

FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant

Unto Him shall the
gathering of the
people be.

God Is
LOVE

YE SHINE AS
LIGHTS IN
THE WORLD.

JESUS
SAVES

The night cometh,
when no man
can work.

Volume 73, No. 11

73rd Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

\$1.00 Per Year

Feb., 1996

FROM GREENLAND'S ICY MOUNTAINS

From Greenland's icy mountains,
From India's coral strand,
Where Africa's sunny fountains
Roll down their golden sand;
From many an ancient river,
From many a palmy plain,
They call us to deliver
Their land from error's chain.

What though the spicy breezes
Blow soft o'er Ceylon's isle,
Though every prospect pleases,
And only man is vile;
In vain with lavish kindness
The gifts of God are strown;
The heathen, in his blindness,
Bows down to wood and stone.

Shall we, whose souls are lighted
With wisdom from on high,
Shall we to men benighted
The lamp of life deny?
Salvation! O Salvation!
The joyful sound proclaim,
Till earth's remotest nation
Has learned Messiah's name.

Waft, waft, ye winds, His story,
And you, ye waters, roll,
Till, like a sea of glory,
It spreads from pole to pole;
Till o'er our ransomed nature,
The Lamb for sinners slain,
Redeemer, King, Creator,
Doth return His own to claim.
—Selected

WHY SHOULD YOU CONSIDER THE MISSION FIELD?

By Bro. Joe Fine

Some time ago I read a tract which was aimed at young people who were considering the option of missions as a means of Christian service. The writer was a man who had an overwhelming burden, who traveled extensively, and finally died in the service of the Lord. I feel that it would be valuable to consider these thoughts and pray about your involvement in the Great Commission. (Matthew 28:19-20.)

First of all, let us consider the question, "What is a missionary?" I will use the following definition: A missionary is an individual who is completely submitted to the Lord Jesus Christ and willing to go anywhere, do anything and suffer anything for Him. Being a missionary is the privilege of every believer. A missionary is involved in taking the Gospel to where it has never been before. This can be across the sea or across the street. Finally, a missionary seeks to please and glorify God by delivering the whole world into His hands and under His rule (See Psalm 2:8.)

Now we turn to the question: Why should I go? There are many reasons why you should go out. Let us investigate some of them.

First, **because Jesus told you to go.** See Mark 16:15. In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus addressed His disciples, which we are if we love Him. Every believer is Jesus' disciple, and subject to His command, "Go." In the original, the words translate, "As you go, make disciples...." It is the duty of each believer to follow Jesus' command and seek to be involved in making disciples for Him.

You should go **because the need is so great**. In Matthew 9:37-38, Jesus said that the harvest was plenteous but the laborers were few. The supply of workers has always been low. Do you realize that there are more people alive today than have ever lived in human history? That's hard to believe, but nevertheless true. The world population is over 4 billion souls, and around 3 billion have never heard the message of salvation. The need is truly great!

You should go **because so few Christians answer the missionary call**, making the need even greater. Romans 10:14 states, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? *and how shall they hear without a preacher?*" Certainly there are exceptions, as in the case of Samuel Morris, but the rule is clear: without a preacher the heathen will not have the opportunity of hearing of the joy of sins forgiven and deliverance from the wicked one.

Every second one or two people die. That means that over 80,000 die each day! What will you do to see that some of them will have the opportunity to know our Lord?

You should go **because God gives special grace and anointing** to those who leave their own land, people and culture to do God's will and spread the Gospel. In Genesis 12:1-3, we read of Abraham's call to serve God. As we read on, we find that he was blessed *after* he left Haran and settled in the land of promise. Scripture is full of the stories of those whom God blessed in strange lands: Joseph, Daniel, Jonah, etc. The Apostle Paul was burdened for his fellow Jews, yet God sent him to the Gentiles. (Acts 22:21.) As a result, multitudes were saved. Remember Matthew 13:57. A prophet is honored *outside* his home town.

You should go **because America is drenched with religious information, while most other countries have no continual or relevant witness**. Paul was determined "...to preach the gospel, *not where Christ was named...*" (Romans 15:20.) In America there are radios, billboards, bumper stickers, books, over 250 magazines and various media, all with more or less Christian themes. In China, there are times when a visiting missionary or Christian worker

has given a Bible to a local believer, with the result that the believer is overwhelmed with joy. You see, in times past there were no Bibles available, and all that they had were handwritten Scripture portions carefully done from dictation from Christian short wave broadcasts. Many of these sheets circulated among them for years before they could get Bibles. The practice continues in that darkened place.

You should go, because, as a famous missionary statesman once said, **"No one has the right to hear the Gospel twice while there remains someone who has not heard it once."** Jesus wants all the world to hear the Gospel. In Matthew 28:19, Jesus told His disciples to teach all nations. In the original, it should be translated, "make disciples of all peoples." The word translated "nations" means groups of people. We get our word "ethnic" from this word, and it means groups of people with their own

culture, language and thought forms. It does not mean a nation as a political unity, such as India or Zaire. Within each of these nations are many groups of people, each of which needs the Gospel proclaimed in a culturally relevant way. In India alone there are 1,652 languages spoken. Jesus wants each one of them to have a representative around His throne in glory. In the world there are about



12,000 distinct people groups, each with its own language and culture. The gospel has been translated into many of them, but there are thousands left to go. Will **you** be one whom the Lord uses to bring one of them to the light? Our problem in America is that we keep reaching the same people over and over again. We should be concentrating our efforts on attacking the enemy where he has his greatest strongholds, where Christ has not yet been named.

You should go **because time is short**. Jesus proclaimed that we must work while it is yet day. The night will arrive soon. (John 9:4.) More and more countries have either closed their doors to missions or have severely restricted missionary activities in their lands. India is a case in point. They will no longer accept missionaries into their country. Others will never allow missionaries in. During the Punic Wars, when ancient Rome was fighting the Carthaginians, one of the Roman Senators, due

to his hatred for Carthage, urged his fellow Senators to press the war on. He ended his speeches with the words "Seize the day!" This is the Lord's order to us: "Seize the day!"

You should go because, **unless someone goes, the end of the world cannot come.** I realize that I may be on dangerous ground here, but if you will look at Matthew 24:14, you will understand why I think this way. As Jesus was telling His disciples about the end times, He added, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations (people groups); **and then shall the end come.**" It seems clear from this that the Lord desires to have believers from all people groups (all 12,000 of them) before He comes again. So, in some sense, I am led to understand that to the extent that all the nations remain unevangelized, the Lord's return is delayed.

