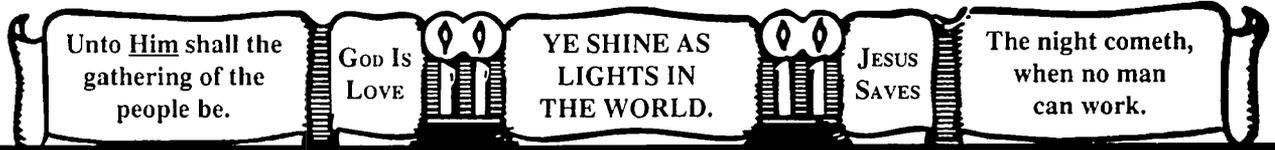


FAITH AND VICTORY

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The Rich Fool

And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, *and* be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." Luke 12:16-21. As we read this Scripture, and think upon conditions as they exist in the world today, we are made to realize that far too many precious souls are following in the way of the rich fool, rushing, toiling, cheating, oppressing, scrambling for the

perishable riches of this world; piling up and hoarding the fleeting treasures of earth while their souls are famishing, starving, dying for the real life-giving bread, and for the water that Jesus said would spring up into everlasting life. Yea, famishing for the true riches that Jesus offers to mankind, those eternal riches that shall never fade away.

We find that the rich man of our text seemed to be in a state of uncertainty. At least there was a question in his mind and he had to make a decision, and in making his decision he only thought of this present life, or of this time world. "This will I do:" said he, "I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, *and* be merry." See where he made his sad mistake. He left God out of his plans. He did not take into consideration the fact that life is uncertain and that death is sure to come. He had made plans and preparations for this life, but none for eternity.

Many today are leaving God out of their plans, out of their decisions. They are seeking an education, seeking a position, buying houses and lands, getting themselves established in their places of business, or stocking their farms, buying cars, eating, drinking, and at ease. They are putting first things last. Jesus said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;" But God has been left out—no time to think about or to pray for the soul's eternal good.

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Dear ones, there is no time to be at ease so long as there is one sin between thy soul and God. If God would speak tonight from the chambers of eternity, to many he would say as he did to one of old, "Thou fool!" Why did God pronounce him a fool? Because he was void of true wisdom and understanding. He has said to man, "...The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding." Job 28:28. Oh, how little this man was honored of God; not worthy for his name to be written in the Bible; his name forgotten among men and not in the book of life. What a sad picture! All we know is, "Thou fool." Is that the way God has recorded your name tonight? or has He written for you that new name in the Lamb's book of life?

Listen! "This night"—oh, how quickly his "many years" had dwindled away! "...This night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" Just think! He was rich in this world, a pauper in eternity; wise in time in earthly wisdom, a fool in eternity; full of ease and pleasure in life, but gone, gone, gone on to a world of endless woe, trouble and despair. Good-bye money, good-bye friends, farewell pleasures and all that earth holds dear. God has called and I must go, unprepared, and I cannot stay away. It has happened unto him according to the saying of Job, "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither." Also Paul has said by divine inspiration: "For we brought nothing into *this* world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." I Timothy 6:7. "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not

rich toward God." The cares of life, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lust of other things coming in, choke out the Word and they become unfruitful. This has happened to many along the way of life.

In making his decision, the prodigal son said, "I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son:" The steward that Jesus commended said, "I am resolved what to do." The Philippian jailor asked, "What must I do to be saved?" And for good advice to one and all Jesus says in Revelation 3:18-22, "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich, and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see....Behold; I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

Dear friends, will you heed the earnest pleadings and wooings of the Spirit of God? Will you deal justly with your own soul? What if God would call for thee tonight, would you be ready to go? Have you made preparations to meet your Lord in peace? If not, hasten to Him today; do not delay.

—Ulysses Phillips

Faith and Victory, November 1948

Take Root Downward

In the recent wind storm, when I heard of shrubs and trees blown down, I remembered how the Word of God said in II Kings 19:30 that the house of Judah would again "take root downward." I realized how important it was for us to "take root downward" when the winds of deception come. We will then be so grounded in the truth and doctrine that we; by the power of God, will be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. If we are established in the truth, we will not be so apt to fall, for our roots will be deep in the Lord.

