

# FAITH AND VICTORY

THIS IS THE VICTORY THAT OVERCOMETH THE WORLD, EVEN OUR FAITH. — I JOHN 5:4

HAVE FAITH  
IN GOD



A PAPER  
FOR ALL  
CHRISTIANS

Volume 14, No. 5 Published Monthly Guthrie, Oklahoma U. S. A. 25c Per Year April, 1939

## EASTER

Go back, O, my soul, o'er the years of gloom,  
Go back to the scenes of that upper room  
To agony that only Jesus could know  
In the anguish of Gethsemane's woe.

By Judas betrayed; by Peter denied—  
Not one of the twelve would stand by His side.  
That Kangaroo Court—No justice intent;  
The wrath of the mob on vengeance was bent.

In deepest of grief—go follow Him still  
To the summit of Golgotha's hill  
Where Jew and Roman together unite  
To pour out their vial of vengeance and spite.

Excepting the few who followed Him there  
To stand by His cross as they wept in despair,  
On-lookers railed on Him, and mocked at His  
shame  
'Till darkness at mid-day upon the earth came.

The sun for three hours refused to give light  
To heart rending scenes on Golgotha's height.  
An earthquake, open graves, and a torn veil—  
The guilty then weakened and began to wail!

Three days in the tomb of Joseph was spent  
When beautiful women in reverence went  
With spices and linen, embalment to give  
To Him who had died that others might live.

The stone had been rolled, no corpse did appear;  
But angels were waiting those women to cheer.  
O, Life of our life—alone in that prison  
Death had been conquered—  
Our Saviour had risen! —Floyd T. Strain.

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### A TREATISE ON THE SIN PRINCIPLE OR ORIGINAL SIN

To all the Saints of God, Greetings.

I have felt very much burdened of late to warn  
the saints concerning the actions of a little old man

that is causing so much trouble in homes, in the Church; and, in fact, in all the world. He sticks his nose (if he can) in everybody's business. In spite of all the heart aches, troubles, and divisions for which he is responsible, he is loved, petted, and cherished by the majority of people. He is so small at times that he can hide under a fig leaf, then again he is so puffed up he fills the whole world. He is a very old man born just before Adam was driven out of the garden of Eden. He was the first born of death, Job 18:13. His name is sin, his children's name—"sinners." A few are trying to get loose from him or his evil nature by trying to repress, suppress, oppress, compress, or somehow press him down; but he will not stay down, he is up at the least provocation. The only way to get rid of him is to kill him. He will not be tied down. We are commanded to kill him by crucifying him. (Rom. 6:6). This SIN is always spoken of as a unit, singular number. Read Psalm 51:2-5. Sin and iniquity are in the singular number sometimes called depravity, inbred sin, or original sin. This sin cannot be pardoned, but may be cleansed or washed. Transgression, sins, or iniquities may be pardoned. Original sin is not an act but a condition of the heart. A corrupt nature which is born in us all as a result of Adam's transgression. Notice in Isa. 6:7. He does not say thy iniquities are taken away and thy sins purged; but iniquity in the singular or sin as a unit. The cleansing deals with sin or iniquity, while pardon deals with sins, iniquities, or actual transgressions. Now notice Zech. 13:1— "In that day (referring to the crucifixion of Jesus) there shall be a fountain opened to (not in) the house of David (referring to the house or Church of God) for sin (not sins) and for uncleanness." The above is for the cleansing of the Church. Read Eph. 5:22-27. He gave himself for it to sanctify and cleanse it (not from their sins in the plural, but in the singular). This old man SIN, also called death, because he was the first born of death (Job 18:13) gave Paul much trouble. Paul wanted to do good but old man SIN was always present to hinder until Paul almost despaired of life and cried out, "O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver

me from the body of this death" (sin). But God heard his cry and came to the rescue and he thanked God. Rom. 7:24, 25. Thank God, some day he, the old man sin, the enemy death, shall be destroyed. 1 Cor. 15:26. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. This old man is also called carnal mind. He is an outlaw not subject to the law of God (Rom. 8:7). He is a murderer, he tried to kill me, set traps to catch me. He is doing the same for you. I caught him at it, called in the Officer (the Holy Ghost) had him arrested and I was the main witness against him. He was tried by the Word and found guilty before the great tribunal, and condemned to die by crucifixion (Rom. 6:6). As we have already shown the above cleansing is to the Church as in the 17th chapter of St. John—A promise of cleansing and not of pardon for the Church, not for sinners. "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh tway the sin of the world" (John 1:29) which refers to sin in the singular number, not some particular act of sin. Notice He said he would take it away, not pardon it. Some particular act might be the sin of one part of the world but not of another. The sin of the world has reference to the original sin which is the same in all nationalities, Jew and Gentile alike. John did not say Jesus would repress or regulate it but take it away. The 6th chapter of Romans treats especially on this subject, and reveals the divine method for inbred sin or the sin principle. It is to be crucified that the body of sin might be destroyed. (Rom. 6:6.)

In Heb. it is spoken of as a root of bitterness, the sin which doth so easily beset us. We will notice 1 John 1:7-10. I wish to invert the order of these scriptures to get a better understanding, reading from the tenth to the seventh verse. "If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar" (10th); "If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Notice the couplative conjunction "AND" which joins two sentences. Forgive us AND cleanse us. (9th v.) "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves." Why? Because all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. (8th v.) "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (7th v.). We see by these scriptures two propositions: sins in the 10th verse; sin in the 8th verse. Then we have two "IF"s, two requirements: first, if we confess (9th v.); second, if we walk in the light (7th v.) Then we have two promises: first, the forgiveness of our sins (9th v.); second, the cleansing from sin in the singular (7th v.). The eighth verse is often quoted by those who deny the second work of grace. If we should separate this verse from its context, it might seem to sustain such an argument, but notice the eighth verse is so sandwiched that one cannot back out through the

verse above 7th verse without being cleansed from all sin or go through the next verse below, 9th verse, without being cleansed from all unrighteousness.

God does not do things by halves. First He forgives us for all our sins, iniquities, and transgressions; second, he cleanseth us from all sin, depravity, inbred inherited sin.

—G. E. Harmon.

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### A CONSECRATION FOR SANCTIFICATION

We find in Rom. 12:1-2, "I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

What does this presenting our bodies a living sacrifice mean? It surely means this: that I henceforth, quietly, and in cold blood to myself, have decided that I will hand over all to God, lock and seal giving Him the key. That I accept His will for me, without question or debate. The will of God for me shall be the final deciding factor in my business, my home and family, in my relationship with other people, and in all my decisions and choices. In other words, I have given choices, rights, and all to God. I now accept every thing that comes or does not come, as permitted by God. I now begin to pray, "Lord, I am Thine. Keep me by Thy power from all sin and uncleanness, and help me, Lord, to live a life humble and patient, acceptable unto Thee." And at once God begins to answer prayer by trials, temptations, and afflictions; for He has said He would have a true and tried people. He also said, "My grace is sufficient for thee." Much that perplexes us in our Christian life is but the answer to our prayers. We pray for patience and God permits tribulation—for "tribulation worketh patience." We pray for submission and God permits suffering—for "we learn obedience through suffering." We pray for unselfishness and He gives us an opportunity to sacrifice ourselves, by thinking on the things of others, by laying down our lives for the brethren. We pray for victory, and the things of this world swoop down upon us in a storm of temptations—for "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." We pray for strength and humility, and some messenger of Satan torments us until we lie in the dust crying for its removal. We pray for union with Jesus, and natural ties are severed and our best friends misunderstands us and seem indifferent to us, and we are left to walk alone—hallelujah, "Alone with God." We pray to be made perfect in love, and God permits peculiar suffering and puts us with apparently unlovely people, who rasp the nerves and