Sometimes I fancy that in that last day, some missionary will experience the ultimate joy: he will be the servant of God that leads the final people group to Jesus, and will hear the last trumpet sound, along with the "well done, thou good and faithful servant!" Will you do your part to help in this thrust into the enemy's strongholds? Perhaps you will be that final missionary.

Brethren, I have attempted with these few words to impress upon your minds and hearts the need, nay, the urgency of reaching out beyond our walls. Too long our focus has been inward. It is time to look to the regions beyond. It's time to seize the day. Pray about your involvement in this great enterprise. One writer was so burdened that he considered *everyone* called to the mission field. He urged people to pray about staying! What will you do?

Be Challenged

By Vesta Robertson

Several of the 1993 Monark, MO camp meeting messages really challenged my soul as to what God requires of us in spreading the Gospel. "The Good Samaritan" took on a deeper and richer meaning as we heard Brother Mathunni, from India, deliver a message on the "Three Different Philosophies of Life."

The first philosophy is the one of the robbers. "What is yours is mine." It is a cruel selfishness, which is dangerous. The man left Jerusalem, the City of Peace, to go to Jericho, a place of priests and Levites.

The second philosophy is the philosophy of the priests and Levites: "What is mine is mine." It is a harmless selfishness which says, "You are engaged in a spiritual war, but I'm minding my own business." The question we have is "Is this harmless selfishness punishable by God?" (Matthew 22:37-39.)

The third philosophy was the one the Samaritan possessed: **Sharing.** "What is mine is ours." Faith without action is dead. The just shall live by faith. Love without sacrifice is no love at all.

My Heart Shall Rejoice In Thy Salvation

By

Sis. Fern Stubblefield

"But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation." Psalm 13:5. This verse came to my mind as I prepared to eat breakfast. Physically, I wasn't feeling well, and didn't have any appetite for food. After giving thanks for the food, this verse had come to my remembrance and brought joy to my heart. I had trusted in God's mercy, and I knew my sins were all under Jesus' blood. I didn't have to feel well to rejoice in His great salvation.

Then turning to the song on page 64 in *Evening Light Songs* my soul began to sing with joy.

"Salvation is the sweetest thing
That mortal ever found;
My soul can never cease to sing,
Such love and peace abound."

"Jesus, our Friend and Redeemer!
Jesus, our wonderful light!
Saved by thy grace, we're forever
Singing the blood that makes us white."

The dear Lord was feeding my soul as I was partaking of natural food.

Verses 3 through 5 say,

(Continued on page 13.)

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 camp meetings), by Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, OK 73044 (USPS184-660).

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, OK)

Notice to subscribers: Whenever you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your zip code number. The post office now charges 35¢ to notify us of each change of address.

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 18th of the month prior to the month of issue.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES



Single copy, one year	\$1.00
Package of 4 papers to one address, one year	\$3.00
Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.	

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 that Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including divine healing for 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. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way as the Bible and the Holy Spirit teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Ex. 25:2; I Chron. 29:9; II 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. All donations are tax deductible.

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

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

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EDITORIALS

It is with gladness of heart that we speak to our readers through another *Faith and Victory*. God has certainly been good to us and this work. This is not to say there have been no obstacles in going forward for Him, but He has always been there to lend His loving hand and help us through the darkness.

Valuable lessons are learned through each trial we endure. We can gather wisdom from the experiences of others as well, and it is good to do so, for God may allow us to endure problems in which we will have to call upon everything we have benefited from in the past.

Sometimes we wonder as Job of old, "Why, seeing times are not hidden from the Almighty, do they that know him not see his days?" Job 24:1. To put it into modern terminology, Job was saying, "If God is such a friend to man, and able to see the future, why doesn't He cue us in, and let us know what is going on?"

Well, God has a reason for withholding information. We are limited by the flesh and unable to comprehend His level of operation. The apostle Paul likened it unto seeing through a glass, darkly. (I Cor. 13:12.) It would be like attending a class in which so much information was given that you couldn't absorb it all. If you were to go away and try to explain what you learned, you would only be able to offer bits and pieces, and possibly change the whole meaning of what had actually been taught. If God were to privilege us with the overwhelming knowledge of how a particular circumstance affected every life it touched, the thoughts and reactions of each person involved, and the ripple effect it produced, we would probably come away with only bits and pieces of the entire picture, and probably a distorted portion at that.

Understanding only part of a situation can certainly change the perception of the facts. It is like the story of a soldier who received a telegram from his wife which said, "Darling, hurry up and come home, for I am dying." The soldier was shocked. Finally he got leave and went home, only to find his wife well. "What about the telegram?" he inquired.

"Oh, I meant to say, 'I am dying to see you,' but they would not let me send but ten words."

I read once about a young man who went on vacation with some friends. Within a short time he spent all the funds given him for the trip, so he wrote home for more. His father, thinking he

should teach his son the value of money, did not respond to the request. The young man's companions wondered why his request for more money had been turned down, and suggested several reasons.

The young man told them, "I'll wait until I get home, and he will tell me himself."

That is a good confidence to hold in God, also. Rather than trying to figure out the whys of those things that confront us, we should get as much good out of them as we can, and then let it rest. God shouldn't really need to explain the reasons for His dealings with us. We need patience to wait for the final answer. Someday He will unveil His matchless wisdom to us. When we awake in glory, we shall be fully satisfied.

An encouraging thought was expressed by one who penned, "Though now we may not trace God's hand, we can always trust His heart."

On January 18, Bro. Bob Sallee, a worker here at the Print Shop, received word of the passing of his father, Bro. Ted Sallee. Bro. Bob and his family traveled to Ohio to be with the family and attend the funeral, which was held on January 23. Our sympathy is extended to each of the family, especially Bro. Ted's wife, Sis. Donna Sallee. I know they would appreciate your prayers.

A traumatic auto accident occurred on January 21 as Bro. Joe Fine's wife, Sis. Judy, and those who were with her on their way to attend services at the Crutch Creek Church of God in Oklahoma City, were rear-ended by another vehicle.