I was much impressed with the trees that fell which were eucalyptus trees, for they are very tall and straight and look so sturdy. We would

think that they could stand anything; but, sad to say, they are more of a show than an example of strength against the windstorm. These trees have very few roots and are easily blown down.

One of the Saints had one in his yard which fell across his driveway and it took a lot of work to clear it away so the driveway could be used, but it did no damage. Just so, if a person is blown over with deception because of not being rooted down deeply in the truth and gets that deception cleared away quickly, it will not cause so much damage to someone else.

The next tree I heard of, fell on a house, breaking in the roof and doing much damage. This tree is like a deception that caused much

damage to one person and others that got hold of one because they were not rooted downward.

The third incident I heard of was two trees of the same kind which fell on a garage, crushing the garage and two cars that were inside. This reminded me of cases where more than one falls into a deception and fall together. They cause much damage to their souls, and many more are led astray.

Let us take warning from this storm to see how winds of deception can cause much damage to souls.

We hear of another tree, known as the sturdy oak. We are told it has as many roots under the ground as it has branches. Therefore it is able to stand the stormy winds that blow and is not moved. God help us to be strong, sturdy oaks for Him, standing on the old truths that were in God's church when He instituted

the ordinances at the time He established His church.

Jude tells us to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints." So we must not be moved about by every wind of doctrine. In Galatians 1:8 it tells us, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." We should not receive any other Gospel; so it is needful that we are rooted and grounded in the truth.

II John 10 tells us, "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed." Our hearts are grieved and crushed to see some of God's little ones being deceived, but God's church will stand the judgment shock, and if we are in it we shall not fall.

—Flossie Atha

Taken from *Faith and Victory*, April 1954



Prayers for the Dead

The whole world in the mortal and sinful state is dead concerning their spiritual relation with God. Is it not downright stupid and ignorant to ask God to have mercy on lost souls beyond the tomb?

Such appears as an abomination to God, or an attempt of mockery to Him, as though one should declare it was futile, vain, and foolish to make the supreme sacrifice of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to redeem mankind from a state of death in sin, to a life of righteousness. The idea of purgatory, so called, is not God inspired, but a baseless deception, propagated by man as the agency and mouthpiece of satan, the arch enemy of God, who seeks to boast or challenge God that the finished work of Christ is all in vain.

The deceptive idea of purgatory originated with Judas Maccabees, the great leader and deliverer of the Jews from their enemies (175-160 B. C.), who referring to his slain soldiers on the battlefield, said he HOPED that they MIGHT be delivered from sin.

There would be no need of a Saviour if those who pass on to the spirit world void of full salvation could be set free by the prayers of mortal man. Such a one would possess no heart-felt change of life or knowledge, experience, and love of God that characterizes the happy, joyful soul that Christ hath set free from

sin in the mortal state. Luke 16:19-31 explodes all deceptive ideas and vain imaginations of deluded man. In the light of God's Word, so clearly understood to all who have been made new creatures in Christ, or born again, there is no provisions made for anyone's salvation or deliverance who died without Christ. "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" Hebrews 2:3.

How foolish for anyone to think that God is so merciful and loving that He will in some super-natural way consider and offer the lost soul another chance to be reconciled to Him.

Shall the guilty, condemned criminal say to the judge who passes sentence upon the guilty, deserving death, "Judge, won't you please annul that decree and set me free? I have been lawfully obedient in some things, won't that count for something?" Does the Christ-rejector deserve any clemency in the world to come?

A Catholic worker insinuated to me that the good deeds one has done will merit the approval of God by hearkening to the prayers of the living that the dead may be released from a so-called purgatory. I Corinthians 13:3 answers for all time in these very inspired words, "...Though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though

(Continued on page eight.)

