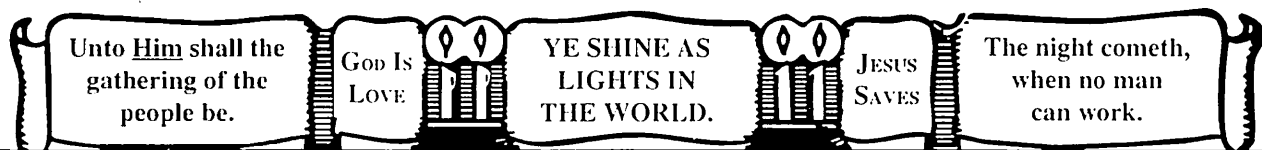


# FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

## Church of God Servant



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## The Evening Light

(Adapted from a message by Bro. Ed Wilson on February 18, 2007, at Neosho, MO.)

*"Brighter days are sweetly dawning, Oh, the glory looms in sight!  
For the cloudy day is waning, And the evening shall be light.*

*Misty fogs, so long concealing, All the hills of mingled night,  
Vanish, all their sin revealing, For the evening shall be light.*

*Lo! The ransomed are returning, Robed in shining crystal white,  
Leaping, shouting home to Zion, Happy in the evening light.*

*Free from Babel, in the Spirit, Free to worship God aright,  
Joy and gladness we're receiving, Oh, how sweet this evening light.*

*Hallelujah! Saints are singing, Vict'ry in Jehovah's might;  
Glory! Glory! Keep it ringing, We are saved in evening light.*

*(Chorus) Oh, what golden glory streaming! Purer light is coming fast;  
Now in Christ we've found a freedom, Which eternally shall last."*

—Song number 1, *Evening Light Songs*, by D.S. Warner.

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Zechariah 14:1, 7 says, "Behold the day of the LORD cometh..." and verse 7, "That at the evening time it shall be light." Let's consider the glory of the evening time of the gospel age. Psalm 118:24 reads, "This is the day which the LORD hath made: we will rejoice and be glad in it." That is prophecy of the gospel day, when Jesus would make it possible through His blood for His people to live holy, innocent and free from sin. That fact is shown in John 1:17, "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." The great vision of the early church is that the Savior not only brought the "truth," i.e., the law, but also power and grace to keep it. Moses' law was a law of external

things, since it had no power to change the believer's heart. But "grace and truth" enabled the Savior to teach the far higher standard of a pure and innocent heart. All the teaching of the Bible, all its seemingly deep and perplexing passages, center on this one fundamental truth—that God wants His people free from sin.

As time went by, leaders perverted this lofty vision and the fellowship that results from it, and sought to change the Word of God. For instance the Roman emperor, Constantine, claimed conversion to Christianity. But when converted, he hurt the church. He ruled that no pastor could be accepted by a congregation without his approval; then he began to actually appoint pastors himself. These "pastors" found their doctrines were made the law of the Roman Empire, and the Roman treasury was at their disposal, so they learned greed, politics and arrogance, and invented doctrines to allow these vices. The resulting mingling of the pure gospel light with manrule and darkness required the work of centuries to correct. It was hard for innocent souls to find the simplicity of how Jesus died so anyone could have a victorious, sin-free life in Him alone. Through the long dreary night of manmade teachings that concealed the beautiful simplicity of the gospel many longed to have the light we have today. And even when faithful saints *were* able, in later centuries, to teach some sound doctrines these were mingled with the confusion of human rubbish, which resulted in a "dark and cloudy day."

The first song in our *Evening Light Songs* hymnal reads "Brighter days are sweetly dawning," which is a statement that the beautiful clear light prophesied for the evening of the gospel day has finally arrived. One phrase reads, "misty fogs, so long concealing, all the hills of mingled night, vanish all their sin revealing..." One example of this fog is millennial reign teaching. Whose life would be better if lions ate straw like oxen (Isaiah 11:7), or children could play with snakes? It isn't lions that need to be changed, it is people who have the *nature* of a lion, or whose *words* have the hurtful poison of snakes. God knows that and He is surely using this passage to foretell a time when these natures in people would be changed. But this and other dogmas have been used to make people believe there will be another time or way to get clear with God, even though the Bible says "now

is the accepted time." Through the long cloudy day hungry souls would leave one group, only to find the next one also teaching part Bible and part human creed.

Every church group has a central, driving spirit. We do too. The central, driving Spirit of the Church of God is "holiness unto the Lord." How can we know which group is "right?" Thank God, there's a key! It is, as in verse three of the song, to be "robed in shining crystal white," for that is the dress of Saints in Heaven. Once again we see the pattern, and it is God's love, purity and cleanness, which set us free from Babel, sectarian confusion. Constantine's interference with God's right to call pastors moved the church toward confusion, and so did many other similar usurpations through the years. But using the key of having holy hearts led by the Spirit brings us into "joy and gladness (which) we're receiving—Oh, how sweet this evening light!"—by causing us to see the glorious plan of worship God intended for His New Testament church. In this plan He sets the sanctified members in the body as it pleases Him: "For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us." Isaiah 33:22.

About 1880 our pioneer ministers rediscovered the key and started unlocking Bible mysteries. *The Cleansing of the Sanctuary* by D. S. Warner and H. M. Riggle, page 445, explains Exodus 29:38-45 "Now this is that which thou shalt offer upon the altar; two lambs of the first year day by day continually. The one lamb thou shalt offer in the morning; and the other lamb thou shalt offer at even:"... "And there I will meet with the children of Israel,..." "And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God." This is a foreshadowing of our New Testament worship to God. Hebrews 13:15 shows the fulfilling of this sacrifice, "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." We, too, are to offer something to God morning and evening—praise and thanksgiving, through the Lamb of God Himself—the fruit of our lips out of an innocent and pure heart. There is the altar where God will meet us.