Sis. Judy's daughter, Anna, who is nine years old, and Ladonna Shaffer, Bro. Carl and Sis. Rebecca Shaffer's seven-year-old daughter, were severely injured and hospitalized. Both girls received serious head wounds, but by the mercy of God it appears there will be no permanent damage.

Bro. Carl and Sis. Rebecca Shaffer's older daughter, Cynthia, who was also in the car, and Sis. Judy Fine, were spared serious injuries.

If you would like to send cards to Anna, or correspond with Bro. Joe and Sis. Judy, their address is: 9617 Kent Drive, Midwest City, OK 73130. Cards and correspondence to Ladonna and her parents, Bro. Carl and Sis. Rebecca, can be addressed to: P. O. Box 5366, Edmond, OK 73083.

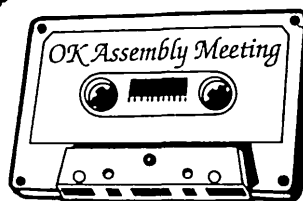
We would remind our readers that we plan to print a listing of the Camp Meeting dates for this summer in next month's *Faith and Victory*. If you wish to be included on this list, write, call or fax the dates to us before February 20. Our address and phone numbers are printed at the bottom of the first column on page four.

We still have a supply of 1996 wall calendars. They are available for \$3.00 each. This includes postage and handling. The calendars measure 7 1/4" X 13 1/2", and feature a colorful nature scene with a Bible verse for every month.

Several of the books we sell are still out of stock, but we have made progress in catching up on this work. To do so requires a lot of supplies, and therefore we have placed another order for 5,000 pounds of paper at a cost of \$3500.00. Naturally, an expense like this depletes our operating fund, and we must again look to the Lord to supply what is needed.

I was quite surprised when a group of people gathered here at the shop on January 3. That day marked my 40th birthday and I received many nice cards and kindnesses. I want to thank everyone who helped make that day such a pleasant one. God has been good to me over these years, and I feel greatly indebted to Him and to the saints.

—Wayne Murphey



We now have available tapes of the services from the 1995 Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting in Guthrie, OK. If interested, please direct all correspondence to: **Mike Woodruff, 916 W. Mansur, Guthrie, OK 73044.**

**BOOK
AVAIL-
ABLE**

Joshua said, "...As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15. That was very excellent of Joshua, but he didn't live in modern America. Joshua had legal privileges over women and children that we don't have in

these times. Nevertheless, we still find ourselves faced with the necessity for rules in our homes. And as Christians, the New Testament binds each one to rule his own house well. (I Timothy 3:4.)

The Rules Of My House is a new booklet by Burbidge R. Copeland. This brief compilation was not intended originally to be a compository for publishing, but was begun in an effort to fill an official request for rules of my place of abode.

From the very first I thought the task too complicated, and it turned out I was right. However, I discovered that the work has already been done. I didn't have to make out a long, boresome list of do's and don'ts. There they are—have been for ages—written in inspiring, beautiful language in the Holy Bible!

If someone would like a copy of this brief compilation, *The Rules Of My House*, I will send a copy to anyone who asks. They are not for sale. If you care to send a donation to cover cost of postage and preparation, it would be appreciated, but I want you to have a copy so much I will send it without cost to as many as I can financially afford.

You don't have to write a note, just your name and address, and say send it. Thanks.

—Burbidge Copeland, PO Box 1345, Sandusky, OH 44870.



PACOIMA, CA ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT

We are grateful to the Lord for blessing us with another Assembly Meeting. We thank Him for the laborers He sent to bring the rich Word of God under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, which was directed toward the building up of the saints.

We were exhorted to "Know God For Ourselves," "To Become A Vessel Of Honor," "Go From Grace To Grace," "Know The Voice Of The Shepherd," "Be Fruitful In The Land Of Our Affliction," "Bind The Strong Man," along with other messages of encouragement.

Those present left encouraged and with a determination to seek for higher ground.

—Bro. Edward V. Davenport

BAKERSFIELD, CA REVIVAL

Greetings from the saints here in Bakersfield, CA. As usual, we are praying, fasting, planning and expecting the Lord to pour out His spirit heavily upon us here again in our annual revival. The dates are February 14-18. There will be nightly services at 7:00. If there are enough people present there will also be a midday service. On Saturday there will also be a 10:30 a.m. service. On Sunday there will be Sunday School, morning service and the afternoon service will conclude the meeting.

We are urging everyone of you to please join us in begging the Lord to pay us a special visit and to send gospel workers of His choosing, so that everyone will be richly blessed; souls will be saved and set free from the slavery of sin, believers sanctified and saints will be edified, encouraged and more totally committed to the cause of Christ.

The church is located at 1802 Virginia Avenue. For more information contact Bro. Archie Sherman, (805) 871-1636. The church phone is (805) 395-9314.

ENTERPRISE, AL SINGING

The Church of God in the Enterprise Community, near Warrior, AL, is planning a singing for March 9, 1996, at 7:00 p.m., with dinner on the ground and special services on Sunday. The chapel is located two miles west of Interstate 65, just off of Empire road. (Exit #289.)

Everyone is welcome. For further information about Saturday's activities, and about accommodations, please call Bro. Roy Herron, (205) 647-7869, or Bro. Marshall Whitson, (205) 647-6325.

WICHITA, KS MEETING NOTICE

The Wichita, KS 1996 Spring Meeting has been set for April 19-28. We need God's leading and help for every part of the meeting. We need salvation for sinners, sanctification for believers and healing for the sick. Please pray with us for a profitable meeting with the Holy Spirit as leader. We will have three services on both Sundays. Starting on Monday, the 22nd, we will have 11:00 day services, plus the 7:30 nightly services.

The chapel address is 1701 North Ash, and the phone number is (316) 267-9582. For further information you may contact Bro. Emmanuel Gracey at (316) 778-1848.

—Submitted by Sis. Shirley Knight



AL—Dear Brother Wayne: I look forward so much to my Faith and Victory every month. May God bless you.

I love my Lord more than anything and could never afford to miss heaven now. I hope you are able to read this as I have been very sick.

Yours in Christ, —Imogene Johnson



OK—Dear Brother Wayne: I would like to provide my testimony as to what the Lord has done for me, and to give the Lord the glory. I am thankful that our Lord is the same today as He has always been.

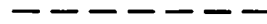
As many know, I have been having severe stomach problems for some time. The Lord would come to my rescue and give me relief. However, I would have continued reoccurrences.