FAITH AND VICTORY 12 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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SUBSCRIPTION RATES



Single copy, one year \$5.00
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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.

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.

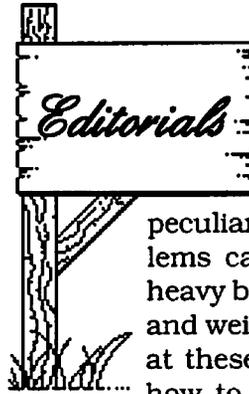
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"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2. Each of us are called to face, from time to time, what may seem to be a

peculiar set of problems. These problems can sometimes escalate into heavy burdens that touch our heart and weigh heavily on our mind. It is at these times that we must learn how to bring them to the Lord in

prayer and commit them into His strong hands and in faith believe that He will work out what is best for us.

There is a story of a young girl who lived in one of the northern states that seemed to linger in a miserable condition over the small setbacks that came her way. Her grandfather, having observed her condition for some time, invited her to go for a ride with him one fall day while the leaves were still on the trees. The previous day there had been an early snowstorm that swept through the area leaving a heavy blanket of snow covering the countryside. As they rode along, the grandfather commented to his granddaughter, "look at those elm trees, their branches are so broken from the weight of the snow that the trees may die." As they rode on in silence a little further the grandfather made another observation, "look at those pines and evergreen trees, they are completely undamaged by the storm. My child, there are two kinds of trees in the world, the foolish and the wise. An elm holds its branches rigid and as it becomes weighted down they eventually snap in two. On the other hand, when an evergreen tree becomes loaded, its branches begin to drop down and relax. This causes the heavy weight to slide off of them. Therefore, the evergreen tree remains unharmed. Be like an evergreen tree, my dear girl."

The child of God would receive benefit from this counsel also. Jesus gave a special invitation to those who are carrying a heavy load, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28. Peter was one who personally knew about the mercy and goodness of the Lord and He wrote these words for our encouragement, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." I Peter 5:7. These scriptures, along with a number of others, have been a great comfort to God's people through the ages. Many have found rest

for their troubled minds as they carried their burdens to the Lord in prayer, and God has worked many miracles for those who earnestly sought Him for an answer to their needs.

Today there are weary souls who are bearing heavy burdens and God's plan for His people makes room for them to share in His work of relieving those burdens. The verse previously mentioned tells us to "bear ye one another's burdens..." If we are among those chosen of God, we will find delight in having a part in lightening the load and relieving the pain of those we love. There is a special joy one finds in fulfilling the "law of Christ."

The "law of Christ" has reference to the commandment that He gave, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." John 13:34. Jesus had previously been telling His disciples that He was only going to be with them a little while longer before He would be going to His Father. So this commandment was a summation of His whole ministry and it was the issue that was dear to His heart. He longed for His followers to understand and possess this kind of love for their fellow man. Jesus also spoke of it in John 15:17 when He said, "These things I command you, that ye love one another." There is no greater injunction than the command that He issued that day. Its call is still ringing out to mankind everywhere. In these days, when there are so many hurting people who have been bruised by the blight of sin and injured by the lifestyle they are living, there is plenty of opportunity to practice this love.

The "law of Christ" is closely related to the "royal law" mentioned in James 2:8. This verse says, "If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:"

Jesus referred to this in Matthew 22:36-40 when a lawyer came to him and asked, "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, 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." The "law of Christ" went a step further by changing the reference point of our love from "thyself" to "as I have loved you." This

change, while it may seem subtle, gives a pure, heavenly reference point for our love. Christ's love was an active love that reached out to all mankind and had an origin that was holy and was not defiled or distorted by sin.

When Christ was giving the sermon on the mount He brought out how He wanted our love to reach farther than just to our friends and those that treated us well. He wanted our love to reach even to our enemies and those that hate us. Notice His words, "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more *than others*? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matthew 5:43-48. To manifest a love like this will require more than a human love. It will require the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit to radiate the love of Christ from the heart of man. It requires a truly changed heart from one who has experienced a spiritual birth. This is why the statement Jesus made in John 13:35 is true, "By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." The love of Christ cannot be duplicated by the unregenerate heart. No matter how hard one may try, the carnal man will show up, sooner or later, and reveal the hypocrisy of an empty profession of Christianity.

