ones you need to avoid being those of questionable nature. Social affairs if wholesome and free from foolishness, are in keeping with Christ's standard.

As you love your soul, beware of this world; for it has slain its thousands and its ten thousands. Jesus said: "What shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Paul mournfully said, "Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world." The Demas' are yet with us, and the Judas', and those others who are ensnared by the spirit of the world.

In one of the most wonderful parables Jesus gave, we find that the coming in of the world choked out the good seed and it brought forth no fruit. "The care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful." Pray that this be not your fate.

—R. L. Berry

(Taken from *Steps Heavenward*)

Do We Trust God?

Trusting in God is being neglected in these modern days, even in the lives of many of God's children. Every human being has a need to trust in someone or something. The world puts their trust in the arm of flesh. Jeremiah 17:5 tells us, "Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord." If we as His children do not trust God for our physical healing, we are then already departing from the Lord. He said in Exodus 15:26, "...for I am the Lord that healeth thee."

In John 14:15, Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." When Christ died on the cross, He bore those stripes for the healing of our bodies. We find in Isaiah's prophecy of Christ, "...and with his stripes we are healed." Isa. 53:5. Notice that the prophet said **are** healed. This is a sure promise that there would be healing. Then, we read in I Peter 2:24 "...by whose stripes ye were healed." Peter brings out that we were healed, on the cross, by His stripes. May the Lord help us.

Jesus took great interest in us; He was concerned about our physical bodies so much that He suffered those stripes on the cross. The plan of salvation is complete for both soul and body. If we ignore the part of the plan for the healing of our bodies, how can we believe to have the part of healing for our souls? Jesus wants us to have our joy fulfilled. In John 16:24, Jesus said, "...ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."

Well, we need faith, don't we? In Galations 5:6, it tells us that faith worketh by love. Let's not forget that Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15. The more we seek to love God and please Him, the more faith we will have. Faith is the result of love. In Matt. 22:37, we are told by Jesus, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." We are

to give our all and our supreme love to Him. We can only do this in keeping His Word.

We find in I Cor. 6:20, "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." It cost Christ great suffering on the cross to pay the price. Should we not give to Him our all when He gave His all? God requires it of us in exchange of what He has done for us. His grace was sufficient for Paul, and it is sufficient for anyone who putteth his trust wholly in Him. Many have had wonderful experiences because they trusted in God alone, and many have died trusting Him. We have victory either way—live or die. God has not changed. We find in Isa. 59:1, "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear." Also Hebr. 13:8, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

Of course, we must remember that in most cases some affliction will take us out of this world at some time or another, but until then, healing is ours. It may be that we are being tried for awhile sometimes, or it may be that the Lord wants to teach us a lesson that we need; and it may be that in some cases He gets more glory in one being afflicted. Here we must be willing to let the Lord have His way and will, and trust Him that His way is best. We must trust Him for life or death.

Pray for me. I'm still in the furnace of affliction. I want God to have His way with me—just whatever way He can get the most glory.

Your sister in Christ, —Betty Friesen

[Sis. Betty was released from her afflicted body on April 29. This article was written just a few weeks prior to her passing. She trusted God faithfully to the end.]

The Visibility of the New Testament Church

Men who are blinded to the truth and can see nothing but human churches or sects, generally state that the Church of God is invisible and that therefore it was necessary to have sectarian organizations in order to make it visible before the world. But the superficial character of this argument is easily seen by all of the spiritually-minded. Where was the Church of God during the early centuries before the rise of human ecclesiasticism? Paul said, "I persecuted the Church of God, and wasted it." (Gal. 1:13). Was he chasing a ghost or a shadow, or was there a real, living, visible Church of God that he was opposing? The answer is clear to all. He addressed his Corinthian Epistles, "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth," and he asked them, "Despise ye the church of God?" (1 Cor. 1:2; 11:22; 2 Cor. 1:1). Many times this expression concerning the Church is used in the New Testament, but it is never used of an invisible something up in the air, but is *in every case* applied to the visible body of worshipers on the earth. Still salvation itself is clearly shown to be the mode of induction into the body of Christ, the Church; and salvation, we know, is in its nature invisible, though not invisible in its effects upon men.

Now, the harmony between these two apparently discordant facts is found in the one fact that in the apostolic Church the spiritual body of true believers in Christ and the collective body of worshipers were

identical. "And the same day there were *added unto them* about three thousand souls . . . and the Lord *added to the church* daily such as should be saved." (Acts 2:41-47). "And of the rest durst no [unsaved] man *join himself* to them. . . . And believers were the more *added to the Lord*, multitudes both of men and women." (Acts 5:13, 14). There was no difference between being added to the Lord and being added to the apostles and disciples; for the same act of receiving salvation did both.

Now, when this identity between the body of Christ and the body of worshipers existed, the apostles did not need to write and preach about a spiritual, invisible something as the Church of God, but could point to the congregation of worshipers as the Church of God and call it the Church of God. This they did, as we have shown.

This identity was manifested to the world in organic form as the *normal Church*. It was obtained and maintained in those days by the following means: 1. All the truly saved were naturally members of the body of worshipers. 2. The spirit of holy power, discernment, and judgment which filled the Church, purged out all hypocrites, thus keeping the congregation clean and pure. When Ananias and Sapphira hypocritically sought to deceive, the Spirit of God revealed their condition, and even laid special judgment upon them, with the result that "of the rest durst no man join himself to them." (Acts 5:1-13). At that time "sinners could not stand in the congregation of the righteous" as God's people. Later, when the apostasy set in and men through unfaithfulness lost their spiritual discernment, judgment, and holy power, the congregation became mixtures of saints and sinners, as was the case with the seven congregations in Asia Minor, mentioned in the opening chapters of the Revelation. But God was highly displeased with this state of affairs, which shows that it was an abnormal condition; therefore He reproved them sharply, and the Church at Laodicea He said, "I will spue thee out of my mouth." (Rev. 3:16).

From the foregoing facts we adduce these conclusions: 1. That a congregation of the Church of God is one in which the Spirit of God has the ascendancy; one in which sin is rebuked and exposed, so that a clear line of distinction is drawn "between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God, and him that serveth him not." (Mal. 3:18). 2. That whenever the Holy Spirit is no longer allowed the leadership, and good and bad mingle together undistinguished, such a congregation is rejected by Christ and therefore ceases to be a congregation of God, regardless of its name and profession.

Following the pure apostolic period of the Church such wholesale apostasy took place that the Church of God in its *organic form* no longer existed in any prominence on the earth, its few spiritual members being scattered among the human institutions called churches. This condition has led to the ridiculous assertion made by certain sectarian divinities (?), that the visible Church of Christ is filled with the precious and the vile. This may be very true of human sects, but they do not constitute the visible Church of Christ.

—F. G. Smith

(Taken from *What the Bible Teaches*)