A short time back, my wife and I were shopping at SAM'S wholesale store in Oklahoma City. We were looking at books and noticed a book on herbs. We opened this book up and it had an article on ulcers. Before I was saved I had a severe ulcer, and the doctor prescribed for me a medication called Zantac. This article stated that a certain herb had been proven to be more effective than Zantac. Friday, January 19, I was in Shawnee, and I bought some of this herb at a health store. Friday evening, before eating, I ate some of the herb. About 2:00 a.m. Saturday morning, I had a tremendous pain in my stomach. It was like a knife had been thrust into my stomach. The pain was almost unbearable. My wife immediately had prayer for me and the Lord gave me some relief. However, the pain just kept coming

back. Later, my wife called others and I would get some relief. I certainly appreciate the earnest prayers of the saints. Knowing that their thoughts, concerns and prayers were going forth to the throne of God was a tremendous comfort.

The pain was so severe, I told my wife I felt the Lord would either heal me or take me. I continued to have intense suffering until early afternoon at which time the pain left me immediately. Thank the Lord! The Lord impressed upon me that He is my help. I don't have any pain nor any soreness where the pain originated. I surely do thank the Lord for His goodness and mercy.

With Christian love, —Bro. Don Butler



LA—Dear Bro. Wayne: New Year's Greetings to you and yours, and all the workers. May God grant you a happy and prosperous year of 1996. We have much to thank and praise the Lord for this morning. He has so richly blessed us in soul and body.

God has so wonderfully blessed my husband from time to time, in answer to prayer, for which we praise Him. He is still giving me physical strength to care for him. We do thank each one for their prayers, knowing that is what keeps us going.

May you all be blessed in the work you are doing. —Sis. Lula and Bro. Max Williamson



TN—Dear Bro. Murphey: Greetings and best wishes to all of you in the Print Shop. May the Lord lead, guide and direct you in leading new ones to Jesus, and in your continued efforts to encourage and strengthen those that are already saved, sanctified and on their way to heaven. I thank the Lord for salvation which makes us a part of the body of Christ, the beautiful Church of God.

May the good Lord help each of you in His will and way. Your brother in Christ,

—Charles B. Williams



Croatia—Dear friends: Thank you for your letter, and for the literature which you sent to me. We are hungry for Biblical truth and the Apostolic teaching. We are one family, and in our area we do not have a Bible-church, so we have our family prayer meeting. Bible-believing Christians have many problems in our country, but I thank God for His help.

Please pray for us that we can be a light among the people where we live....

Grace be with you, —Dragutin Huis

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MI—Dear Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary and all you dear workers in the Lord: Greetings in the dear and sweet name of Jesus, our Lord and Master. I pray all is going well with all of you.

I praise God for letting us live to see the new year, and pray it will be a very good year for all of us.

Thank you for you prayers, and the wonderful *Faith and Victory* paper, with all of its blessings. May God touch each and everyone of the dear saints who request prayer for the healing of their bodies. Praise God, I know He is a great God who can heal, for He has healed me many times in my life.

I am so glad God saved my soul. The Lord will soon be coming. Before we know it, we will hear, "Well done" or "I know you not." May we all be ready when He comes.

My love and prayers, —Sis. Olive Getterson

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IL—Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ to all you faithful workers there at the Print Shop.

God has brought us through another year. Thanks to the *Faith and Victory* paper, I have kept inspired and encouraged to go on. May continued blessings rest upon the Print Shop. There are a lot of prayers that go up daily for you workers, and for all the good you are doing for the Lord.

I am a senior citizen, plus I am handicapped. I need your prayers at all times.

Have a wonderful, blessed year.

In Christian love, —Bernice Sivels

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NC—Dear Brother Wayne and staff: Thank you for your prayers. The *Faith and Victory* is an excellent way to keep abreast of all the wonderful ways God blesses and uses His people. I get my joy when I read the testimonies and thanks given by the readers, when God has touched their lives.

I wouldn't want to live without Him!

Bless you all, —Sister Angela Taylor

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CA—Dear Bro. Wayne and workers: Greetings to all in Jesus' dear name. I thank the lord for the *Faith and Victory* we receive each month. The scripture, "The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it,"

Psalm 68:11, is being fulfilled as you send out the paper.

The Lord is so very good to His children. We give praise and gratitude for all He does.

—Bro. Edward V. Davenport

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CA—Dear saints: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I am so thankful to see this new year of 1996. 1995 was a challenge to me. I had many trials, but God brought me through them all. Bless His holy name.

God made it possible for me to go to the minister's meeting in Guthrie, OK last year. It really helped me. I had some serious burdens when I went, but glory to God, He sent just the help I needed. I came home praising God for lifting that burden. The trial still existed, but God took away the heavy load. I was also blessed to go to the Monark, MO meeting. It too was a blessing to my soul.

These are perilous times, when trouble is all over the land. Many young people are dying. I went to several funerals last year, and all the people were under fifty years old. Young people, if you are not saved, don't put it off. Get right with God now. There is a lot of trouble in life you will miss if you do.

I want to thank the Lord for instant healing. One week before I was to leave for the Pacoima, CA Assembly Meeting, I came down with a severe case of the flu. I was so sick I thought I wouldn't get to go this year. On Sunday morning I told the Lord, "I am getting up in Your name and going to church." I was sitting in Sunday School and realized I didn't feel sick anymore. I said, "Thank you, Lord." I was completely well. I stepped out on faith and God did the rest. Two days later I was in the Pacoima meeting. God surely met us there.

Pray for me that I will be more faithful.

—Sis. Naomi Jennings

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NE—Dear saints of the Lord: May the blessings of our Lord be with you and your families. I would like to express how much I appreciate the *Faith and Victory* paper. I find it is a great lift. The *Faith and Victory* paper, and your other publications have aided me a great deal, especially lately. I am the pastor of a Church of God congregation in Fairbury, Nebraska. We have people who have come out of different denominations, and just a few who were brought up in the teachings of the Church of God. So I have a training ministry here, and it is a great benefit

to have a good source of Church of God materials. For this I would like to thank you and encourage you in your printing ministry.

I would also like to have you and your readers to be praying for us and our congregation, as we attempt to lead others into the pure light of Jesus Christ. I would also like you to be praying for my cousin, Kim. She has turned her back on the Church. It grieves me to see someone embrace lies and walk away from the truth. I pray to our blessed Lord that she will return to the truth.