When people have religion instead of salvation, it shows up as a dry formality that is missing the life and vitality that true love brings to the worship of God. This love of Christ is the source of unity among the people of God and binds their hearts together with a cohesive bond that the world can only look on with questioning wonder. Those who are in leadership positions in God's church will have the same attitude that John the Baptist had concerning Jesus, "He must increase, but I *must* decrease." John 3:30. They will not be trying to gather followers after themselves, but their efforts will be concentrated on pointing people to the One Who is the

Source of this godly love that brings forgiveness and salvation.

James 2:12 says, "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty." The "law of liberty" and the "law of Christ" coincide very closely. The love of God that sent Jesus into the world brought liberty and deliverance from the bondage of sin. Notice the familiar verses of John 3:16-17, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." Sin brought defilement and bondage, the Law brought condemnation and an awareness of sin, but the love of God expressed through Christ and His atonement brought deliverance and liberty. "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. The truth about God is that He loves us and has made a way to give us freedom. No more is it necessary for sin to dominate our lives, we can be forgiven and set free from the consequences of those sins. Love causes us to forgive others who have trespassed against us and it seeks to restore the one who has strayed from the path of righteousness.

John understood the power and beauty of Christ's love for mankind and He also understood the importance of us loving each other. In I John 3:18 he said, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." Then in I John 4:11 he said, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." Jesus saw the compassionate heart that John possessed and He in turn entrusted the care of His mother to John. Some of the early writers have said when John was old he went about among the churches and assemblies of the people of God repeating the words, "Little children, love one another." Love was the focus of His life and He knew that it brought the favor of the Lord among their midst.

So much could be said about love, that is the "law of Christ," for it is so greatly entwined in the fabric of the Gospel. It must likewise be entwined into our lives if we want the favor of the Savior to rest upon us. May it be our prayer that we would possess more of the love that pleases the One Who gave so much to purchase our redemption.

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



We have had requests for prayer for some of the Saints children and grandchildren who have gone in the ways of the sin and need help from the Lord in a serious way.

Standing Prayer Requests

Bro. Roger Anderson
 Sis. Agnes Burleson
 Bro. Gary Burleson
 Sis. Gladys Cashio
 Sis. Helen Carson
 Sis. Genevieve Carver
 Sis. Elizabeth Corteway
 Sis. Waneta Creel
 Bro. Terry Dawson Sr.
 Bro. Mancil Doolittle
 Sis. Guy Domin
 Sis. Dorall Forbes
 Bro. Dan Gellenbeck
 Bro. Troy Gentry
 Jaden Howard
 Sis. Patsy Jordan
 Sis. Earnestine Jordan
 Sis. Karoline Kessler
 Bro. Mark and Sis. Darlene Knight
 Sis. Evodna Marler
 Sis. Virginia Myers
 Sis. Elsie M. Offerman
 Bro. Vernon Robinson
 Bro. David Runion
 Bro. Edward and Sis. Gloria Taylor
 The Mitch Taylor family
 Sis. Norma Tiller
 Bro. Delmar Wilkins

*In the day of my trouble I will
 call upon thee: for thou wilt answer
 me. Psalm 86:7.*

MEETING DATES

National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 20-29
Myrtle, MO (Camp Meeting)—Aug. 3-7
Spooner, WI (Tent Meeting)—Aug. 15-19
California State (Pacoima, CA)—
 August 17-26
Boley, OK (Camp Meeting)—Aug. 18-19
Wichita, KS (Fall Revival)—September 9-16



MEETING NOTICES

NATIONAL CAMP MEETING MONARK SPRINGS, MO

The National Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO, July 20-29. All are cordially invited to come and bring others to enjoy the blessings we are expecting from the Lord.

