

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>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.

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Guthrie, Oklahoma

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### To "His" Mother

"Mother-in-law" they say, and yet—  
Somehow I simply can't forget  
'Twas you who watched his baby ways,  
Who taught him his first hymn of praise,  
Who smiled on him with loving pride  
When first he toddled by your side;  
And as I think of this today,  
I think that I'd much rather say—Just Mother.



"Mother-in-law," but oh, 'twas you  
Who taught him to be kind and true;  
When he was tired, almost asleep,  
'Twas in your arms he used to creep;  
And when he hurt his tiny knee  
'Twas you who kissed it tenderly,  
When he was sad you cheered him, too,  
And so I'd rather speak of you—As Mother.



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"Mother-in-law," they say, and yet  
Somehow I never shall forget  
How very much I'll always owe  
To you who taught him how to grow.  
You trained your son to look above,  
You made of him the man I love,  
And so I think of that today,  
And then with thankful heart I say—Dear Mother.  
—Minnie Price

## Mother's Day—May 9

# The Purity of the Gospel of Christ

By Sis. Grace McMillan

I have been inspired of the Lord lately, thinking of the power of the purity of the gospel of Christ. Webster's Dictionary defines the gospel as: "the body of doctrine taught by Christ and the apostles." The dictionary goes on to say that the gospel is something that is "infallibly true."

The apostle Paul defines the gospel in Romans 1:16-17 thus: "... the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." He goes on to say, "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed."

Here is something to remember: the power of God is found in the purity of the gospel. The power of God isn't found in ideas, opinions or traditions. It isn't found in the world or in the flesh. It isn't found in education, ability or talents of men. It is found in the purity of the gospel of Christ. The definition of purity is freedom from all extraneous matter. Something that is pure is something that is genuine. It's spotless. It is free from anything that defiles or contaminates. It is innocent, spotless, chaste and clean. Only when we get into that state with the Lord can we expect to preach the purity of the fulness of the gospel, and have the power of the Holy Ghost to come upon us.

When the gospel of Christ is preached in the fulness of truth and under the anointing of the Holy Spirit of God, in its absolutely pure state, there you will find liberating power, there you will find the fire of Pentecost, there you will see the works following them that believe, there you will find unity of the faith and unity of the Spirit. There, too, you will find the judgments of God against all "ungodliness and unrighteousness." (Romans 1:18.)

If we look at Christ Himself as the gospel, the Word of God, the power of God, and observe His ministry, we will find only purity—only holiness. We will find His ministry unmixed with the world and with pride. We will even find it unmixed with opinion. Paul said in one or two places: "I speak this by permission," or "I speak as a man,"—but Jesus said, "the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are

life." The words that the Son of God spoke were spoken with power and authority and they ministered life and grace to the hearers. He didn't speak as a man; He spoke as God, and His words brought with them the power of the gospel, the saving grace of the gospel, the sanctifying power of the gospel, the humility of the gospel—the faith and unity and Spirit of Christ.

When we look at Christ, when we read His Word, we are looking at the very power of God. The gospel of Christ is pure, undefiled, undiluted and absolute. It is in its most refined state. It is "infallibly true." It is not just religion. It is not just ceremony. It is not just words, teachings or rituals. It is not even limited to a list of rules and regulations, of do's and don'ts. No, the Scripture defines the gospel of Christ as the very power of God to every one that believes.

If we accept the definition, then, let us realize that the gospel of Christ cannot be improved upon. It is "forever settled in heaven." It is eternal and complete. Any change, no matter how good the intent, no matter how sincere the desire, will damage the effectiveness of the unhindered power of the gospel. If we add to that gospel, or if we take away from it, we limit the power of God working in our lives to just that extent.

Opinions of men do not bring with them the power of God. Only the purity of the gospel of Christ brings that. The Church of God is founded on Christ Himself. He is the Chief Cornerstone. The Church of God is not founded on opinions or vain traditions of men to which Paul referred. She is clean and pure, spotless and holy. She is the only one of her mother and judgment begins at her house. She leaves no room for the flesh to excuse itself or carnality and vainglory that hinder the power of God working in her midst and in her pulpits. She swerves not to the left nor to the right through human reasoning, nor is she tainted in any way by the doctrines and spirit of Babylon. She is endued with the power that comes from on high and accompanies only the purity of the gospel of Christ.

**"The gospel of Christ is pure, undefiled, undiluted and absolute. It is in its most refined state."**

The very foundational belief of the Church of God as defined by the New Testament is the preaching of the purity of the gospel. I say again, the gospel of Christ cannot be improved upon. The glory of the early morning Church was indicative of the purity of the gospel. That is where we find the miracles. That is where we see the unity. That is where we hear the preaching of self-denial. That is where strong, death-defying Christianity triumphed. That is where you find the outreach. That is where you see those who love the Lord obeying His commandments. That is where you see "doers of the word, and not hearers only." Where the purity of the gospel is preached and written in the hearts and minds of the people, you will find the power and fire of Pentecost.

This is the rallying cry of the Church of God: the purity of the gospel of Christ. The body of doctrine taught by Christ and His apostles defines the tenets of belief we hold today. Man does not define them. Churches do not define them. Preachers do not define them. Bro. D. S. Warner did not define them. The Church of God, even, does not define them. They were defined hundreds of years ago by Christ Himself, the Chief Cornerstone of the foundation of the Church of God.

Salvation is defined by Christ. Sanctification and holiness, modesty and faith and unity, these are all defined by the purity of the gospel of Christ. When they are preached in their fulness, unmixed with the world, untainted by the limitations of men, there you will find the power of Christ. There you will find true Holy Spirit leadership. Let us keep it right there. Hew to the line and cut every cord. Keep to the gospel of Christ and His Word. Don't add to it and don't water it down.

These things are foundational. These are the ancient landmarks that should never be removed. They are defined by Christ Himself and His apostles. They are complete. We cannot add to those definitions and expect the power of the Lord to accompany it.