Thank you for your prayers on these matters. I hope God reaches down and gives you a blessing beyond any you have had before. May the blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always and may you always keep the faith of the Lord.

Your servant in Christ,

—Bro. Stanley R. Farrar II

KS—Dear Bro. Wayne and fellow workers: I am praising God for having seen another year through with victory. As we begin another year, the future of it is a mystery. But we know who holds tomorrow, so we can just trust God to direct our pathway and our steps.

I am much encouraged, and have a strong determination to cling to the Savior, and love Him more, and obey our Father's commands.

May all of you be blessed of God in 1996.

Christian love, —Sis. Shirley Knight

CA—Dear Bro. Wayne and workers: I do hope that this new year finds you well and encouraged. I surely do enjoy the *Faith and Victory*. I usually read most of it at once.

This year of 1995 has surely slipped by very fast. I find the enemy of our souls working overtime. I surely need your prayers to cover me. Even when things seem to be going wrong, I find the Lord is always there when I need Him.

I have some very special unspoken requests. Also, please pray for my unsaved family, as I pray for your work there.

Love, —Sis. Doris Pihaylic

CA—Dear Bro. Murphey: Thank God for another year. I thank Him for blessing and keeping His people through 1995, and for all of you at the *Faith and Victory*.

I would personally like to thank my God for keeping me and teaching me the narrow way. I thank God for the scripture in II Corinthians

5:17. I want to encourage all the young wives who are separated, or maybe divorced, that God is able to do what He says. Read I Corinthians 7:10-11, 7:39.

Allow God to shape, train and teach you and me endurance and long-suffering for the cross.

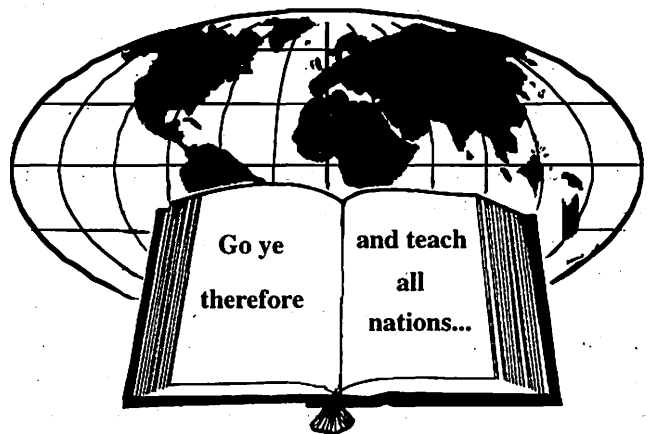
—Sis. Dorothy Gray

CA—Bro. Murphey and workers: Greetings to you at this time. I am thankful I can still report victory in my soul. I enjoy reading the *Faith and Victory* paper.

While riding to work about two or three weeks ago, a car pulled out in front of the bus I was riding. The driver had to step on the brakes quickly to avoid hitting the car. I thought about the song, "It's Been God Every Step Of The Way." At that instant it was God who came to the rescue.

Pray for me, that I will ever be faithful and do the things He has for me to do.

—Sis. Lillie Bramlett



(Editors note: The following is part of a letter received from Bro. Failos Namaozongo of Malawi, Central Africa. We have been corresponding with him for about five years, and feel it is time for the saints to be informed of the work that is there. Bro. Failos oversees 13 churches; six in Malawi and seven in Mozambique. He was standing independently until he received some information on the Church of God and wrote to us for more understanding. He has expressed quite a few times in his letters that the saints there are very anxious to see someone from the States.)

From Malawi...

First of all, we send greetings in the name of Jesus Christ. This letter is a report of the meetings which were held at Mozambique, beginning on December 3rd. The meeting was very

successful. The people accepted the Gospel and a total of 30 were baptized. Due to this meeting, I am encouraging all the Christians we are representing here....

Lastly, we send blessings to you and your family, also your staff. Pray for us.

Yours for Christ, —Failos Namaozongo

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From Johannesburg, South Africa...

November 2, 1995—Dear Bro. Murphey: Special greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. I received your letter with gladness of heart, for it is good to hear from brethren who have the same mind and vision of spreading the Word of life, and bringing hope to the hopeless.

I am a pastor that believes in holiness and spreading the Gospel to the unreached. I have traveled to nearly all African nations evangelizing. The Church is growing.

I was "born again" in 1985. Before that I was a criminal, an occultic. I did not like to hear about the Gospel. I hated the Christians, and I always mocked them. When I was at the university I was taught that Christianity is a mere fabricated story, but I thank God for friends who kept praying for me. The Lord started dealing with me, but I was stubborn. Eventually I heard a voice which said, "You are going to preach." I laughed and said, "Forget it. I will be a priest of Satanism, not Jesus Christ." In 1985, late in the night, the Lord met me and I surrendered and gave my life to Jesus.

The Lord has remained faithful. I have been in the ministry for ten years, and I have received much from the Lord. His mercy is new every morning. Praise be to Him who has given me victory....

I remain yours in His vineyard,

—Earnest Umanah

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From the Philippines...

January 9, 1996—Dear Brother and Sister Murphey: New Year greetings to you and your family, to the saints in the Lord's Print Shop and to all the saints of God abroad. We give all the praise, honor and glory to our Lord, because of His loving guidance, protection and blessings throughout the year of 1995. Without His loving care we wouldn't be able to have our lives and strength to reach this new year of 1996. Mostly, we thank God for our salvation.

We had our thanksgiving services on December 29-30, 1995. Saints from different places came to attend. It seems we felt the glory of

heaven because of the congregational singing, preaching and testimonies. There was individual and group singing. On the evening of December 29, we had the young people's fellowship. They had games and Bible drills. I am so happy to report to you that our young people are growing in number and in their spiritual lives. Most of them can preach very strengthening and inspiring messages. We baptized five young people on January 1, 1996.

On December 25, my wife and children came to visit me in Pulang Lupa. There was an epidemic of flu there. Almost all the houses were closed around us. Every family, from the father to the children, were sick and lying on the floor without food. My wife and children cooked food, put it in their baskets, and went from door to door giving away the food. We also prayed for them. They were so happy and thankful, with smiles on their faces in spite of their sickness and pain. They said they felt the love of God on Christmas.

May we say again, dear saints, in the U.S.A., thank you so very, very much for your unending love to us. May God bless you and guide you throughout the new year of 1996.