lacerate the heart—for love suffereth long and is kind, love is not impolite, is not easily provoked, beareth all things, love never faileth, for “God is love.” We pray to be “Christ like,” and the answer is: “I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction”; “Can thy heart endure?” “Are ye able?” (No, but God’s grace is sufficient to keep if we lean on Him.) And in the furnace of affliction He melts us into something of His tenderness and gentleness, and teaches us how to bear one another’s burdens, and how to love even our enemies, and to make intercession for the sick and sorrowing. But while this is only the transitory side, there is an everlasting recompense of reward: praise, honor, and glory at the revealing of Christ’s life in us. For our tribulations are working out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

To be spiritually minded is life eternal, but to be carnally minded is death. Yes, God calls our hearts and minds away from the love of the world and its fleeting attractions. “But to be spiritually minded is life eternal.” Yes, pray, for prayer changes things; not a mere mumbling of words, but words uttered unto God from our heart. For He has said, “Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you.” No IF’s or AND’s, but a positive shall be. Are we asking? Seeking? Knocking? “Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God. And the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Yes, pray without ceasing. Pray for God to keep from pride, and covetousness; for they are in direct opposition to God’s will for us. They become as idols to us. “God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble.”

—Jennie Riley.

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## When Grace Abounds

“But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.”

A few days ago while praying, these words of Scripture came to me so forcibly and were so deeply impressed upon my heart, revealing such a beautiful lesson and so greatly blessing my soul that I feel inspired to write a few words on them.

When sin abounds in our lives, our sins will also abound unto others and we will do evil unto others more or less according to our natural dispositions, stealing from them, lying about them, defrauding them, bringing reproach upon them, holding grudges against them, spitefully using and persecuting them; but after God saves us by His grace, “For by

grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Eph. 2:8), His grace in our hearts and lives will truly much more abound unto others than our sins abounded unto them. Where our sins abounded unto others before, causing us to do evil unto them, His grace in our lives now will so abound unto others as to cause us to return good for evil, to overcome evil with good, and to do unto others as we would have them do unto us. It will cause us to leave our gift at the altar and go to our brother if we remember that he has ought against us. “First be reconciled to thy brother and then come and offer thy gift.” (Matt. 5:23-24). It will cause us to forgive our brother seventy times seven times if necessary (Matt. 18:21-22); and to even love our enemies, bless them that curse us, do good to them that hate us, and pray for them which spitefully use us and persecute us. (Matt. 5:44.)

Has sin abounded so far in your life that it has caused you to do deep, bitter wrong against someone that can never be undone; or caused you to say harsh, cruel, stinging, cutting words to some one which sank so deeply into their heart or burned so deeply into their soul that they never can forget them and you never can recall them? And is your soul heavily burdened, your heart broken and wrung with anguish, and your sorrow seems more than you can bear because of the bitter memory of them? If so get down on your knees and plead with God to forgive you. Pray until His sweet peace floods your soul, and His grace abounds in your heart; for it is only by the grace of God that we can ever atone for our sins. “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work” 2 Cor. 9:8. It is only by humbling ourselves unto Him that we can receive His grace, for He gives His grace only to the humble. “But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.” (James 4:6.) Then with His grace abounding in your heart, seek ways of doing good unto that one in return for the evil you have done unto him. By His grace “Overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:21). Ask God for wisdom to guide you in seeking for ways of doing good, that you might grasp and use each blessed privilege, each golden opportunity, each little possibility. “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.” (James 1:5.) Without God’s wisdom to guide your human judgment, you might fail to recognize an opportunity for doing good.

Dear God, may we ever keep humble before Thee and others, that we may always have Thy grace in our hearts and lives, and where our sins did abound, may Thy grace much more abound. In Jesus name we ask. Amen.

Mabel White.

## FAITH AND VICTORY

16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

An exclusive, full gospel paper printed and sent out in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ in the interest of all Christians, which body of believers constitutes the one and only true Church of God.