Now let me give a bit of history of this *Evening Light Songs* book. Nearly all the songs in our hymnal were in the *Select Hymns* book, published by another organization. Bro. Ostis

Wilson paid a visit to Bro. A. L. Byers, who was a leader in that group and author of many of the songs, to ask permission to reprint a book of our own. He found Bro. Byers very sweet and approachable, and he helped us obtain that permission. In 1949, the first edition of *Evening Light Songs* was published. As noted in the foreword in the book, the songs were approved by a number of ministers and gospel workers. That is still a good policy for songs that are to be regularly included in our worship services today. Sis. Ruthe Byers and Bro. Lawrence Pruitt compiled and arranged them. Each page was printed from an engraving attached to a wood block which cost \$5, or about \$120 in today's money. The total for engravings was about \$2300, or about \$57,500 today. Bro. Lawrence, who worked in a commercial shop, was given permission to work there long night and weekend hours to build and print the pages; then they were sent to a bindery. The books were sold at cost, and many people rejoiced when we at last had our own hymnal.

All this is a very brief sketch of some of the brethren who were before us. "Glory! glory! keep it ringing" says their song. That is the part of this grand plan for God's New Testament Church saga that is ours. We are not to worship one another, or our forefathers. We are not to worship a system. We are to have holiness in love unto the Lord, Whom we are to serve in simple equality and humility, and be willing to make

our own sacrifice, as our forefathers have done, to carry on the truth. OUR CHALLENGE—are we going to keep it ringing? Are we going to keep it holy and innocent, and not political? God's church is not a hill, it is a city set on a mountain, far above all manmade institutions. We don't have to know all the answers to the complex questions of our time at once; Jesus will show us daily what to do. But we do have to have Jesus in our hearts and in innocence offer the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving each morning and evening—for there is where He will meet us. Amen.

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(In September 1949 it was stated: "The proposition which we have before the saints now, is that every one who can may send five dollars, which will entitle you to one plate and one song book when they are finished. The book will be post paid to you and the plate will be held here at the print shop to be used again when needed. With your payment of \$5.00 you may state the title of your favorite song you desire placed in the book." The article went on to state that the Standard Engraving Co. of Oklahoma City offered to make the plates for \$3.50 each. However an engraving company in Shreveport, Louisiana was actually used which offered a somewhat better price. The songbooks originally sold for \$1.50 each plus 15¢ postage. It was scheduled for distribution December 27, 1949. —Editor)



## The Sin of Sodom

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness...neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy." Ezekiel 16:49.

Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because "...the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly." Genesis 13:13. Abraham's nephew, Lot, chose to live near Sodom because of its well-watered fields, a good financial promise. His main interest was for material gain, while Abraham's was in pleasing God. God destroyed the city because of wickedness. However, what happened before they became wicked? Ezekiel tells us it "was pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness." Therefore, in their path that led to

wickedness was pride, plenty of food and idle time.

It is very easy to be influenced by our surroundings. Many saints are driven to seek material things much like their neighbors. This flesh-pleasing standard would have been considered excessive and even sinful a few decades ago. Years ago, the bottom line of many messages was strong against "the pride of life." Believers were taught to live simple lives so they would have more to give to God's work. Every action and all our earnings were to be consecrated to God. All were for His glory. They were taught to "Quickly leave thy cottage door, spread the truth from shore to shore." (Number 464 in

(Continued on page 13.)

## FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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 Package of 5 papers to one address, one year ..... \$20.00  
 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 sin 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.

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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 Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

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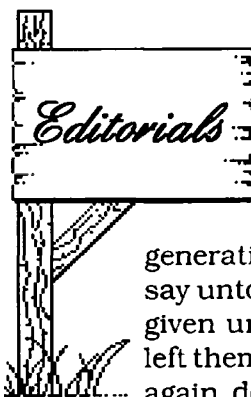
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"And the Pharisees came forth, and began to question with him, seeking of him a sign from heaven, tempting him. And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this

generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation. And he left them, and entering into the ship again departed to the other side."

Mark 8:11-13.

The thought of Jesus sighing deeply and then leaving the Pharisees should cause each person to consider the reasons for our Savior's actions. Surely none of us want to vex the spirit of the One who holds in His hands the eternal destiny of our soul. Perhaps it would be helpful for us to notice some of the attitudes and actions demonstrated by this group of people, thereby prompting the Lord to be so grieved that He departed from them.

One of the most serious traits exhibited by the Pharisees was the hardness of their hearts. When someone hardens their heart they are almost impossible to help. They can be cruel and rigid in dealing with others and still think, in their own mind, that they are "righteous" and "justified" in their actions. All of the wickedness of their heart seems to be sealed in. When the Pharisees came to Jesus and began asking questions, it was evident they were not honestly seeking truth. In asking for a sign, they were only trying to discredit the Lord and when He refused to do their bidding they no doubt went smugly on their way thinking they had accomplished their purpose.

An example of their hardness was evident when they had no compassion on the man with a withered hand and sought to condemn Jesus for healing him on the Sabbath. Mark 3:5 says, "And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other." The next verse clearly illustrated their lack of concern for the poor man, as well as many others who were afflicted, by their desire to destroy Jesus. "And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him."

The following verses in Romans 2:4-5 gives insight into the serious condition of people who have hard hearts. "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God."

As was mentioned earlier, there is much wickedness sealed in a hard heart, and the Scriptures mention quite an impressive list of evils that were harbored in the hearts of the Pharisees. Their rigid compliance to only a form of religion caused them to be lifted up with pride and they despised others. While they boasted of their "virtues" and complemented themselves on their own good works they showed contempt toward the repentant prayers of the humble. Their lack of compassion toward the sick, poor, lame, widows and fatherless did not escape the eyes and ears of God. Their long prayers were only pretence and did not cover their hypocrisy.

While they paid tithes and kept certain aspects of the law, Jesus said they omitted the weightier matters of the law—judgment, mercy, faith and the love of God. In Matthew 22:34-40 a Pharisee, which was a lawyer, asked, "Master, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus responded by saying, "...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." If one sincerely desires the favor of God then they must love Him. Obeying His Word and keeping His commandments proves their love. When obedience is missing in a person's life then their religion is vain. Often we observe people complying with a selective obedience. They believe certain things are very important while other things in the Word of God seem to be ignored. Some in the world today are all wound up in some man's rambling interpretation of the book of Revelation and are so adamant that they not take the "mark of the beast," yet they are living a sinful life. What a shame! When one truly loves the Lord they will strive to please Him in all things. Too many people today are striving to please themselves or other men and are deceived into thinking they are pleasing God. If we are pleas-

ing God, He must be the One to grant approval of our life—not ourselves, some other human or group of mortals.