Oh, dear reader, if you would have this power of God working in your life, remove everything that would stand in the way of the purity of the gospel. I thought of the parable of the pearl of great price and that to obtain it, the

man had to sell everything he had. Just so is the requirement for the purity of the gospel. We must sell everything that is unlike Christ. We must give away everything that would hinder the gospel's powerful working in the Church of God. We must give away man's preconceptions and ideas and sell all that we have to obtain that pearl of great price.

Babylon has no part or lot within the Church of God. Pride has no part there. Competition, striving and vainglory will not bring with them the power of the Holy Ghost. Rules and regulations won't get the job done. Approval of men will never avail in the day of judgment. Holiness is not an option we can choose or discard. The truth of God's Word is unchanged through the generations. I don't define these

truths; the Bible does that, through the purity of the gospel.

These foundational Bible truths are not subject to human approval nor can they be changed by the creeds of men. "The truth," Martin Luther said, "is not open to negotiation." I cannot put my definitions in those places and expect the power of the Lord to adjust Himself to my ideas. I can't put my opinions and my traditions in place of the completeness of the power of God and expect the Holy Ghost to anoint those places. The power of the gospel is found in Christ's say-

ings, not mine. Christ's definitions are what we will be judged by, not mine. Christ's judgments show forth righteousness and godliness, not mine. Oh, brethren, it is Christ's abilities and power working in and through His vessels that show forth the glory of God, not ours.

Man's wisdom is prone to failure. Man's judgments are limited. Man's rule is fallible and erroneous and has no power of God within itself. Opinions differ. Traditions are replaced after a few years. But the purity of the gospel of Christ is truth. "I am the way, the truth and the life," Christ said. This is something we can build upon. It's something that will stand the judgment shock. Why? Because it is the very power of God.

Galatians 1:9-12 says these words: "As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye (Continued on page 14.)

*"Where the  
purity of the  
gospel is  
preached and  
written in the  
hearts and  
minds of the  
people, you will  
find the power  
and fire of  
Pentecost."*

## FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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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 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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Internet address: <http://www.theshop.net/faithpub>

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## EDITORIALS

*"And when she was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not: And let fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave them, that she may glean them, and rebuke her not." Ruth 2:15-16.*

When Ruth went to glean barley in the field of Boaz, she found entire handfuls left behind. How surprised and happy she must have been. It was not due to carelessness that such quantity was left. It was the design of Boaz that Ruth be able to provide a living for herself and her mother-in-law.

The Psalmist David rejoiced, "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over." Psa. 23:5. He knew the experience of having God bless him so abundantly that it seemed his heart could not contain all the joy.

Many people in the world today find little about which to be happy. There is confusion and sin on every side. But those with their eyes upon God do not have to feel this despair. With Him there is fulness of joy. (Psa. 16:11.)

It is God's will and design that we find in life that which will bring us contentment. There is not a need which He cannot satisfy, and the good things He sends our way are not just luck. He purposes to bring us joy.

Notice the settings for the blessings sent to both Ruth and David. Ruth found them in the hot fields of labor. David found them in the presence of his enemies. It is in the times and places which seem hard that often we will find the rich blessings which God has purposely left in our pathway.

"Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness." Psa. 65:11.



With thankfulness to God we report a profitable, safe and enjoyable trip to the Philippines. It was heartening to see again Bro. Tangunan, his family and the saints there.

My brother, Willie, his wife, Neta, Bro. Galen Kelly, and I, left the states on April 5, and after 38 hours of travel by plane and jeep we arrived safely in San Jose. Although it was hot and humid, work was soon begun on a tabernacle measuring 30' x 60'.

With the assistance of the Philippine brethren, metal poles were erected and wood rafters put in place. The Philippine workers who helped

us planned to attach the galvanized metal to the roof after our departure. Many plans have been made by the saints for the use of this structure in conducting worship services.

While in the Philippines we enjoyed attending services at Sibut, Caridad and Palestina. The ordinance of baptism was observed on the last Saturday of our stay. The saints welcomed us with open hearts, and we pray God to reward every effort which was made for our care and enjoyment.

Continual progress is being made on the new Print Shop building. The wood trim which Bro.

Arlan Campbell recently installed has made quite an improvement in the appearance of the front offices.

As of this writing, we have purchased and arranged for the installation of carpet. Also, electricians have been contracted to finish the work which will be required for us to qualify for an occupancy permit from the Guthrie city code inspector.

We thank each one whose contributions have been making these improvements possible. Please continue to pray with us for unhindered progress in the completion of this project.

—Wayne Murphey



**Bro. Matias Tanguan**



**Sis. Ruth Tan and son, Lemuel**



**Baptizing**



**Church building at Sibut**

## Gaze On The Face Of Christ

I read of a great artist who always kept a number of beautiful gems on his easel—sapphires, emeralds, rubies, etc. When asked the reason, he said that there was a danger of the color of his paints fading by usage, and the tints losing their brilliance. So, he kept his eye toned by constantly referring to these original colors that could not fade.

Oh brother, did you know that

there is danger of toning down by looking at the things that fade? We must keep our eyes on the things that never change. Let us gaze often into the face of Christ. Let the brilliance of the crucified, but everlasting Christ, tone our vision and intoxicate our whole heart and life. Let us never tone down, slow down—never allow the vision to grow dim.

—Selected

### Partial Listing of Books for Sale

**A Great Sacrifice** by Fred Pruitt. A 32-page book, bound in a heavy paper cover. \$1.00

**A Hive of Busy Bees** by Effie M. Williams. An excellent book for children. 118 pages, bound in a heavy paper cover. \$3.00

**A Sketch of My Life** by H. B. Hall, relates his experiences as a young man, his act of murder, his prison life, conversion, release, gift of healing, experiences as a caretaker of a senior citizens' home, and much more. It is an interesting story that all will enjoy. It contains 126 pages bound in a heavy paper cover and sells for \$3.00.