Your brother in Christ,

—Matias S. Tanguan

— — — — —

From Nigeria...

January 1, 1996—Dear Bro. W. Murphey: Greetings and best compliments of the New Year season to you and your co-workers there, in the most highly exalted name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are bound always to greatly and sincerely thank our God for sparing our lives up-to-date, so that we might continually be useful in His great harvest of saving sinners. Truly, the harvest remains great, but the true laborers are still comparatively few. We do pray as we are commanded to, for an increase in the numerical strength of the laborers.

Our revival program marking the last quarter of 1995 has been held successfully. It began on Saturday, December 16, and was concluded with our joyful keeping of the Lord's supper and feet washing ordinances on Sunday night, December 24. A boy named Omiete, believed and was baptized during the last revival. And he was among the ten of us that God sent to another town named Old Bakana, for three days and three nights of evangelistic activities. The paramount traditional ruler of Old Bakana joyfully received us and provided us accommodations

in a school building. The Gospel was preached there authoritatively by the Holy Ghost anointing. And a handful of Gospel literature you sent to us was shared to some literate members of the public. Although their response to the Gospel and our entreaty was poor, we believe the seed we have sown will germinate in due course and to the glory of God. We thank God immensely for having provided us the means in this hard time and armed us adequately with His armor for an out-of-station evangelism of that sort. One of the factors that has been hindering us from reaching out is finance.

For the first time in this year our all-day prayer and fasting will hold, Lord willing, on Friday of this week. It will be particularly for the general progress of God's work.

Our small Tombia community is experiencing a terrible disunity that has claimed precious lives and many houses and properties, the owners of which have fled for fear of being arrested by the police. Idolatry, which we have since been protesting against, is the sole cause of the whole complicated problem. How sad! We are still living in the town only because we are standing on the faithful promises of God. The disunity reached a sad climax in August of 1994, and since then theft has been on the increase. Please help pray for a speedy restoration of a lasting peace and communal reconciliation in Tombia. Thanks for your cooperation.

In conclusion, my long-conceived good intention to pay a visit to the U.S. during camp meetings, has been publicized in accordance with God's will. Therefore, I humbly request your prayers for the provision of the means for such a long and expensive trip. I thank you all for your usual cooperation.

The grace of the Lord Christ remain with you all forever. Amen.

Yours in the visible body of Jesus Christ,
—Bro. Onimite B. Alalibo

From India...

Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and saints: Happy and prosperous New Year greetings to all the dear saints in America. We are almost ready for our 31st General convention, which starts on January 10th, 1996. We would appreciate your prayers for its blessings. We will have a few local conventions before the General convention, and others after it. The dedication service of the new chapel at Kothamangalam, on December 1, was a blessed service with good attendance. Along

with the dedication service, we conducted three days of night meetings also.

As I mentioned in my last letter, the work at Kunnicode, the new field, is also progressing. We rented a building there for our work. Lord willing, we plan to conduct three days of night meetings there next week.

The expansion and extension of the Church to the east, west, north and south is my burden always. We have problems and oppositions from within and from outside. We need your prayers.

Yours in Him,

—John Varghese

Honduras Report

January 16, 1996—Greetings to all of you interested in the work of the Lord in Honduras, as well as other places where workers are needed. We trust this finds you well, encouraged and praying for the work of the Lord everywhere.

The Honduras Missionary Company, consisting of Bro. Lewis Kimble, Bro. Keith Fuller and Bro. Toney Samons, would like to update you on the work on the Island of Roatan, where Sis. Sanders, who is now deceased, began a work and we are still endeavoring to carry it on, with the help of the Lord.

Bro. Kimble and Bro. Fuller made a trip last fall, coming back with the realization that much teaching needs to be done with the saints there. Each of us feel that we cannot go on a full-time basis, but are trying to go as often as we can to supervise the young ministers and workers there. Bro. Toney and family try to go over each spring, and others as the Lord leads.

This spring, we feel burdened to go at intervals during the months of February and March to hold a series of teaching sessions and be able to stay for two to three weeks at a time to help stabilize and encourage the congregation there. Bro. Toney and family plan to go in February; Bro. and Sis. Fuller and some of their family, and Bro. and Sis. Kimble hope to go after that as the Lord leads. All of us are actively pastoring here and don't feel we can leave our respective congregations for long periods of time at the present.

Bro. Toney Hamilton, who is presently serving as the local minister there, is very young and looks to the brethren here for direction and support. We feel that we owe him and the dear ones who are faithfully attending the services there in Politily Bite, some devoted time and care at this point.

The project to sponsor children for contin-

ued education seems to have been successful and presently we are supporting eight students to go on to school. These children are from families known to us and worthy of our support. Thank you so much for your interest in this project.

It seems that every time we plan to go back to Honduras, the ticket price goes up. Presently, the ticket at the regular price is approximately \$550, which is quite expensive. The Lord has always supplied this need and we are grateful for your support to make this possible. In explanation of why we go as a family unit at times: this is very effective in teaching the people there. They observe from the way the family works together and also, the young people, and also the children, can reach out to the youth in a better way than adults, for the most part. The expense is extra for family members to go sometimes, but we feel it is good. We feel that teaching the family: father, mother and children, all their respective duties in the Church body, helps to establish a stronger congregation.

If you would be interested in helping in the Missionary effort in Honduras, you may send your contributions to: Church of God Honduras Missionary Fund, PO Box 73835, Metairie, LA 70033. We know the Lord will bless you for your concern for this need.

We try to give more of a quarterly report, rather than monthly letters in regard to this missionary effort. We trust this is sufficient for the interest of all of you. May the Lord bless you.

Yours in the work, Bro. Lewis Kimble, Bro. Keith Fuller and Bro. Toney Samons



Robert Chester Mays, son of Chester and Louisa Mays, was born July 29, 1923, in Bristow, OK. Like Paul of Old, he fought a good coura-

geous fight and peacefully finished his course on Monday afternoon, November 27, 1995.

His early childhood was spent around Bristow, where he attended Sunny Slope School, showing a great interest in agriculture by participating in Future Farmers of America. He continued his education, as an outstanding student at Lincoln High School, there in Bristow, graduating from there in 1942.