While overlooking the major concepts of the law the Pharisees were often debating the minor letter of the law. Their "great insight" into the intricacies of the law caused them to feel very wise. In John 7:32-49 the Pharisees sent officers to take Jesus. After hearing His teachings they returned to the Pharisees without Him. When questioned why they had not brought Him, "The officers answered, Never man spake like this man." Some of the officers, like the people, were impressed with the truths and the authority with which Jesus taught. The Pharisees responded by asking, "...are ye also deceived?" Thinking of their knowledge of the law they said, "But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed." Ah, but the curse was on them for failing to love and obey God. Their "great knowledge" did not give them a simple faith in God which could have saved their souls and changed their life. Those today who are looking to the philosophies of man to save them are failing as miserably as the Pharisees.

"But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him." Luke 7:30. Many came to John and were baptized, but not the Pharisees. When they came to his baptism John called them a generation of vipers and said, "...who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:" He also told them that "...the ax is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." This counsel of God was rejected and likewise the admonitions of Jesus, the Son of God, were also rejected. In Matthew 15:7-9 He called them hypocrites and counseled them from the words of Isaiah saying, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men." The Lord is looking for more than lip service, more than the doctrines of men and more than a vain formality of worship. The importance of serving and worshipping the Lord with a pure heart cannot be overly stressed. Humbly submitting to His will and obeying His Word will cause to blossom forth an abundance of fruit that is sweet and

precious in His sight.. As John the Baptist told the Pharisees, "...the ax is laid unto the root of the trees:..." and it is only a matter of time before the one producing evil fruit will be cut down. Rejecting the counsel of God is a most serious offense and none of us should ignore the still small voice of the Lord reasoning with our souls.

While there were numerous other evils that inhabited the hearts of the professing religious leaders of Jesus' day, may the mention of these few things help keep us from falling into the same pattern of wickedness. More than once Jesus cautioned His disciples, "...Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees...." They understood that it was their doctrine that was to be avoided. It was filled with pride, hypocrisy and worldly-mindedness, and the Son of God will not tolerate these evils. He exposed their wickedness. In Luke 12:2 He plainly declared, "For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known." While it is true that the Judgment will reveal every hidden work, the Lord is faithful now to reveal these things that may have crept into our hearts if we will sincerely seek the truth. Today is the day to have our hearts purged, because if this leaven is allowed to remain it will contaminate our entire being and cause the Spirit of Christ to depart from us.

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We are humbly grateful to the Lord for His blessings upon this work through the years. While there have been many difficulties to overcome, God has kept His hand over us and made a way when there seemed to be no way. With this issue of the *Faith and Victory* we complete 84 years of publication and look forward to the future with bright anticipation. Serving the Lord is a wonderful experience, for we know that He will safely bring us through with victory as we place our hand in His firm grasp.

It is our prayer that each issue will carry with it the burning fire of the Holy Spirit and that the light of truth will illuminate the hearts of each honest reader. We appreciate the prayers of the Saints that have petitioned the throne of God in our behalf, and we request that you continue those supplications, that this work will reach many others who are yet in need of the precious message of salvation.

In this world where the powers of darkness seem to be increasing with great rapidity, the people of God should redouble their efforts to

hold the torch of truth even higher so that struggling humanity may be guided to the foot of the cross. It is there that the souls of men find relief from the burdens of sin and entrance into the glorious Kingdom of God.

—Bro. Willie E. Murphey  
wemurphey@yahoo.com



CA—Remember Sis. Martha Powell in prayer, she has cancer. —Sis. Doris Pihaylic

OK—Please pray for Bro. Edward and Sis. Gloria Taylor. Sis. Gloria is very ill and is having serious problems with her legs. Also remember my husband and I, Bro. Mark & Sis. Darlene Knight, in prayer for some personal needs.

—Sis. Darlene Knight

OK—Please pray for Sis. Anneta Williamson who is afflicted with diabetes, resulting in a severe decline in health.

MN—I desire prayer for some serious physical needs. —Bro. Lee Hilton

## Standing Prayer Requests

Bro. Carlos Arriaga  
Sis. Mamie Butcher  
Sis. Gladys Cashio  
Sis. Helen Carson  
Sis. Waneta Creel  
Sis. Dorall Forbes  
Sis. Evelyn Fredrickson  
Bro. Troy Gentry  
Bro. Lee Hilton  
Bro. Mark and Sis. Darlene Knight  
Sis. Juliette Lounds  
Sis. Melba Powell  
Sis. Anna Severs  
Sis. Cheryl Smith  
Bro. Michael Smith  
Bro. Edward and Sis. Gloria Taylor  
The Mitch Taylor family  
Sis. Anneta Williamson  
Sis. Lula Williamson

**SPECIAL NOTICES**

**FOUR CORNERS (BLUEJACKET, OK)  
ALL-DAY MEETING**

The congregation at Four Corners (Bluejacket, OK) would like to announce All-Day Meetings on the second Sunday of each month. We extend to each one a special invitation. How wonderful it is to be with the Family of God and worship the Lord together. It would be such a blessing to us to have visitors!

Sunday School starts at 10:00 a.m. with the regular service following. We will serve dinner and then begin our afternoon service around 2:00 p.m.

If anyone would like to come on Saturday and spend the night, our homes are open and waiting! Welcome! Just call Bro. Ivan Eck (620) 922-3327 or Bro. Randal Bradley (620) 226-3329 to make arrangements.

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**SHINGLETOWN, CA, OUTREACH EFFORT**

Pray for the outreach effort that is on-going in Shingletown, CA. We are having Sunday services with lunch following. We have been blessed with a few contacts and recently the Lord has allowed us to have some more. We have been praying about this work for five years and have felt the Lord leading us to put our faith into action.

For further information contact Sis. Teresa Sorenson, 25475 Lava Lane, Shingletown, CA, 96088, or by phone at (530) 366-0171.