The Monark Springs campground is located approximately five miles east of Neosho, MO. It is one mile east and 3/4 mile south of the intersection of Highways 86 and 59.

If you travel to Neosho by bus, you may telephone the campground, (417) 472-6427, or Bro. Mike Hightower, (417) 451-3636, for transportation.

The camp meeting is conducted on a freewill offering basis. There is no charge for meals or lodging on the campgrounds. You are welcome to come and enjoy the meeting. We are confident God will supply every need. Meals will be served in the dining hall. Dormitory space and trailer spots are available on a first-come basis. Family units are also available.

For lodging contact Bro. Randel and Sis. DeLoris Bradley (620) 717-2243 or e-mail rdbradley@ckt.net.

The business managers are Bro. Mike Hightower, 13974 Newt Dr., Neosho, MO 64850. Phone, (417) 451-3636, and Bro. Paul Cole (417) 455-2378.

MYRTLE, MO, CAMP MEETING

The Myrtle, MO Camp Meeting will begin, Lord willing, on Friday, August 3 and continue through Tuesday, August 7. The first service is scheduled for 10:30 a.m., Friday. General services are scheduled for 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. each day throughout the meeting, with

afternoon services, as announced, on Saturday and Sunday. Children's and young people's services will also be as announced. We extend a hearty invitation to everyone to come, and desire the prayers of the Saints for God's special visitation and blessings on this meeting. Dormitories are available as well as a limited number of cabins. Also, a limited number of electrical hookups are available for campers/trailers. In order to help with arrangements, we ask that the owners of cabin units please contact Sis. Carol Sorrell at (417) 938-4493 and let her know whether or not you plan to come and use your cabin this year. The campground phone number is (417) 938-4682.

SPOONER, WI, TENT MEETING

Lord willing, this meeting will begin Wednesday, August 15, at 7:00 p.m., with services daily at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. through Sunday, August 19.

Come for a blessing and to be a blessing, and please support the tent meeting with your prayers.

There will be some accommodations but please call for arrangements. Bring your own bedding and linens if possible. Be prepared for cold nights. We give everyone a special invitation to come and be with us to enjoy God's many blessings of love. For more information contact Bro. Ron and Sis. Martha Zacharias at (715) 635-2994.

CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING

The annual California State Camp Meeting of the Church of God will begin, Lord willing, on August 17, ending August 26, 2012. The first service will be on Friday evening, August 17 at 7:30 p.m. with three services daily throughout the remainder of the meeting.

The campground is located at 12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, CA 91331. A hearty invitation is extended to all. Your presence and prayers will add much to the success of the meeting. Three meals are provided daily and accommodations for those needing them. Expenses are met by freewill offerings.

For more information you may contact: Sunset Guest Home (818) 899-2022; Bro. Paul Phillips (661) 251-6956 or Bro. Herbert Clay (818) 897-1396. The chapel phone number is: (818) 899-9021.

BOLEY, OK, CAMP MEETING

The Boley, OK, Church of God congregation is planning to hold a two day meeting August 18-19.

We would love to encourage all who can to come and support the faithful congregation here in Boley, OK. Your presence would be appreciated.

Services are planned for Saturday, August 19, at 4:00 p.m. No night service—snacks will be served. Sunday, August 19, Sunday School will begin at 10:00 a.m. followed by Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m. Dinner will be served. No evening service is planned.

Please be in an agreement of prayer with us for a very inspirational meeting. Come, bring a friend. Expect a blessing and receive a blessing from the Lord as we expound on the Word of God.

For further information you may contact Bro. Cleo Jordan (918) 814-4045 or Bro. Larry Brown (405) 329-1010.

WICHITA, KS, FALL REVIVAL

The Wichita congregation welcomes you to our fall revival. The meeting will run Sunday, September 9 through Sunday, September 16. Monday through Saturday, services will be held at 11:00 am and 7:30 pm. On Sunday, services will begin with Sunday School at 9:30 followed by Morning Worship at 10:45 and afternoon and evening services.

All are welcome! For more information contact Bro. Emanuel Gracey at 316-461-1267 or Bro. Theodore McCray at 316-641-4170.