As an industrious young man Robert left Oklahoma and joined his mother and other family members here in Bakersfield, CA, later moving on to San Diego, CA, where he was employed at the United States Naval Training Station. Shortly afterwards he returned to Bakersfield where he was inducted into the United States Army in March, 1943. During World War II he served his country faithfully in several foreign missions. It was during this time that Robert prayed and made a solemn promise to God, "that if God would bring him safely back home he would serve Him." He was honorably discharged from the United States Army in 1945.

Returning to Bakersfield, he continued his education at Bakersfield College, but his childhood agricultural dream had not been fulfilled so he became self-employed in custom alfalfa-hay trucking.

Later he wooed and won the heart of Maxine Square and they were married September 17, 1950.

Years later he was employed by A.F.C. Chemical Plant, but his heart lured him back to custom haying. He also worked for M and P Oil and Thomas Oil, retiring in the early 1980's.

Early in the 1950's Robert remembered the promise he had made to God on the battlefield in Belgium or Germany. He repented and gave his heart to the Lord, thereafter serving God and God's people faithfully, including his family, especially his many nieces and nephews, giving quality time to them, involving them in his enjoyable hobbies of gardening, his horses and hunting—all the while teaching and nurturing them in the ways of truth. Brother Mays served the church faithfully and dutifully as a deacon, Sunday School teacher, chairman of the local Board of Trustees and also secretary and later chairman of the Church of God California State Board of Trustees. He served as church Clerk during our first major building project, a tenor voice in the Evening Light Gospel Singers, and last but certainly not least, he was an ordained

minister serving as overseer of the local church, faithfully and patiently feeding the congregation by precept and example from the fall of 1978 until his health failed.

Preceding Brother Mays in death were his parents: Chester and Louisa, and four sisters: Beatrice Johnson, Lout Bracelet, Lilly Chandler and Idonia Harris.

Brother Mays leaves precious memories for a wife, Maxine Mays of Bakersfield; a son, Ronald; two brothers, Ulysses Norling of Bakersfield, Willie Louis Norling of San Francisco; one sister, Juanita Sheppard of Bakersfield; many nieces, nephews, cousins, saints and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Archie Sherman, assisted by Bros. Challough Randle and Eddie R. Johnson.

Bro. Mays will be sorely missed by the Bakersfield congregation.

Della Mae Mustin was born July 16th, to Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Bennett in Boley, OK, the youngest of eight children.

She was raised in Arbeka Community and attended school at St. James School. She met and married Morris Mustin, October 13, 1933. To this union six children were born: Bernice Thompson, Elsie Ward, Joyce Pitre, Lou Ella Pitre, Teria Mustin and Morris Mustin Jr. Her mother, father, husband, two daughters, son, two sisters and two brothers preceded her in death.

Della united with the Church of God in Boley, OK, at an early age and served faithfully until her death.

She departed this life Thursday, December 7, 1995.

Della was a loving wife, mother and friend. She leaves to cherish her memory, Elsie Ward, Joyce Pitre and Lou Ella Pitre, all of Oklahoma City, OK; twenty-one grandchildren, forty-nine great grandchildren and two sisters, Nicie Regan of Ikemah, OK, and Gustava Burris of Richmond, CA; a brother, James Q. Bennett, of Oklahoma City, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives and many friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Sis. Anna Mae Thompson, assisted by others, with interment being in the East Lawn Cemetery, Boley, OK.

Theodore "Ted" Roosevelt Sallee, of Wilmington, Ohio, son of John Bradley and Fannie Hanks Sallee, was born in Nada, Ken-

tucky, March 1, 1919. He went to be with the Lord on Thursday, January 18, 1996, at the age of 76 years, 10 months, 17 days.

On July 19, 1942 he was joined in holy matrimony to Donna Maria Stevenson of Circleville, Ohio. To this union four daughters and three sons were born.

Bro. Ted gave his heart to God at 23 years of age, and remained faithful to the Lord for the rest of his life.

He was a machinist by trade and retired in 1986 from Globe Tool & Engineering Co., after more than 23 years of service. Following retirement he was able to travel some, and enjoyed several trips to see loved ones and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, Eugene, and one sister, Ruth, as well as two daughters, Juanita Mae and Jane Kathleen. He leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife, Donna, of the home; two daughters, Nancy L. (Richard) Bethel of Springfield, Ohio, and Marjorie E. Sallee of Urbana, Illinois; Three sons, James H. (Ida) Sallee of Martinsville, Ohio, Robert S. (Irma) Sallee of Guthrie, Oklahoma, and Patrick W. (Jane) Sallee of Guthrie, Oklahoma, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Bro. Ted will long be remembered for his love for the Church of God and the songs of Zion. He was loved by all who knew him and will be greatly missed by family and friends.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ My Heart Shall Rejoice In Thy Salvation

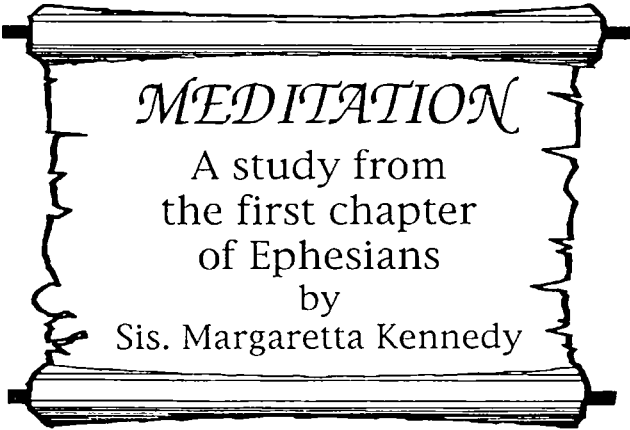
(Continued from page 3.)

Salvation flows from Father's heart,
 A stream of holy love;
 It covers me with glory bright,
 And wings my soul above.

"Salvation is a perfect plan;
 It heals the saddest one
 Who seeks the Father's boundless grace
 Thro' His beloved Son."

"Salvation! oh, that word so great!
 It thrills my heart with joy;
 To me it is a rich estate
 No foe can e'er destroy."

Breakfast was finished with joy, and my soul was fed and strengthened to face another new day.



MEDITATION

A study from
the first chapter
of Ephesians

by
Sis. Margaretta Kennedy

"Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him." Ephesians 1:9-10.