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**GOSPEL SINGING CD**

We thank God for allowing us to produce a CD for the glory of God! We will be selling the CDs for \$15 each and the proceeds will be used towards the Durham, NC Church of God building project. Those interested in purchasing may do so by sending payment to the Church of God in care of Jerry Lennon, 3203 Hwy 55, Durham, NC 27713. For further information contact Jerry Lennon at (919) 740-3748, in Durham, NC or Colvin Lennon at (661) 810-7368 in Palmdale, CA. Thank you in advance and God Bless,

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—Bro. Jerry Lennon

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*"Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted." Isaiah 49:13.*

**MEETING DATES**

- Miami, FL (Camp Meeting)—April 1-8
- Dallas, TX (Spring Revival)—April 6-8
- Enterprise, AL (Spring Singing)—April 14
- Wichita, KS (Spring Meeting)—April 15-22
- Webb City, MO (Singing-Revival)—April 22-25
- Vanceburg, KY (Spring Meeting)—May 18-20
- Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—May 25-June 3
- Holly Hill, SC (Camp Meeting)—June 3-10
- Green Bank, WV (Camp Meeting)—June 15-21
- Jefferson, OR (Camp Meeting)—June 15-24
- Alcoa, TN (Sister's Retreat)—June 22-23
- National (Monark Springs)—July 20-29
- Myrtle, MO (Camp Meeting)—August 3-8



**MEETING NOTICES**

**MIAMI, FL, CAMP MEETING**

The Saints in Miami, FL will be having a camp meeting beginning April 1 and continuing through April 8. Services will be nightly at 7:30 with two services on Sunday. The schedule of day services will be announced at the meeting. All are welcome.

For more information call Bro. Charles Clay at (305) 235-4271 or Bro. Ken Baxter at (786) 554-8833. The chapel is located at 235 NW 47<sup>th</sup> St., Miami, FL.

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**DALLAS, TX, SPRING REVIVAL**

The Saints in Dallas, TX cordially invite you to attend their Spring Revival April 6-8. Services will begin on Friday at 7:00 p.m., Saturday at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 8, Sunday school at 10:00 a.m. with morning worship service following at 11:00 a.m.

For further information contact Bro. Calvin Frentrup at (972) 273-1538 or Bro. Brian Francisco at (972) 296-9275. The chapel phone is (972) 557-1921. It is located at 11501 Rylie Crest Dr., Balch Springs, TX 75180.

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**ENTERPRISE, AL, SPRING SINGING**

The church of God congregation at the Enterprise Community near Warrior, AL is planning a singing April 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel. Activities and a couple of sessions will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning at the park in Hanceville, which is the same place as last year. On the following day, April 15, there will be dinner on the grounds with services at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. The chapel is located approximately two miles west of Interstate 65 at Exit number 289. For

further information please contact Bro. Roy Herron at (205) 647-7869 or Bro. Marshall Whitson at (205) 647-6325.

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**WICHITA, KS, SPRING MEETING**

The Wichita Spring meeting for 2007 will be held April 15-22. We are putting it in God's hands and expecting Him to send ministers and workers as He so chooses. All are welcome and encouraged to attend if possible. We desire to see people saved, sanctified, edified and blessed. Some are in great need of healing, also. Please pray for the success of the meeting.

On Sundays, we will have 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. services. Monday through Saturday, we will have 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. services. The chapel address is: 2500 N. Grove. If coming from the South on I-35, you take Exit 42 (for I-35 and 235). You follow past 24<sup>th</sup> St.; the chapel is the second building in that 2500 block.

If you need to contact someone, you may call Bro. Emmanuel Gracey at (316) 778-1848 or Bro. Theodore McCray at (316) 682-5132.

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**WEBB CITY, MO, SINGING**

The congregation at Webb City would like to announce a singing on Saturday, April 21, at 7:00 p.m. We also plan to have a revival Sunday, April 22, until Wednesday, April 25. We are praying that the Lord will send the minister/ministers of His choosing. Services will be 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Sunday, and 7:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. Contact information is (417) 237-0010 home, (417) 793-6329 cell, or (417) 793-1700 cell, e-mail danandanita@earthlink.net

Please pray that the Lord will bless this effort for the good of the neighborhood and the congregation.

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**VANCEBURG, KY, SPRING MEETING**

The Vanceburg, KY, Church of God congregation, Lord willing, will be holding a spring meeting May 18-20. There will be morning services at 11:00 and an evening service at 7:00. We encourage all who feel burdened to come and support our meeting. The spring meeting is conducted on a freewill offering basis. There will be meals prepared daily on the campground. We are depending upon the Lord to lead and direct in sending the ministers of His choosing. Ac-

commodations will be provided. Please bring bed linens. For more information, contact Bro. or Sis. Dallas Cooper at (606) 796-3645 or (606) 202-1115 cell, or the chapel at (606) 796-0882 and leave a message. All are welcome.

—Vanceburg, KY congregation  
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**HOLLY HILL, SC, CAMP MEETING**

We give a cordial invitation to all to attend the 2007 Holly Hill, SC camp meeting beginning on Sunday, June 3rd, and continuing through Sunday, June 10th, Lord willing. All are welcome, and we will make accommodations for as many as possible. Anyone planning to attend who needs accommodations should contact Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Smith at (803) 492-7975 or Sis. Beverly Pratt at (803) 496-3057, so arrangements can be made. Please come, if you can, and if you cannot be here, please pray for God to bless our services.

In Christ's love,

—The Holly Hill, SC Congregation



LETTERS  
 FROM  
 OUR  
 READERS

LA—"O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man *that* trusteth in him." Psalms 34:8. God has proven Himself so good to us and we want to talk of His wondrous works. On November 16, 2005, Brandon and I felt a "new urgency" for the child we believed the Lord had burdened our hearts to adopt. On this evening, we prayed together and agreed to fast and pray for God's guidance on the next Saturday, November 19, 2005. Up to this point we had kept our burden and desire to adopt a child committed to the Lord, praying that He would help us be willing to do whatever He asked.