**LETTERS
FROM
OUR
READERS**

LA—Dear Bro. and Sis. Murphey: Greetings of love to one and all! Praise our Lord for all He means to all of us. Let us keep pressing on the upward way. Heaven is nearer every day! I am encouraged, seeing how our Lord is working and awakening souls. My concern is that we all study every day to show ourselves approved to God. II Timothy 2:15, "Study to show thyself

approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Let us study to be a blessing in every way we can. Our Lord loves faithful workers. I was thinking of a song, which has these words in it, "We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves." I thought, "am I going to be bringing in sheaves?" Tonight there are many souls who need prayer and guidance, they are lost and know not which way to go, I am challenged! While I cannot do much, what I ought to do by our Lord's help, I will do. This love of God living in our hearts makes us want to do all we should. Oh, souls be up and doing! We have no time to lose.

Let us keep praying for our nation and all nations, every one of God's creation can have salvation if they will. Wonderful thought!

In Christian love, —Sis. Gladys Cashio



Prayers for the Dead

(Continued from page three.)

I give my body to be burned, and have not charity [divine love], it profiteth me nothing." "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend [sin] in one *point*, he is guilty of all." James 2:10.

Multitudes of people and church members have ideas that they can be reconciled to God by certain moral standards of living, without conviction leading to repentance and heart-felt salvation and without being cleansed from their sinful nature. The soul must here be trained in godly ways of living. Stupid would it be to give an illiterate or untrained person a graduating diploma without any training or instruction. The happy Saint in glory will need no one to pray for their peace and contentment over there. This mortal state can not conceive the unspeakable glory and eternal peace that the dead in Christ will possess in a perfect state of freedom, rest, and happiness as promised by the Lord in His sacred Word. God has made such a marvelous, unspeakable sacrifice of His beloved Son to redeem man in this present world, but so many show no sense of appreciation and concern, being blind and ignorant to their own peace and welfare, by foolishly and vainly thinking there is

mercy and hope for their soul beyond the tomb. "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy [hope] under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy [deserving], who hath trodden under foot [rejected] the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite [scorned] unto the Spirit of grace?" Hebrews 10:28-29.

The many religious people who offer prayers for the dead display misinformed minds and a lack of proper intelligence concerning the workings of God. It would be more sensible and pleasing to God for them to have heart-felt, undying zeal and interest in praying (not out of a prayer book, but fervently, deep down in the inmost depths of their soul or heart) for the lost who are dead in trespasses or sins, that they may sense the first resurrection (John 5:25) by passing from a death in sin to a life in Christ Jesus, that the power of the second death (doom of the lost) shall have no power over them. (Revelation 20:6.)

—John H. Griffith

Faith and Victory, December 1945



CULTIVATION OF HOPE

Some people are naturally hopeful, others naturally despondent. One man sees hope where there is no hope, and hopes on when he has no foundation whatever for his hope. Another man cannot see hope where there is hope. While it is true that an abnormal development of hope that is, unreasonable and unfounded hope, is undesirable and is likely to cause us a great many disappointments, it is no less true that a lack of hope robs many a dear soul of the joyful expectation of future good and of the happiness peculiar to the hopeful heart. Those who can see only the dark side of life are certainly to be pitied. In the most auspicious of all ages, the glorious day of grace when the bright hope gleams from Calvary's cross, the soul that is not hopeful certainly needs a word of encouragement to point it upward. No picture is so dark, no experience so gloomy, that it has no bright side to the hopeful Christian. It is satan's business to show you the dark side of everything; it is your business, if you will attend to it, to find the bright side.