Paul writes here of "the mystery of His will." The New Testament uses the word "mystery" in a special sense. A mystery is not something mysterious in the sense that it is difficult to comprehend. It is something which has long been kept hidden, but has now been revealed. To Paul the mystery was that the Gospel was now opened to the Gentiles. Until Jesus came it seemed that the Jews were God's chosen people. Now God has revealed that His wondrous love and care, His mercy and grace, the good news of the Gospel, are not meant only for the Jews, but for **all** mankind.

In God's plan for the redemption of mankind, He predestined (chose) a people, which was the Jewish nation, through whom He would send a Saviour into the world. All through the different dispensations of time God was working toward the completion of His plan. When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son that through Him all might have the privilege of becoming children of God and of being included in God's family, the Church of God. (Galatians 4:4-5.) In this Gospel dispensation God is gathering together both Jews and Gentiles who believe in Christ into one flock. **All who are saved by faith in Jesus Christ**, without any distinction of nation, race, background or previous condition, are in the one family of God.

Jesus Christ came to this world and gave His life on Calvary's cross that He might redeem souls from sin and draw unto Himself **all** who accept Him as Saviour and Lord, whether they

be Jew or Gentile, these being united in one spiritual body in Christ. "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free, and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." 1 Corinthians 12:13.

"The Church has one foundation,
'Tis Jesus Christ the Lord;
She is his new creation,
Thro' water by the word.
From heaven he came and sought her
To be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her,
And for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation,—
One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food;
And to one hope she presses,
With ev'ry grace endued."

—Song number 4, *Evening Light Songs*.

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QUESTION AND ANSWER BY BRO. OSTIS B. WILSON Reprint

QUESTION: Please explain Matthew 15:11.

ANSWER: This verse reads thus: "Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man."

This response came at the end of Jesus' answering of a challenging question which was put to Him by the Pharisees. The question was this: "Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread." (Verse 2.)

I beg permission to transfer the discussion to the seventh chapter of Mark; the first 23 verses deal with the same thing but go into more detail. Verse 3 explains their custom of washing their hands, etc. It says, "....Except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders." Then, verse 4 explains this a little farther by saying, "And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not...." And verse 4 continues on to say that many other things they have received to hold as

washing of cups, pots, etc. In verse 5 they asked Him why His disciples didn't observe these traditions of the elders but ate with unwashed hands.

The words "when they come from the market" in verse 4 throws considerable light on this point. Involved in this was the fact that God had drawn a sharp line of separation between the Jews and the Gentiles for His own particular purposes and set the seal of circumcision upon the Jews to identify them as His special people and forbade them to have any intercommunications with the Gentiles, unless the Gentile would be circumcised and become as one of them. God's principle purpose in doing this was to have a pure stock that He could set apart unto Himself and establish His covenant with, and through them bring Christ into the world. He gave them certain things to observe in order to establish in them and through them, to the world, the idea of clean and unclean, pure and impure, right and wrong principles, etc. The whole system was principally ceremonial and had nothing in it to purge the conscience and purify the heart and affections from the polluting effects of sin. It required the blood of Jesus to do this, and until His sacrifice of Himself on Calvary, the standard of holiness maintained throughout the Old Testament period was a ceremonial, external system which could not make the comers thereunto perfect. Hebrews 7:19 says, "For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God." God pronounced unto the Jews certain things which were unclean—things which the Gentiles practiced—and commanded them not to do those things. But the Jews had carried these things clear beyond the bounds of what God had said, through the traditions of their elders. The traditions of the elders were oral, or verbal, additions to what God had commanded, which were written commandments, and they had become as binding upon the Jews as the written commandments of God. But God never recognized them. But the Jews had carried the idea of clean and unclean to such an extent that they considered the Gentiles unclean (physically), and when they returned from the marketplace they washed their hands and arms to the elbow to cleanse them from any contamination they might have received because of brushing against a Gentile.

Perhaps, physically, the Gentiles were as clean and well kept as the Jews, and such bigotry would be difficult for us to imagine, but that is the extent to which the traditions of the elders had carried it.

Mark 7:7-9 says, "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition." Then He proceeds to point out to them a particular commandment which Moses had commanded them from God which was a written commandment. Verse 10 points out a commandment Moses had given them which enjoined them to honor their parents. "Honor" in this text refers to assisting, maintaining, and supporting them. This meaning of the word honor here is confirmed by what He said in verse 11, that if the son should say to his parents that it was a gift—that is a consecrated gift to the temple—that he would be free from the obligation of helping his parents, and in verse 13 He said, "Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye."

Then, in verse 15 Jesus said that nothing entering into a man from without could defile him; but the things which come forth out of him are what defile him. This thought is again emphasized in verse 18. Verses 20-23 say, "...That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man."

The weight of Matthew 15:11 comes down on us when we look at the formal, external, outward, put-on type of religion that is prevalent in many lives in our day. It can be said in our day as Jesus said in His day, "...In vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matthew 15:9.) It is certainly true that God has a standard of dress and general behavior and moral conduct and uprightness for Christians to observe, and it is

all found written in His Word. But let us realize that it is possible to be misled by putting all of our emphasis on externals behind which and underneath which may be bad attitudes, unkind feelings, unforgiveness, pride, bigotry, and many other things which will keep people out of heaven.

In Matthew 23:23, Jesus told the scribes and Pharisees that they paid tithes, etc., but had overlooked the weightier matters of the law: judgment, mercy and faith. Then He concluded by saying, "...These ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone." Oh, my brethren, let us govern all phases of our life by this maxim and have our lives properly balanced between the doing and the being, and have a good relationship between our inward condition of heart and our outward appearance and conduct. God have mercy on us and help us to be all He is calling us to be, inside and out.



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OK—"Pray for Joanne Harrison who has kidney failure and difficulty breathing." —Ben Harrison

AL—Sis. Jeanette Mooney desires prayer for relief from pain caused by arthritis.

OK—"Please remember my sister and me in prayer."

—Juliette Lounds

WV—"Remember me in prayer. I have a breathing problem."

—Queen Luzader

MO—Sis. Mamie Butcher needs a touch to her body.

TN—"Please pray for my niece who has disconnecting tissue. Also remember me." —Helen Derrick

MO—"Pray for me. We aren't able to be in church."

—Mrs. Woodrow Talley

OR—Sis. Grace Jones has some special prayer requests she desires the saints to pray about.

*Among the nettles and the thorns
that grow along the rutted way,
We build a little wayside altar
everytime we pause to pray.*