**Adam Clarke's One Volume Commentary of the Entire Bible** 1356 pages. Abridged from original six-volume work. Actual words of Adam Clarke have not been changed, except in a few instances where a word has been inserted in brackets to complete the sense when taken from the original. \$39.99

**Bible Chain of Truth** by A. Marie Miles. Bible doctrines made clear for youth. Paperbound, 168 pages. \$3.00

**Bible Humility** by J. W. Byers. 33 pages in a heavy paper cover. \$1.00

**Considering Marriage?** by Margaretta Kennedy. 12 pages. 50¢

**Cruden's Complete Concordance.** Revised edition, clothbound, 783 pages, over 200,000 references. \$18.99

**Egermeier's Bible Story Book** for children, illustrated with beautiful colored pictures. 576 pages. Cloth binding. Standard Edition. \$19.95

**Food for Lambs** by C. E. Orrin English. This book is excellent for all ages, especially for young Christians. 168 pages in a heavy paper cover. \$4.00

**From Darkness to Light**, 20-page booklet by Bro. Mart Samons. 50¢

**Gospel Anthems**, 100 choice hymns in shaped notes, selected from *Evening Light Songs*, in a heavy paper cover. \$2.50

**Instruction of Youth in the Christian Life**, by C. E. Orr. Paper cover, 32 pages. \$1.00

**Just Mary** by Effie Williams. A true story for young people and older folks as well. 96 pages in paper binding. \$2.00

**Moral Law** by Clifford Wilson. A 317-page book bound in a hard cover, Biblically documenting man's fall into sin and the journey that leads back to holiness before God. \$10.00

**Pasha (Greasy) Tichomirow, the Converted Robber** is translated from German by Charles Lukesh. 32 pages, paperbound. \$1.00

**Rainbow Bible** for children, in cloth, full-color pictorial cover. Blue edges without zipper, \$17.99; with zipper. \$19.99

**Remove Not the Ancient Landmarks** 28-page book by Ostis B. Wilson. \$1.00



**Sanctification** by J. W. Byers. 96-page book of clear, sound teaching on this subject. Every Christian should read it. \$2.00

**Shadows of Good Things, or The Gospel in Type**, by R. R. Byrum. 144-page book with diagrams dealing with types and shadows of the Old Testament—paperbound. \$3.50

**Smith's Bible Dictionary**, thoroughly revised and up-to-date, 836 pages, clothbound, containing 400 illustrations and 18 maps showing the Bible Lands. \$21.99

**Streams in the Desert, Volumes 1 and 2** by Mrs. Charles E. Cowman. Hardback books. \$14.99. Specify volume number.

**Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Entire Bible**, is the only complete concordance of the English Bible. Lists each word in the King James Version, and includes a dictionary of the Hebrew Bible and the Greek New Testament. \$29.99

**The Battle of Armageddon** by O. B. Wilson. 24 pages. \$1.00

**The Dangers of Ben-onies** by Richard Newton. Taken from a sermon preached to boys and girls. 24 pages. 50¢

**The Gift of Tongues—What It Is and What It Is Not** by G. E. Harmon. 20-page booklet. 50¢

**The Heavenly Footman** by John Bunyan, the author of *Pilgrim's Progress*. 32 pages bound in a heavy paper cover. \$1.00

**The King's Daughter**—46 illustrated character classic stories for children and young people, bound in a heavy paper cover. \$6.95

**The Revelation Explained** by F. G. Smith. Includes two large charts. 464 pages, clothbound. \$10.00.

**The Second Coming of Christ** by Willie C. Murphey. 24 pages. \$1.00

**The Secret of Salvation** by E. E. Byrum. Bound in heavy paper, 264 pages. \$5.00

**The Sin of Trifling** by Mrs. Sam Barton. A 32-page book for those who are thinking of marriage. \$1.00

**The Watchman on the Wall** by Wayne Murphey. An illustrated, 32-page book which is

an allegorical story relating problems which Redeemed experienced in fulfilling his job as a watchman. It is bound in a heavy paper cover. \$1.00

**Touching Incidents and Remarkable Answers to Prayer**. Children's edition, many pictures, paper cover, 135 pages. \$3.00

**Touching Incidents and Remarkable Answers to Prayer**. Adults' edition, a 338-page volume containing many of the stories in the children's edition of **Touching Incidents**, plus many more. It is bound in a heavy paper cover. \$5.00

**Trials and Triumphs of Eva Grant** by Effie M. Williams. First published in 1920's. Paperbound, 94 pages. \$2.50

**Unraveling Revelation** by A. Q. Bridwell. 34 pages in a heavy paper cover. \$1.00

**Was the Devil Ever in Heaven?** by O. B. Wilson. Clear Bible answer in paper cover, 32 pages. \$1.00

**What About Man?** by Harlan Sorrell. A 16-page poem addressing materialistic views. 50¢

**What the Bible Teaches** by F. G. Smith. Reprint of original 1914 edition, 576 pages, clothbound. \$10.00

**Whiter than Snow and Little Dot** is a book containing two touching children's stories by O. F. Walton, bound in a heavy paper cover. \$3.00

**Winning a Crown** by C. W. Naylor. This is a book that lays out the plan of salvation and then branches into how to live victoriously in everyday life. 368 pages, bound in extra heavy paper cover. \$6.00

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FL—"I am asking for prayer for my right ear. I have a noise in it from time to time. I have been told I would have to live with it, but I know Jesus never fails." —Sis. Kathleen Williams

KY—Sis. Kay Griffith has several prayer requests concerning her family.

OH—"Please remember my children and grandchildren in your prayers."

—Sis. Tressie Adkins

AR—"Would you please pray for my healing." —Sis. Esther Null

WV—"I need the saints to pray for me. I haven't been feeling too well."