The reason why most people are not hopeful is because they look too low. If within the compass of your present vision you can see no light, hope, nor cheer, lift up your head and look higher; continue to go forward and upward till the angel of hope shall greet your vision. If you cannot see her near, look above and beyond the stage of natural action and you will see her at the threshold of that eternal world, holding out a crown of rejoicing to all the faithful. Look forward and above the trials now surrounding you until you see the hope gleam from above; fix your eyes upon it and rejoice, even though now, if need be, you are in manifold temptations. Leap and shout for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. But, we need not look so far ahead; for the trials of life seldom gather so dark about the Christian pilgrim that he can see no sign of hope in this life. There are too many rich promises, too many bright victories just ahead, to allow the light of hope to be entirely obscured.

If you would cultivate hope and thereby cultivate happiness, give vent to the faculty of anticipation; pluck from the tree of life by faith some joy, some victory, some freedom, that you have unwisely supposed was not for you. Do not feel that you would rob heaven by enjoying all that you can today.

There is no better way to cultivate hope than to meditate on the goodness of God and the pleasures held out to us in His promises. "My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defense; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us." Psalms 62:5-8. Let your expectation be from the Lord, and found that expectation on the revealed promises of His Word. By so doing you will drive trouble from your door and though you have long been despondent, God will come to your deliverance and though it seems to you as if you had been forgotten, as if the Lord had forsaken you, if you will obey the Word of God—hope in the strength of Jehovah—you will be comforted. "For the needy shall not always be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall not perish for ever." Psalm 9:18.

Hear the testimony of the blessed apostle Paul. Learn from him how in the midst of the sorest trials to cultivate hope. The testimony that I am about to quote was given by him when

he lay bound in chains at Rome, surrounded by enemies of the cross and pressed by atan on every hand, yet his hope was bright. "For I know," said he, "that this [trouble] shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. According to my earnest expectation and *my* hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, *so* now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether *it be* by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Philippians 1:20-21.

Don'ts for Doubters

Don't waste precious time arguing with satan.

Don't make your emotions the standard by which to measure your experience.

Don't say, "I can't;" that belongs to those who have no Christ.

Don't measure your salvation by some wonderful experience someone else has had; measure by the New Testament.

Don't depend on your conscience; live by the Bible.

Don't get discouraged; it will be of no help to you.

Don't be a baby all your life; learn to be strong.

Don't make rash vows. "Trust in the Lord, and he shall bring it to pass."

Don't shed tears to please the devil.

Don't believe that God does not hear you; if you are seeking Him earnestly, His ears are open to your cry.

Don't let satan make a speaking trumpet to your ears.

Don't testify for the devil; tell what God has done.

Don't try to feel as you think somebody else feels.

Don't follow every impression; use your common sense and follow the Bible.

Don't let satan make you believe that you have harder trials than anyone else on earth.

Don't look for trials and discouragement; let your expectation be from the Lord.

Don't help the devil to make you miserable by bringing up the past.

Don't pray for blessings and then refuse to endure temptations. James 1:12.

Don't accuse yourself; be as good to yourself as you are to others.

—From *Rays of Hope* by D. O. Teasley



A Note of Thanks

We would like to thank everyone for the phone calls, cards, and coming to be with us during the illness and passing of Sis. Della Gutwein. She was a wonderful person that loved the Lord, and wanted to please Him with her life. Her trust was in the Lord, and she was faithful to the end. May God bless each one. Love all,

—The family of Della Gutwein

(The obituary of Sis. Della Gutwein appeared in the March-April issue of *Faith and Victory*.)

— — — — —
Helen Marie Underdown, age 84, left this world to be with Jesus on April 28, 2012, in Orangeburg, SC. She was born February 23, 1928, to William A. McCoy and Verga M. (Clark) McCoy. Bro. McCoy was the pastor of the Dayton, Ohio, Church of God congregation for around 40 years.