Over the four and one-half years of our marriage, we had researched some adoption/fostering/mentoring options and completed a home study. We had ruled out a Guatemalan adoption when we were told it would cost approximately three-fourths of our salary for a year. However, as we fasted and prayed on that Saturday, we both felt the Lord imploring us to



simply trust Him with all our hearts, leaning not to our own understanding.

Later, when we received our son's birth certificate and papers, we learned his date of birth was November 18, 2005. How overwhelmed and thankful we are to know that God, our omnipotent, omniscient Lord, had put an urgency on our hearts to pray for our son on the days surrounding his birth! The first day of life for Isaac is also the day Brandon and I knew the Lord did want us to go to Guatemala.

And the details? The expenses? The paperwork and language barriers? The fears and questions? God took care of every small detail. And He didn't just take care of it, He showed us the "...treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places...." God gave us such beautiful experiences of what pure trust in our almighty God can do. God is amazing and His ways are worth seeking.

Our son, Isaac, has been with us five months now. He has already been such a blessing and joy to our family. We praise God for all He has done!!

I encourage you, please taste and see! We are blessed when we trust in Him. Our love,

—Bro. Brandon, Sis. Amber, Whit and Isaac Martens



MO—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: The Lord has blessed me and I feel He is guiding my life. I want always to be and do what He wants me to be and do. It is a blessed life to live for Him.

—Sis. Esther Hightower



Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings to you in the name of Jesus our Savior. When the angel announced to Mary concerning the birth of our Savior, He said, "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David. And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." Luke 1:32-33. Also when the angel announced His birth to the lowly shepherds, the angel said, "...Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord....And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:10-14.

Now, after that we are redeemed by His blood and by His life, He wants us, His people, to bear the message of salvation unto all people. "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again." II Corinthians 5:14-15.

The poet has amply said, "Go tell the world that Jesus has suffered, Died to redeem the vilest of men; How he can save and keep us forever, Free from the pow'r of Satan and sin. Tell it again, the wonderful story, Sound it aloud o'er valley and plain, Till all the world is filled with his glory. Heaven and earth join in the refrain." Another poet has said, "When taking his word to the lost ones, It is not a gift we bestow: By working and praying and giving, We pay but the debt that we owe."

I trust that the Lord will fill our hearts with the fullness of His love and help us to be faithful to Him and to souls. "I ought to love my Savior, He loved me long ago, Looked on my soul with favor, When deep in guilt and woe: And though my sin had grieved him, His Father's law had crossed, Love drew him down from heaven, To seek and save the lost."

Your saved brother, —T. V. McMillian



CA—Greetings in Jesus name. I am so thankful to be saved and encouraged to live for the Lord. February is my birthday month. On the 14<sup>th</sup> I was saved 55 years and the 23<sup>rd</sup> I'll be 84.

I thank the Lord for being my Savior, Sanctifier and my Keeper. God has healed me of many things. I'm so thankful He has blessed me since I had a nervous attack two years ago in the Bakersfield Winter Meeting. I began to lose weight and my hair was falling out, but God has seen me through. Last year the Lord blessed me to go to Dallas for their dedication service. It was wonderful. I went to Monark and from there I went to Akron, OH. I'm so thankful He saw me through with much joy.

I have been ill this year so far. My nerves are so bad, I can't sleep at night more than two or three hours. I love to lie in bed in the morning until nine or ten, but I have a pain in my left chest that hurts worse when I lay down, so I have to get up often at night. I have to get up and sit on the bed. Sometimes I walk around. I was prayed for twice, but the pain held on. I said,

Lord you have always healed me. something is wrong. You haven't done anything wrong. but I know you are my Healer and have been for 54 years. Please show me what is wrong. So I fasted and prayed. The Bible said some things come by fasting and praying. So I pleaded for God to show me what I needed. I called one of the Sisters and told her, "I am holding on to God. but this is the first time God didn't answer me." She asked, "what are you asking for?" I said, "healing." She said, "Stop asking for healing. Ask God to give you grace to stand the pain." I told her, "The pain doesn't let up; no one can hurt all of the time." She laughed and said. "Sister, you have an awakening you have never had before, you have to be willing to suffer."

I hung up and said, "Lord, is this what You want for me?" He said, "I want you to be willing to suffer pain. How will the younger Saints learn to suffer if the older ones don't show them by precept and example?" That was my spiritual awakening. I said, "Lord, I'm willing." For years I would be sick, but never have pain. So I said, "Lord, I'm willing. What ever You have for me. I'm willing, because You promised I'll never leave you alone." And He hasn't!

I called the Sister and told her how God had blessed my soul in what she told me. I said, "I hope I can be some help to you some day." She said, "You have been so much help to me when you told me that at night when you couldn't sleep, you sing and give praise to God." She said, "I have been doing it. It helps." Thank God. I have found praises to God bring victory!

One night I woke up at 3:00 in the morning. I turned the radio on, A man was telling about his lost brother. At 4:00 I prayed and sang until 5:00. At 5:00 I turned the tape recorder on and listened to singing. At 6:00 I turned the radio on for the news about the poor people who were stranded and sitting on planes or in cars on the road. I found lots to pray for and forgot about myself.

If there is ever a time to pray, it is now. Our country is in a terrible condition, our towns have gangs killing each other almost daily. This horrible world is out of control. Our leaders do not know what to do. Only God can work these things out.

Before our pastor passed away in 2004, God gave him a message, "Lord, Wake Up Zion." I am still pleading, "Lord, wake up Zion." We heard a message a few weeks ago. It was brought out

that a minister's life expectancy is 55 years. Not just among us, but nationwide. We must pray God will wake up Zion. so we can pray for our ministers, our country and an out of control war. God can do anything but fail! Please pray for me that I'll get hold of what God is requiring of me. Christian love. —Sis. Naomi Jennings



**Viva Lacroix Chevallier** of Hammond, LA was born January 14, 1923, in Summerville, LA to William Vernon Masters and Nellie Louisa Masters. She passed away January 17, 2007, at North Oaks Hospital in Hammond, LA at the age of 84 years.