—Bro. William Ford

### **Standing Prayer Requests**

Bro. Jon Busbee  
Sis. Mamie Butcher  
Bro. Nathan Carver  
Sis. Tammy Clevenger  
Bro. Daniel Davis, Jr.  
Sis. Emma Dilley  
Bro. Dale Doolittle  
Sis. Elaine Dunn  
Sis. Olive Getterson  
Bro. Ben Harrison  
Sis. Janice Johnston  
Bro. Louis Kimble  
Sis. Helen Lambright  
Sis. Betty Lassché  
The Lounds sisters  
Sis. Mattie McIntyre  
Sis. Dollie O'Neal  
Sis. Rose Samons  
Sis. Lois Sharp  
Sis. Kay Stover  
Sis. Marie Weatherford  
Bro. Curtis Williams, Sr.  
Bro. Max Williamson



### **CAMP MEETING DATES**

**Oklahoma State (Guthrie)**—May 28-June 6  
**Holly Hill, SC**—May 30-June 6  
**Tulsa, OK**—June 6-13  
**Jefferson, OR**—June 11-20  
**Green Bank, WV**—June 11-17  
**Loranger, LA**—June 27-July 4  
**Fresno, CA**—July 2-11  
**National (Monark Springs, MO)**—July 16-25  
**Myrtle, MO**—July 28-August 1  
**Ensenada, Mexico**—August 4-8  
**Bakersfield, CA**—August 11-15  
**California State (Pacoima)**—Aug. 27-Sept. 5



### **Meeting Reports and Notices**

#### **GREEN PASTURES, OK, MEETING REPORT**

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We, the saints of Green Pastures Church, are happy to report a spirit-filled revival. We were blessed to have Bro. Hayward Cox and his wife here. Each service was well attended.

Many souls were blessed and we thank all who attended. We request that you keep us in your prayers.



#### **OKLAHOMA STATE CAMP MEETING**

The 65th Annual Oklahoma State Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held May 28-June 6 at the campground located east of Sooner Road on Lakeview Road, which is a little over four tenths of a mile south of the intersection of South Division and Sooner Road.

As is customary, the first service will be held Friday evening, May 28, at 7:30, with three services daily thereafter. Early-morning prayer



services and youth meetings will be held as announced.

A special invitation to attend this meeting is extended to everyone. Your presence will be greatly appreciated. Provisions will be made for those attending.

The meeting will be operated by freewill offerings. If you would like to make a contribution, you may do so by sending it directly to the state treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, 1023 E. Prairie Grove Rd., Guthrie, OK 73044.

For further information, contact Bro. Stanley Dickson, (405) 260-8822.

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### **HOLLY HILL, SC, CAMP MEETING**

We here at Holly Hill are still enjoying God's great blessings. It is such a blessing that the Lord sent Bro. Carl Shaffer and family here to our little group.

Lord willing, the Holly Hill, SC, camp meeting will be held May 30-June 6.

There are cabins and dormitory space to care for all who come. There are also motels approximately 10 miles from the campgrounds: Ramada Inn, (803) 854-2191, Santee Economy Inn, (803) 854-2107 and the Days Inn, (803) 854-2175.

For more information, please contact Bro. Carl Shaffer, (803) 496-3365 or Bro. Floyd Crummie, (803) 496-5768 or Bro. Alvoid Pratt, (803) 492-3366.

Everyone is invited. —Sis. Judie Crummie

**Note:** Bro. Carl Shaffer, pastor of the Holly Hill congregation, and his wife, Sis. Rebecca, have recently had a change of address. Their new address is 130 Epiphany Road, Eutawville, SC 29048. Their new telephone number is listed above.

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### **REVIVAL OUTREACH SERVICES ALCORE-MARYVILLE, TN**

Lord willing, the congregation here plans a revival outreach meeting June 9-13, 1999.

Services will be held nightly at 7:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday night will be for outreach in a park setting.

Accommodations are limited, but nearby motels are available. Comfort Suite, (800) 228-5150, Fairfield Inn, (800) 228-2800, Ramada Inn, (800) 272-6232.

Pray that God will send gospel workers of His choosing and that He will have His way in this meeting.

For more information contact Sis. Mary McDonald (423) 977-6997 or Bro. and Sis. Dwight Porter (423) 984-2348. The chapel phone number is (423) 681-6838.

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### **GREEN BANK, WV, CAMP MEETING**

The Green Bank, WV, camp meeting will begin Friday night, June 11, and will end Thursday night, June 17. There will be two services daily, 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. There are lodging facilities on the campgrounds. The nights are cool, so bring jackets and extra cover.

If you are coming from the north, take 250-219 out of Elkins, follow 250 until you come to 28-92 South. There will be signs when you get to Green Bank. Coming from the south take 92 out of White Sulphur Springs to Green Bank, then follow the signs.

Friday, the 18th, there will be a group leaving the campgrounds to go to Washington, D.C. for an outreach. We will be staying overnight in the area.

Please pray for the meeting, that it will be a blessing to the saints in this area and that souls will be reached.

For more information concerning the meeting, lodging, or the Washington, D.C. outreach, please call (304) 456-3017, (304) 456-3242 or (304) 456-4671.

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### **TUSCALOOSA, AL**

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We, the saints in Alabama, wish to announce, Lord willing and conditions permitting, an old-fashioned tent meeting June 16-20th. We extend a warm welcome to all to come and worship with us. Come praying that the Lord will give us a Holy Spirit-filled meeting which will meet the needs of every soul present. Such a meeting cannot be worked up, but must be prayed down. We desire to see sinners saved, believers sanctified, the sick healed and the saints edified. We are trusting the Lord to send ministers of His choosing to labor in this meeting.

Services will be held nightly at 7:30 p.m., with day services to be announced. The meeting expenses will be met by free-will offerings. Any contributions for the support of this meeting should be sent to Sis. Bernice Petty, 2207 4th St. East, Tuscaloosa, AL 35404. "Come now, and let us reason together." Isaiah 1:18.