Sis. Helen was preceded in death by both of her parents, her sister, Opal, four brothers, Earl, Paul, Cecil, and James, and two husbands, Edward Baird and Bro. Willard Underdown. She is survived by her five loving children, Sharon Frusher of Myrtle Beach, SC; David Baird and wife, Dorothy, of St. Paris, OH; Sandi Lucas of Naples, FL; Debra Dennis and husband, LD, of Olar, SC; and Cheryl Smith and husband, Kevin, of Vance, SC; three brothers, Orville and wife, Joyce, of Santee, SC; John and wife, Linda, of Dayton, OH; and Don and wife, Fran, of Middletown, OH. She is also survived by 10 grandchildren, Shawn Baird, Brian Baird, Kim McLaughlin, Dawn Peniston, Dorinda Bowser, Vicki Baird, Mark Lucas, Kevin Lucas, Kristen Lucas, and Zachary Smith; 26 great-

grandchildren; and 10 great, great-grandchildren.

Sis. Helen lived for Jesus for most of her life. She loved Him with all her heart and soul, and she left this world with a clear, sweet testimony of victory in her soul. Over the past seven months, she openly worshipped and praised God in a greater capacity than we can ever remember seeing her worship Him before. She loved the song, "When I Bow At His Feet" and would truly rejoice when we sang it to her. She gloriously testified in church during the last service she attended, and she spoke of how she wanted to do all she could for God for as long as she was here on earth. She was a great encourager and brought much comfort to her children and family through her kind words, deeds, and the many prayers she prayed for them. To think of having to go on without her and her support and encouragement fills our hearts with near-unbearable pain.

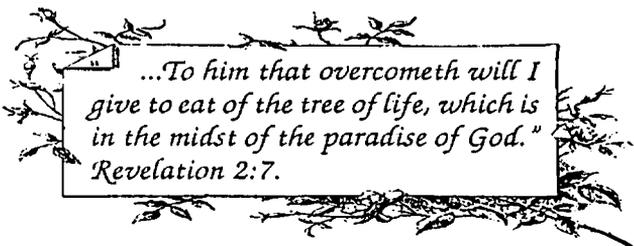
Three days before Sis. Helen died, she had a very near-death experience, and she later told of the beautiful, purple flowers and butterflies she saw, of how quiet and peaceful it was, and of the brightness she experienced when she reached the top. She had no fear of death and was very resigned and ready to go be with the One she had loved and served for so much of her life. She had suffered so immensely for so long, but at the end she had a very peaceful crossing and didn't struggle, for which we are so thankful.

Thank You

Thank you for every prayer that was prayed on her behalf, every card sent to us, every email, every phone call, and every token of love. We will appreciate your continued prayers for us during the days ahead, as our hearts are so broken over losing her.

With love and gratitude,

—Bro. Kevin, Sis. Cheryl, and Zachary Smith and the family of Sis. Helen Underdown
www.cherylsmithministries.blogspot.com



He Maketh No Mistake

My Father's way may twist and turn,
My heart may throb and ache,
But in my soul I'm glad I know,
He maketh no mistake.

My cherished plans may go astray,
My hopes may fade away,
But still I'll trust my Lord to lead
For He doth know the way.

Tho' night be dark and it may seem
That day will never break;
I'll pin my faith, my all in Him
He maketh no mistake.

There's so much now I cannot see,
My eyesight's far too dim;
But come what may, I'll simply trust
And leave it all to Him.

For by and by the mist will lift
And plain it all He'll make.
Through all the way, tho' dark to me,
He made not one mistake.

—A. M. Overton

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The Song of Salvation

By Sis. Lana Johnson

*A beautiful song has been written,
Composed by God's own hand.
He wrote it so we, His creation,
Could be instruments in His band.*

*His son, Jesus, is the Conductor,
Whose shed blood brought us this song.
Oh, the harmony is so beautiful
If with Him we will follow along.*

*We must watch the notes so closely
To be able to sing the tune right.
When we keep time with the Leader,
The song gives our souls such delight!*

*If we try to make up our own tune,
The song will not be the same!
Jesus gave His life for God's song,
And it is the reason He came!*

*Let our hearts be tuned to His words,
Be sure to listen and stay on key.
Not try to write our own lines,
They won't be sound for eternity!*

*The measures are all in His songbook,
They are there for us all to read.
The Bible plays the Song of Salvation,
The music for our soul's every need!*

Inspired by the testimony of Sis Robin Moles on April 11, 2012.

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