She did not have much education but after her children had left home, her husband was injured in an oil field accident. She had to work, so she went back to school and finished her education and even became an L.P.N. She worked at Pinecrest Hospital in Pineville, LA for children with special needs. Her heart went out to those children and she tried to love them and care for them to the best of her ability. She made the work that she did very meaningful.

Viva was a good mother to her children and encouraged them to get an education and pursue a career. When she was in her pre-teens her family attended church at the Church of God in Midway (Jena), LA.

She was preceded in death by her parents, son, Doyle Glenn LaCroix, Sr., and three brothers, Millard, Oca, and Alvin Masters.

She is survived by a daughter, Camille LaCroix Island, of Oklahoma City, OK; daughter-in-law, Cynthia LaCroix of Loranger, LA; brother, Levelle Masters, of Jena, LA; two sisters, Laverne Cox, of Wildsville, LA and Christine Gentry of Loranger, LA.

Services were conducted at Young's Funeral Home in Jonesville, LA on January 20, 2007, with Bro. Michael Williamson officiating. Burial was in Belah Cemetery in Jena, LA.

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**Herbert Willie Flynn** of Loranger, LA was born September 27, 1930, to Dallas and Mamie Joiner Flynn and passed from this life, December 21, 2006. He was married to Mary Miller Flynn, also of Loranger. To their union, five children were born, Kay, Kathy, Dennis, Terry and Tim.

Herbert grew up in the rural farming community of Loranger and spent his working years farming and being a truck driver. He had a chicken farm, beef cattle and dairy cattle and drove many years for Walker-Roemer dairies and Lampton Love Gas Co.

Herbert knew at about age 60 that something was not quite right in his body. He could tell that his reaction time was slowing down and he was concerned for his own safety and the safety of others on the highway. He talked of planning to retire at age 62 or 65. He retired at age 62 and soon afterward began showing the obvious signs of the disease that attacked his father, which was Parkinson's. Herbert never complained about his condition and his family observed in him the mark of patience. He was concerned about others and showed his concern by comments such as "be careful," which was heart meant, when they would leave after caring for him.

Herbert and Mary reared their children on the farm, which usually has a way of demanding much time, but they found ways of building memories with their family by taking time to travel around the country and visiting some of its beauty.

Herbert was often emotional in his later years and was very tender. One of his desires was for the Lord to give him a clean soul. One night the Lord visited him and gave him a dream which Herbert seemed to take as a confirmation that the Lord had given him his desire.

He will be sadly missed by those in this community and by his family. Herbert was preceded in death by his parents, Dallas and Mamie Flynn and two brothers, Delbert and Kenneth Flynn.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Miller Flynn; two daughters, Kay and husband, Mike Stover;

Kathy and husband, Ferlin Palmer; three sons, Dennis and wife, Pam Flynn; Terry and wife, Sandra Flynn, and Tim Flynn; eight grandchildren, Brian, Derek, Terell, Bradley, Cody, Anecia, Mariah and Natasha; one step-grandchild, Taylor.

Herbert was laid to rest in Oak Grove Church of God Cemetery in Loranger with services conducted by Bro. Michael Williamson.

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**Melvin Curtis Flynn** was born August 27, 1913, in Loranger, LA, to Willie and Rosa (Lee) Flynn. He passed from this life Friday, January 19, 2007, in Colonial Nursing Home, Guthrie, OK at the age of 93 years. He was married to Philimine Emma Mahnke of Ponca City, OK, August 31, 1936. To this union were born two children, Gerald Curtis and Sharon Eileen.

He was a hard worker and a good provider for his family and gave freely to the work of the Lord. He taught his children to work, be honest and God-fearing. Melvin was saved at a young age and was active in church work, holding the office of superintendent, Sunday school teacher and board member.

The family lived in the Los Angeles, CA area several years and then moved to Dinuba, CA where they purchased a farm and resided there a number of years before moving to Hammond, LA in 1958. They were in the Hammond and Loranger congregations while living in Louisiana. After residing in Louisiana approximately 26 years, he and his wife, along with Jerry and Sharon, moved to Shawnee, OK.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife of over 65 years, Philimine Mahnke Flynn; one sister, Katie Joiner of CA; four brothers, Luther (Jim) of CA; Dallas, Angus and O. D. all of Loranger, LA.

He leaves to mourn his passing Gerald and wife, Connie Flynn, of Loranger; Sharon and husband, Jerry Quave, of Guthrie, OK; one brother, Cullie, of CA; four grandchildren, Debbie and husband, Craig Shaffer, of Guthrie, OK; Duane and wife, Terri Anne Flynn; Bert and wife, Toni Flynn; and Darin Flynn all of Loranger, LA and seven great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was conducted in the Oak Grove Church of God chapel, Loranger, LA, January 24, 2007. With burial in the Oak Grove Cemetery. Services were conducted by Brothers Ed Wilson, Michael Williamson and Steve Elston.

# NOTHING

By Sis. LaVerna Probst

I heard a statement made a few days ago that set my mind and heart to searching. It was, "The Bible has a lot to say about nothing." I will share some of the scriptures I found as I studied the thought of *Nothing*.

**The nothingness of man:** "All nations before him *are* as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity." Isaiah 40:17.

"Behold, ye *are* of nothing, and your work of nought:..." Isaiah 41:24.

"Behold, they *are* all vanity; their works *are* nothing; their molten images *are* wind and confusion." Isaiah 41:29.

"And all the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing:..." Daniel 4:35.

As I thought on this, it was too wonderful for me to comprehend, that God gave His only Son for someone that was less than *nothing*. I thought of the old dot matrix printers that printed by millions of tiny dots, too small for someone to pick out just one dot, yet my Savior gave His life for me when I was nothing but a tiny dot among the millions. He called my name, He saved my soul and made me a recipient of Heaven's best. How could I ever feel worthy of such love?!!!

**Riches are nothing:** "Treasures of wickedness profit nothing; but righteousness delivereth from death." Proverbs 10:2.

"There is that maketh himself rich, yet *hath* nothing: *there is* that maketh himself poor, yet *hath* great riches." Proverbs 13:7.

"Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:" Revelation 3:17.

God wants us to realize that we are nothing and to find nothing within ourselves. We must understand our great dependency upon a force much greater than ourselves.