For more information contact Bro. Louis

Kimble (504) 467-9039, Bro. John Clement (504) 536-3767 or Sis. Jessie Shelton (205) 339-3026.

Yours in Christ, ————— —Bernice Petty

### **GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMP MEETING LORANGER, LA**

You are invited to be a part of the camp meeting here. This will be an opportunity to receive lessons from God's Word and messages of His will. If we live by His spirit, His righteousness, His grace and faith—we can help one another make heaven.

The meeting is to be held Sunday, June 27th, through Sunday, July 4th, with services daily. Come prepared for a blessing. We would like to invite the ministers and gospel workers to come a little early, Friday, June 25, and Saturday, June 26, for a special time of prayer and sharing of burdens, for the Lord's work and His people. If you cannot attend, please pray for the Lord's work here.

There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Power and water hookups are provided for those with campers. Meals will be served and expenses met by freewill offerings.

From Loranger, go two miles south and about three and one-half miles east on Hwy. 40.

For those traveling I-55, the grounds are about 10 miles east of the Tickfaw exit (take Hwy. 442 east which runs into Hwy. 40).

For more information write Nelson Doolittle, 51367 Narretto Rd., Loranger, LA 70446. Phone (504) 878-6111. The chapel phone is (504) 878-2788.

### **59TH ANNUAL CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING AUGUST 27-SEPTEMBER 5, 1999**

The 50th annual camp meeting will convene at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA, to praise God for His grace to us and remember those who pioneered the establishment of the camp grounds.

There will be three general services a day and meals served. The meeting is run on the freewill offering plan, as it has been for the past 49 years.

Pray for God to manifest Himself in saving, sanctifying, healing and blessing His people. We welcome all the saints, friends and relatives of the saints to come and be with us on this occasion!

For accommodations or transportation, call Bro. Herbert Clay (818) 897-1396 or the Sunset Guest Home (818) 899-2022.

### **CONTRACTOR NEEDED**

The saints at Alcore, TN are in the process of beginning the renovation of a building in which to hold church services. In order to obtain a building permit from the city they must have a general contractor who is licensed with the state of Tennessee. Anyone able to help with this need should contact Bro. Jimmy McDonald at (243) 977-6997.

### **CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT REPORT**

Dear saints: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I am thankful for being saved and pressing the battle on in the face of opposition. I am still looking to the Lord to restore my eyesight, and am encouraged to trust God. Continue to remember me in prayer. We have just returned from a meeting in California. Souls were saved and the saints encouraged.

It has been a while since we sent in a report concerning our building project here in Louisiana. Due to the tragedy which took place in Honduras, the building project came to a halt. All attention was devoted towards helping the saints there in Central America. We are thankful for all the offerings and contributions that came in for Central America. The saints there are recovering quite well. May God bless every one of you for aiding in that project.

We thank God and all of you who through your prayers, labors and contributions enabled us to meet the deadline given us by the city to have our building structure erected. There is much that remains to be accomplished. Due to additional requirements stipulated by the city, namely, that we employ local, licensed contractors to do the electrical and air conditioning work, those of you who expressed a desire to come and do this work for us will be unable to do so. In addition to this, they require that we do complete paving of our parking area. These additional requirements by the city have therefore added to the original estimated cost of \$45,000.00 to be \$65,000.00. A total of \$35,397.00 has been received in offerings. So far \$32,244.45 has been spent.

Presently we are in the process of trying to obtain a loan so we can continue with this project. Those of you who have expressed a

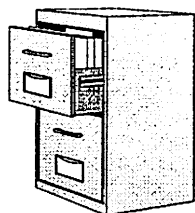
burden to help financially, or with your labors, please contact Bro. Louis Kimble at (504) 467-8842, or Bro. John Clement at (504) 536-3766. Address your correspondence to Church of God Missionary, P.O. Box 73835, Metairie, LA 70033.

Again, thank you for your continual prayers and support. May the Lord bless and reward each of you is our prayer.

Yours for the furtherance of the work of God,  
—Bro. Louis Kimble and congregation



From  
Our  
Letter  
Files



OK—Dear family of God, and all readers: I can truly say God is good, for He has been so good to me. He has granted the desires of my heart in many ways lately.

More and more I value having rest in my soul and a clear conscience, which we need in order to get our prayers through to God. I am endeavoring to be more sensitive and careful to maintain this in my life.

A large percent of our population is seeking momentary pleasures by doing and partaking of a lot of things for a short duration of excitement, gratification and a good feeling. If only they realized where true rest and contentment comes from.

The Print Shop anniversary gathering and the special *Faith and Victory* issues were so nicely prepared. Thanks to all who made it possible. It is great being one of the former workers and a privilege I will ever be indebted to.

May this publication be guided and blessed of God, we pray. —Sis. Evodna Marler



OK—Dear Saints: We want to share with you the blessings of our Lord and Saviour. As many of you may remember, our second son had extremely bad eczema as a baby and toddler. We called on the saints for prayer and felt that the Lord helped us to know that he was allergic to some of the ingredients in certain foods. We endeavored to eliminate those foods with MSG and sodium nitrates in them, and he improved greatly. Someone said that we needed to pray for the Lord to heal him so that he could eat

anything, but since I knew that much of the food with those ingredients was unhealthy for us anyway, I did not have the faith to pray that prayer.

Darren started first grade this year, and it was the first year for him to eat lunch at school. I thought I would send replacement foods on those days that they were serving food he could not eat, but he felt it made the other students stare and it really bothered him. One night as he was discussing it with us, Danny told him that the only other thing he knew to do was to get down and ask God to let him eat what was served at school and it not affect his skin. Darren said that is what he wanted to do. So they got down and prayed. I say they because, while I bowed my head in prayer, my faith really did not take it in, since hot dogs and lunchmeat are not healthy, anyway.

Saints, I want you to know that Darren has eaten whatever they served at school since that night and his skin is better now than it has been since he first broke out with eczema. His hands are dry and a little rough, but the rest of his body is smooth. How we praise the holy name of our God! What was it the father in the New Testament said? "Lord, I do believe. Help thou mine unbelief." May God ever increase our faith.

Christian love, —Sis. Anita Adams



KS—Dear Bro. Wayne and staff: Praise the Lord forever and praise Him without end. I am still saved by the grace of God and the prayers of the saints.

I want to thank the Lord for healing my body and keeping my soul. I owe the Lord my all. Pray that I will always do the will of God.

Yours In Christ, —Sis. Blinda Simon



LA—Faith Publishing House: Greetings of love to my precious sisters and brothers in the Lord! I so much appreciate God's love to all mankind. The Lord loves us more than we know how to love, and He would that all be saved. This ought to inspire our faith to pray on for all souls everywhere. Realizing we still have some precious time, let us make the most of it. Please, precious souls, do not neglect your soul, do not let anything crowd out your Saviour.

As I recently read the list of standing requests in the March *Faith and Victory*, I realized I am personally acquainted with more than half of the twenty-one listed, and I am praying for you along with those I haven't been blessed to

know personally. Be faithful, dear ones, our God will never fail us. Oh! how I want to meet you in heaven some day. May we all hear that "Welcome home," along with those most valuable from our Lord! "Well done, my Child."

With love and prayers,

—Sis. Gladys S. Cashio

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LA—Dear Saints: We send greetings once again from Louisiana with much thanksgiving for all of God's blessings to us. It is so wonderful to know God and to be able to take all of our burdens and problems to Him, realizing that He knows what is best for us.

I would like to thank the Lord for a personal healing. The last Sunday of September, 1998, I fell and hurt my left foot very badly. I also pulled some muscles in my right leg, so I could not stand on either one. I was in a wheel chair for a week, then on crutches for quite some time, but God was faithful to help me out each step of the way.

Saturday, March 27th, will be 6 months since my fall, and my foot is almost back to normal. Praise the Lord! I have a slight limp because of soreness inside my foot, but am expecting complete healing for that. God is so good to us and I do love Him and desire to make heaven my home. Please pray for us.

In Christian love, —Sis. Cynthia LaCroix

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FL—Thanks Bro. Murphey for the encouraging letters sent to me from time to time. I praise God for the *Faith & Victory* paper. I love to read it all.

God has been so good to me. I am going on 89 years of age. I cannot write like I used to but I do the best I can.

With love and prayers, —Sis. Judith Klokner

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WV—Dear friends: Thanks so much for the love and the beautiful card. I really needed that. This is my last week of sick leave. I have not worked since March 11.

I have had lung and chest problems since 1975, but for some reason this one was harder to get over. I have so many blessings. I just can't thank God enough.

Please keep me on your prayer list.

—Sis. Melba Powell

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MO—Dear saints: I want to share with you what the Lord has done for me.

On December 19, 1998, I believe I had a

heart attack. I suffered severely. The children wanted me to be checked by a doctor so they took me to the emergency room. The doctor said he saw no heart damage and gave me the name of a heart specialist. He said he could not explain the hurting down my arm.

As I sat up in bed one day crying and calling on God to speak to me, He said "Nelva, I can help you." That encouraged me. I knew that was all I needed, His help.

During this sickness my life flashed before me. I saw I wasn't measured up to all of God's standards. I called on God for soul and body. He healed both.

I am back working at my same job.

I want to thank all the saints who called and sent cards and offerings. I am so thankful I am serving a mighty God.

My desire is to serve that mighty God and to stay prayed up so when I call on Him I can expect the help I need.

In Christian Love, —Sis. Nelva Stanley

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LA—Dear Saints: I want to thank the Lord for the way He has been blessing me in my soul and in my body. I am enjoying salvation and all the wonderful benefits that go with it.

I want to thank God for the healing He has given me in my body. Some of the afflictions I have been healed of are rheumatoid arthritis, mitral valve prolapse, which is a heart condition, a slipped vertebra and other afflictions. I am thankful I have learned how to trust the Lord for the healing of my body.

I love the Lord with all my heart. My desire above all things is to please Him and make heaven my home.

Please pray for me. Christian love,

—Sis. Ruth Joiner

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## Foreign Mission Report

### From India...

March 16, 1999—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear saints everywhere in the U.S.A and other parts of the world: Greetings to all you dear ones again in the precious name of Jesus. Thank you very much for your letters in February and March. May God bless the hands of each donor for the work here.

Each congregation is going on fine here. The convention at Kothamangalam was a real blessed one. The convention at Kooltarvila will be held during the second week of April. We have de-

cided to conduct a five-days VBS for children during the second week of April and expect about 200 children. Please pray for the blessings of each ministry.

Our prayers are for the good health of the saints everywhere. May God bless the camp meetings this year.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese

**Editor's note:** A fund in India has been established with which to purchase a vehicle for the work. The total cost is expected to be \$10,500. If you would like to support this need, you may send your offering, designated for that purpose, to this office, and it will be forwarded to Bro. John.



**Alta Ann Elizabeth (Perkins) Bock** was born to Ernest A., Sr. and Josie (Cook) Perkins on October 8, 1937, in Okmulgee County, OK. She went to be with her heavenly Father on April 4, 1999, at the age of 61 years.

Her family lived in the Mounds, OK, area several years, then moved to the Kellyville, OK, area. She was wonderfully saved in the Church of God at the young age of 12.

Sis. Alta was married to Ted Bock on May 16, 1954, at the Church of God chapel on Frankoma Road, Sapulpa, OK. To this marriage came four children, Elizabeth, Colleen, Dwight and Karen. Ted and Alta lived the first ten months of wedded bliss in Larned, KS. They then moved to the Tulsa-Sapulpa area where they lived for the rest of their 44 years together.