"I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth *it*, that *men* should fear before him." Ecclesiastes 3:14.

"As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand." Ecclesiastes 5:15.

"In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the

one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him." Ecclesiastes 7:14.

Does He want us all without confidence in facing life and its perplexities? No, not at all! But we must realize that **only in Him are we something**, and without Him we can do nothing but create chaos.

"... as having nothing, and *yet* possessing all things." II Corinthians 6:10.

"...for without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5.

"...the flesh profiteth nothing:..." John 6:63.

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." Matthew 5:13.

Oh, that we as man could understand how unimportant we are and that nothing we can do is of any value without God. Even Jesus speaking of Himself said in John 5:19, "...Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself,..." If Jesus realized He could do nothing without God how much more we should comprehend our nothingness. If we can grasp this concept of nothingness it will take care of hurt feelings, church troubles, thinking that the minister doesn't spend enough time with "me," my ideas are never listened to, and the many petty things we spend our time and energy fretting over.

If we can grasp this thought then we have the promise in Isaiah 66:2, "...but to this *man* will I look, *even* to *him* that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word."

"Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them." Psalms 119:165.

"Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." Luke 10:19.

"But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." James 1:4.

Let us go back to the thought of the printer. I am informed that the finer or smaller the dot, the finer the printing and the clearer the image. Is this not true of the Family of God? If we try to stand as a dot alone it will distort the picture

God is wanting to portray to the world, but as we each one become that "nothing," losing our identity, the image of God's church will shine clear and bright.

How my heart has been challenged to hide in the dust as Isaiah 2:10 says. To achieve this, many times it will cost hard trials and a destruction of the flesh and my ways, but to have the Lord look upon me will be worth it all.



## The Sin of Sodom

(Continued from page 3.)

*Evening Light Songs.*) This they did in horse drawn buggies, boats or on foot. What are we doing today to spread the gospel? Are we content with just a few knowing the truth, and billions being lost for eternity? There is a mindset that ten percent of one's income belongs to God, the rest is for them. Do we believe that? (When have we tried giving 90 percent and living on 10 percent, or giving ALL our living as the widow did in Mark 12:44?) Are we unconsciously following the pattern of the world?

Are we not leading our children on the path to Sodom's wickedness when we keep them full of bread without giving them responsibilities equal to their ability? Even small children should be responsible for keeping themselves and their rooms clean, doing school homework and family chores. Abundance of time was one of Sodom's sins. Each person has the natural desires to please the flesh, and when children have too much free time the devil has more chances to influence their desires toward evil. When the mind and body are busy cleaning, sewing, taking music lessons, doing art projects, woodwork or fixing mechanical things and especially helping others, then evil temptations cannot enter so quickly. My parents often quoted the old saying, "An idle mind is the devil's workshop." Moreover, they kept us busy. A child who is kept busy working or physically playing will be tired at night. A tired child will not be staying awake all night wasting time or doing things that appeal to the flesh.

Religious complacency, being at ease in Zion, and materialism have already wrecked many a Christian's experience and is pounding at the door of others. People are blinded to God's vision. Believers do not feel God's pulse for the lost. They do not feel Jesus' agony when He died without a friend. Jesus told us that near the end, "Because iniquity (inherited injustice) shall

abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Matthew 24:12. Some of our generation has inherited thought patterns and living habits that are self-centered and very unlike Christ, Who willingly gave up Heaven to suffer for us. We must guard against these iniquities lest they cause spiritual disaster.

K.P. Yohannan in *Living in the Light of Eternity*, said, "What I see happening in Christian circles concerns me deeply. Believers are being bombarded from all sides to invest their time, efforts and finances in everything but a lost and dying world. Material things, trips, social gatherings, building projects and the comfort of their families, all these and more, may come at the expense of souls who are lost for eternity. And believers who have already committed their lives to reaching the world with the Gospel are in danger of losing their focus."

Our focus is so often on ourselves, our job, our church, our future, our retirement, our family. Why do we not take up our cross and follow Christ Who sacrificed even a place to lay His head? Are we blinded by selfish desires? Jesus' focus was on the lost, so shouldn't it be ours?

Another sin of Sodom was that they did not "strengthen the poor and needy." A Christian should sacrifice to help the poor, but are we even sharing our abundance with the needy, or throwing it in the trash? While we are living a standard far better than that of kings in former ages, the lost and the poor barely exist in their miserable conditions. Many parents are keeping their money for their family's unnecessary comforts instead of giving to the Lord or to the poor. Moreover, instead of benefiting from their parents sacrifice, many in their teenage years are choosing to be selfish and experimenting with things of the world, pleasures, fame, gaming, drugs, alcohol, gambling, pornography etc.

Romans 10:13-15 says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 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? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?..." What are we doing to send a preacher to those who are lost? Jesus sacrificed the comforts of Heaven to save the lost. God sacrificed His son. What are we sacrificing so others can hear and believe on Jesus?

Christians often listen to the advice of others and huddle in their comfort zones, not realizing their lack of involvement is propelling them toward a tragedy ahead. It would be much better to do God's will, although it's difficult. The Israelites in Numbers 13:25-14:11, were afraid to enter the promised land because of the giants. It would have been much better for the Israelites to have given up their fears and comforts and fought the giants.

I believe the devil is playing a similar trick today, saying, "You can't do enough for the lost billions to make a difference, so why try?" Your friends warn you to stay balanced. Others quote, I Timothy 5:8, "But if any provide not for his own,...he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." When others say discouraging words, we need to ignore them as Christian did in Pilgrim Progress, when he put his fingers in his ears and cried, "Life! Life!"

Should we not take our sons and daughters into the icy waters of self-denial, and give of our money so others hear the gospel, and by so doing save our sons and daughters? Or we can huddle in our comforts with them and both die spiritually. I believe we should enter into the battle for souls. Let us not allow our children to grow up in the sins of Sodom, for they may take up the practices of those cities as well. God help us to save ourselves from "...pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness...."