She was truly a woman who lived to fulfill the description in Proverbs 31 of a virtuous woman. She was a devoted wife, mother, homemaker, grandmother and friend. She was zealous in her service for the Lord, caring for the

sick, helping those in various needs and lending a listening ear. She gave her unconditional support to her husband for many years in his duties of the Church of God.

Alta was preceded in death by her parents, two siblings in infancy, two brothers, Ernest, Jr. and Frank, and a sister, Thelma LaFaver. She leaves to mourn her passing her husband of almost 45 years, Ted; her children, Elizabeth (Beth) Bock, Tulsa, OK, Colleen and Marvin Probst, Sapulpa, OK, Dwight and Kim Bock, Sapulpa, OK, and Karen and Curtis Williams, Sapulpa, OK; grandchildren, Weston and Kristy Probst, Christopher, Nicholas and Andrew Probst, Jessica and Matthew Williams, Teddy and Kelly Bock; a special brother-in-law who lived with Ted and Alta before his marriage, Ronnie, and his wife, Jeanie Bock; also her sisters, Juanita Welch, Frances Perkins, Dorothy Meek, June Moore and Loretta Trowbridge; her brothers, Elmer Perkins, Lee Roy Perkins and Barton Perkins; many nieces and nephews; her special aunts, May Greer and Fay Jones; also her very dear and special friend of many years, Oleta Madden.

Funeral services were conducted by Bros. James Bell, Michael Smith and Stanley Dickson.

#### Note of Thanks

We want to thank everyone who expressed love and concern for us through this past year. We appreciate all the prayers, calls, flowers, cards and visits. Your expression of love and concern was overwhelming. Most of all, thank you for your prayers which we still covet.

—The Ted Bock family



**Alferd S. Classen** was born August 7, 1911, in Fairview, OK, to Jacob and Mary "Marie" (Epp) Classen, and died April 14, 1999, at the Golden Rule Nursing Home in Shawnee, OK, at the age of 87 years, 8 months and 7 days.

Alferd lived in and around Fairview most of his life. He attended Fairview schools and was employed by U. I. Smith and Harry Doanne.

On August 6, 1933, Alferd was united in marriage to Leona Martha Hiebert at her parents' farm south of Fairview. Alferd and Martha then moved to Missouri, where they lived for two years. They moved back to Fairview in 1935 where Alferd owned and operated a shoe repair business on Broadway in Fairview. He was an adept shoe cobbler and handcrafted shoes and cowboy boots. After his father's death in 1941,

Alferd and his family moved to, and took over, the family farm west of Fairview, and remained there until the last four days of his life when he entered the Golden Rule Home at Shawnee, Oklahoma. He was an inventor, very talented in carpentry and lathe work, had many other skills, and was also a wheat and cattle farmer.

Alferd was saved from sin and baptized as a young man and became a member of the Church of God. He enjoyed attending church services and was faithful to the end. He was an Oklahoma State trustee for the saints of the Church of God for several years. He was a quiet and peaceful man.

Surviving are his five children, Leroy Classen of Jonesboro, GA, Nina and Gail Kelly of Fairview, OK, Erona and George Cope of Shawnee, OK, Bula and Merrill Smith of Shawnee, OK, and Irene Cain of Fairview; twenty grandchildren and thirty-five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters, Erba Shepherd and Lillian Davis, and his faithful wife, Leona Martha (Hiebert) Classen, on May 28, 1998.

Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Leslie Busbee and Michael Smith, and burial was in Fern Cliff Cemetery, west of Fairview.

On December 6, 1902, **Willis West** was born to Eli and Miley West in Tyler, TX. He was the eighth of nine children. When Willis was about seven, the family moved to Taft, OK.

Willis came to Tulsa, OK, looking for a job at the age of eleven. He worked odd jobs, washing dishes and clothes, mowing lawns and being a general handyman, until he was able to buy a piece of land.

Later he opened a cafeteria, acquired additional property and became a prosperous business owner and landlord. Although he seemed to work from sunrise to sunset, he was never too busy to help one in need. He was a faithful and active member of the Church of God until his health failed.

Willis married Maggie Spear. They had five children. After her death he married Bessie Moland, who preceded him in death.

At age 96, Willis was able to enjoy gentle conversations and grand memories with his one hundred forty-seven direct progeny. Only one of his children, Jimmie Lee, preceded him in death. Among those he leaves to cherish his memory and celebrate his homegoing are two sons and five daughters: Julia Ann Burton of Tulsa, OK

Willis West, Jr. of Washington, DC, Dr. Mildred West of San Antonio, TX, Janet and Janice Stewart of Tulsa, OK: 25 grandchildren, 61 great-grandchildren and 53 great-great-grandchildren. Among his descendants are granddaughter, Rita Burks, and her husband, Andrew, who faithfully loved and cared for him the last 5 years of his life. Long-time friends who shared his last moments were Nolie Jackson of Chicago, IL, Jessie Hunter, Wilma Wright, Serena Evans and David White, all of Tulsa, OK.

**Esau J. Trotter** was born September 12th, 1905, and departed this life December 28, 1998. Bro. Trotter was the oldest of 10 children. His father, Esaias, and stepmother, Geneva Greathouse Trotter, raised him from age 12. His mother, Elizabeth, passed at the time of his birth. On April 14, 1926, he was united in marriage to Etta Mae Greene. To this union 14 children were born: Esau Jr., Vivian June, Azor, Octavia, Clara Mae, Margarette Ellen, Elizabeth, Donald Wayne, Vesta Eugene, Christine Florence, Cecil Clarence, Thelma Laverne, Rosa Marie and Rober Louis (Bobbie).

In approximately 1931, Esau and Etta were born into the Church of God, where later they began to worship with the Evening Light saints and were taught and nurtured by Brothers E. V. Sanders, Ulysses Phillips and others. He left a legacy that money or possessions do not give. His favorite song was #104 in the Select Hymns. A scripture he quoted to us, the family, was Psalms 34:14. His motto was always, "LET GO AND LET GOD."