## *He Shed His Blood For All*

*Nineteen hundred million souls,*

*Standing near the final goal.*

*Soon we'll see the awful judgment on them fall;*

*Must they truly be consigned*

*To the pit and there confined,*

*Since the blessed Savior shed his blood for all?*

*Every second, sad to tell,*

*Counts another soul in hell,*

*Dreadful sight to see them bound in sin's dark pall.*

*What in life we all may do,*

*Can but save a very few,*

*Yet, the blessed Savior shed his blood for all.*

*Tho' a million be bro't in, There's a billion yet in sin;  
Quickly bear the gospel message unto all.*

*Preach the word at any cost,*

*For the world in sin is lost,*

*Yet, the blessed Savior shed his blood for all.*

*Can we tarry home for dross*

*While beholding such a loss?*

*If we can from heaven's grace we'll surely fall*

*Quickly leave the cottage door;*

*Spread the truth from shore to shore,*

*For the blessed Savior shed his blood for all.*

*—W.G. Schell*

## **WAIT ON THE LORD**

**By Bro. Leslie Busbee**

One of the greatest lessons in life we should learn, and what is perhaps the most difficult, is that of having faith and patience to wait on the Lord. This involves waiting on Him for things we desire and need, things that we are assured that He has promised us in His Word and in personal revelations from Him. The Holy Spirit is so good to inspire our hearts through the avenue of His Word, and we grasp hold earnestly of His promise and feel so assured that the blessing we need and desire will come to pass. But then the days and weeks go by with no fulfillment, and we are prone to give it all up and cease from our hope. But here is where faith and patience must take hold in our inner man. We must accept the fact that God wants us to learn the great lesson of waiting patiently on Him. And the Holy Scriptures are abounding in expressing this thought of waiting on God.

Lamentations of Jeremiah 3:25-26 declares: "The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD." Isaiah 30:18 says, "And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him." The Lord is good, but He is also a God of judgment. He does things in proper order and with exact wisdom. He does not work according to our mortal fancies, but

according to what He sees is best for us. He will be exalted because He is worthy of being exalted. So it falls to us to learn the lesson of waiting on Him with steadfast patience and expectancy. Many down through the ages have waited on Him and proven that it is the best for one to do.

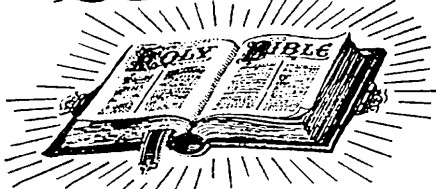
David testified in Psalm 40:1-3 about the Lord inclining unto him and hearing his cry, bringing him up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay and setting his feet on a rock and establishing his goings, and putting a new song of praise in his mouth. But what preceded all of this wonderful deliverance? Verse 1 states: "I waited patiently for the LORD;..." All of this blessed experience came about through David's faith and patience. I do not know if this Psalm was written about such, but we do know that David went through a lengthy trial of faith and patience in his sufferings from King Saul. David had to leave home and go out in the wilderness like an exile to keep from being murdered by Saul. We do not know how long David had to be thus mistreated, threatened, abused and separated from his home, but it evidently stretched out into several years. His years of exile and peril of his life might well have been the horrible pit he was referring to. However this can also be applied to the horrible pit of sin and transgression against God that mankind is so desperately imprisoned in.

Then there are other scriptures expressing this thought of waiting upon God. In Habakkuk 2:1-4 the prophet tells how he was standing upon his watch and tower to watch and see what the LORD would say unto him. And the Lord answered him and said, "...Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie, though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith." The vision and answer of the Lord would come at an appointed time, (God's time), and if it tarried He exhorted us to wait for it. Now this very scripture is quoted from in various places in the New Testament. Let us notice how the writer quotes from this in Hebrews 10:35-38. After commending them for taking joyfully the spoiling (plundering, theft and loss) of their (earthly) goods, knowing in their hearts that they had in Heaven a better and an enduring substance, he ex-

horted them thus: "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."

This thought of waiting for the salvation of the Lord is mentioned again in Genesis 49: 18 by Jacob, right amid the blessings that he was pronouncing upon his twelve sons as he was dying. These blessings he gave are prophetic of the gospel of Christ. His blessing upon Judah in verse 10 is very much accepted as speaking of Jesus, the lawgiver, and Shiloh (rest giver). "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him *shall* the gathering of the people *be*." Then, right between the blessing given to Dan and the blessing upon Gad, Jacob declared: "I have waited for thy salvation, O

## Bible Lessons



"Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord,  
we are CHANGED . . ." II Cor. 3:18

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LORD." Genesis 49:18. Many years after this, in his epistle to the Galatians in chapter 5 and verse 5 Paul stated: "For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith." James 5:7-8 also says, "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."

There was a long period of waiting for the Messiah to come and bring life and salvation to the world of lost sinners, and now there is a long period of waiting for the Lord to come and finish His great salvation in the resurrection of His people from the dead.

So we see that it takes faith and patience to receive things promised to us from the Lord. One more scripture that is so good on this subject is found in Hebrews 6:11-15. Let us take special notice for it is very well expressed. "And we desire that every one of you do show the

same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through *faith and patience* inherit the promises. For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. And so, after he had *patiently endured*, he obtained the promise."

Take courage, dear tested soul, and exercise yourself to patient endurance, and be assured that your waiting on the Lord will pay off in a great reward.

## The Altar of Prayer

*You may sing of the mountains,  
All mantled in green  
And the grand rolling rivers,  
Outstretching between,  
Of the beautiful flowers,  
Adorning the plain,  
And the rich laden vessels  
That float on the main.*

*You may talk, if you please, of  
The pleasures of earth,  
Of your coveted prospects, of  
Wealth and of mirth,  
But this world altogether, could  
Never compare,  
With a sweet sense of pardon,  
In answer to prayer.*

*You may boast of the warrior,  
With high sounding name  
Who has won for himself, and  
His country a fame;  
But the glory of Jesus excels  
It as far  
As the sun in effulgence  
Eclipses a star.*

*You may dream of contentment,  
Apart from the fold,  
With your chosen companions  
And coffers of gold,  
But so long as the Master  
Will deign to be there,  
I will seek my repose  
At the altar of prayer!  
—Selected*

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