## **The Purity of the Gospel of Christ**

(Continued from page 3.)

have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Herein is found the secret of the power of the pure gospel. This gospel is not patterned after man. It wasn't received from man. It has nothing to do with man's conceptions or understanding or wisdom. It is the revelation of Jesus Christ. Anything we do, then, to hinder or change or alter or hold back or add to that



gospel, is to alter the very presentation of Christ to the world. And the curse, then, as a result of that, is self-evident: no power of God.

I desire with all my heart to see the power of God working in my own life. I hunger and thirst after it as a man in a desert. I long for the anointing power of the Holy Ghost in my daily life. I don't want to be a hearer only of the Word. When He says to forgive, I want to forgive. I don't want to make excuses and give reasons of how that would be impossible in my particular set of circumstances; no, by the power of God, I want to follow every commandment He gives. When the Scriptures tell me to live a holy life, and I see the definitions of those principles in the Bible, then I want to give no room for the flesh, but follow diligently the scripture that says it is indeed possible to live, "soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." (Titus 2:12.)

The good news is that Jesus told me (so it must be true!) that there is a special blessing for those who "do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

I want to be filled consistently with the power of Christ. I want His graces manifest in my life. I want my cup to be running over with the power of the purity of the gospel. This is the true cry of every one of God's children. This is the foundation of the Church of God. This is the gospel of Christ.



## The Glorious Gospel of Christ

By Bro. Leslie Busbee

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." Romans 1:16-17.*

The word gospel means glad tidings, or good news. The truth about Jesus Christ and what He accomplished during His visit to this world is good news for us. In Luke 4:16-19 it says, "And he (Jesus) came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me

to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord." Jesus was reading the prophecy recorded in Isaiah 61:1-3. Included also in this prophecy are some other wonderful blessings to be made available to mankind: "To comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified."

In Romans 10:9-13 the apostle Paul declares what the word of faith of the good news in Christ says: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the Lord shall be saved." Paul declares again in II Timothy 1:10 that our Lord Jesus Christ "hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."

The apostle Peter declared from the Scriptures that "all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." I Peter 1:24-25.

The gospel of the Son of God declares that God, the Creator of the earth and heavens, sent His Son down to this wicked world to bring deliverance from the bondage of sin and death. This is what we, as lost and dying mortals, were in need of. We needed to be saved from the power of Satan that caused us to be disobedient and rebellious against our gracious heavenly Father. We were as lost sheep gone astray, every one of us turning to our own sinful ways, but the Lord laid on Christ the iniquity of us all and made it possible for us to have our sins forgiven freely and to have our hearts and lives completely cleansed from the very nature and root of sin. We can quit the sin business, praise the Lord! We do not have to curse and swear and

lose our self-control in anger and carnal wrath. We do not have to be proud and worldly and vain in conversation or dress. We can be set free from sin to be able to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and live soberly and righteously and godly right here in this present evil world. Jesus paid the price for our atonement and deliverance from sin. This is the gospel, the good news of salvation and hope for all the human race.

In the plan of salvation sin has been conquered, death has been abolished, and life and immortality have been brought to light, or made available through the preaching of the gospel. We are given a hope of eternal resurrection with Christ from the grave. Oh, the blessed hope of the gospel! No other religion offers this anchor for the soul. We who are living under the sentence of death and the grave because of sin are given a strong consolation of a blessed hope of overcoming in eternal triumph to be risen with Christ in that last great day. This is a refuge to which we flee that we might lay hold upon this hope which the gospel has set before us! Praise God forever!

Oh, it is good news to know that our sins can be washed away through the precious blood of the Lamb, and that by that same blood we can be sanctified wholly and cleansed from all the power and dominion of sin. We can be delivered and set free from the devil to serve God without fear in holiness and righteousness before Him, all the days of our life. We can be holy in all manner of conversation. We are given the power and right to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God! (II Corinthians 7:1.) We must give up the spirit of this world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, which is not of the Father, but is of the world. (I John 2:16.) We must become obedient children and not fashion ourselves according to the former lusts that we were bound up in when we were in darkness and ignorance. What a great privilege to be modest and saintly in all ways of life, to be pure and humble and meek in our dealings with others! We can be free from strife, jealousy and hatred. We do not have to partake of the evils of this present sinful world. We can follow Jesus, the meek and lowly Lamb of God, and walk in His steps who did no sin.

This and much more can be said concerning what is offered to us in the gospel. When Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, He said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." Mark 1:15. It means so much to really and truly repent of our sinful ways and practices of life and believe the Word of God and obey it fully. Paul said in Romans 10:16, "But they have not all obeyed the gospel." He said again in II Thessalonians 1:7-8 that "the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven (in the last great day) with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." The gospel must not only be believed, but it must also be obeyed.

II Corinthians 4:4 declares that the "god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." The god of this world is Satan, the devil, the archenemy of God. He succeeds in blinding the minds of people through worldliness, unbelief, pride, stiffness and hardness of heart. The gospel is preached but the attitude and disposition of the hearts and minds of so many block out its holy rays of light and knowledge. This is a warning to us.

I heard of a rich man who offered and announced to his neighbors and townspeople that he would pay off their debts if they would come to his house by a certain time with their bills and proof of debt. When an old couple came to see about taking advantage of his offer they found a crowd of people standing around. Upon inquiring what they were doing, the people expressed their doubts about the rich man's offer, although they were interested. But the old couple went right on in and found, to their joy, the release from their debt. They wanted to rush out and tell everyone outside what they had obtained. But they were forbidden by the rich man to do so. He said, "They have my word and I want them to act upon my word."

This story shows how so many fail to receive the blessings offered in the gospel of Christ. Let us take heed to believe and obey the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and receive all the wonderful benefits that it offers to us so freely.

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***"In the plan of salvation, sin has been conquered, death has been abolished, and life and immortality have been brought to light, or made available."***