This non-sectarian paper is edited and published each month (except August of each year which is Camp Meeting month, and we omit this month to attend these meetings) by Fred Pruitt, assisted by Mary A. Pruitt, and other consecrated workers at FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Okla.

(Entered as second-class matter June 30, 1930 at the Post Office at Guthrie, Oklahoma under the act of March, 3, 1879.) —SUBSCRIPTION PRICES—

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This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21 and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the same gospel which Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced; including the Divine healing of the body. James 5:14, 15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the promulgation and restoration of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from the world and entire devotion to the service and the will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible; no bond of union but the love of God; no test of fellowship but the indwelling spirit of Christ; and separation from all human organizations that are not authorized in the Word of God.

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 the Bible and the Holy Spirit teaches you to do or stirs your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Exodus 25:2; 1 Chron. 29: 9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Free-will offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord and used in the furtherance of the gospel work as God directs unless otherwise specified. All personal checks and Post Office Money Orders should be made payable to Fred Pruitt, or to FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE.

"Work on, work on, nor doubt, nor fear.

From age to age this voice shall cheer:—

Whate'er may die or be forgot,

Work done for God, it dieth NOT."

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma.

## Editorials

The printing office force has been very busy since the March paper was put into the mail— having many letters to answer, tracts to print, folding to do, and also a sixty-one page book has been printed, folded, trimmed, and made ready for circulation. The "Intertype" machine which the Lord has so graciously supplied His "Print Shop" has been, and is doing good work. It certainly is a joy to our hearts to have good machinery to use in the Lord's work. The "saw and trimmer" recently installed in His shop is a source of much pleasure to have, for it does the work so splendidly; not only in the slug cutting, but we can saw the furniture at any angle and fit it together snugly. We give God all the praise for this machinery, and do know that some one, in supplying the needs here at His "Print Shop," will have treasures in heaven in that day.

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The young saints in the congregation here at Guthrie are making progress in the Lord, growing in grace and in knowledge, and having a burden for souls. They are working for the Lord by reaching out into the surrounding country, and holding meetings in school houses. There are three or four places where they have been having meetings. Their Young People's Meetings here at the chapel are very spiritual, and much alive; and their meetings have often lasted for two hours or more at a time. This encourages our hearts, for they are going to be the future ones to keep the truth of the Gospel of Christ before the coming generations, and to exalt the one true Church which is the Church of God, the pillar and ground of the truth. (1 Tim. 3:15).

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It is an easy matter for people to fall into the habit of grumbling, complaining, fault-finding, and giving out destructive criticism; but it takes the grace of God in the heart, and power of His meek and humble Spirit to be patient, to suffer long and be kind, to envy not, to vaunt not self and not become inflated and not think evil of others, bear and forbear and to forgive even as Christ has forgiven us, to look for the good in others, to have divine love in the heart sufficient to cover the weaknesses and mistakes of our brothers and sisters who are striving to do His will.

There are preachers that preach a gospel that is destructive and very injurious to the cause of God. Their gospel would quench the "Smoking flax" and would "break the bruised reed," and their vision of God is that He is a God that is standing over His subjects with a club ready to knock you in the head if you make an awkward move or mistake of any kind. A gospel of that kind would put our loving God down as a very mean and cruel Creator. In-

nocent sensitive souls whom Satan may be accusing of being unsaved would accept his awful accusations, and thus precious souls would be destroyed.

A gospel of judgment without any mercy and love is Satan's gospel, and a gospel of mercy and love without any judgment is also Satan's gospel. The Psalmist David, in beholding the work of Christ with an eye of faith and prophetic vision exclaimed with joy, "Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other." Psalms 85:10. Jesus Christ came not to destroy but to save life, to cause a lively hope to spring up in our souls. It is written that "Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." As the true judgments of God are laid down, the grace, love, and mercy of God should also be exalted before the condemned, needy soul.

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The Hebrew writer says that Jesus is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him (Heb. 7:25). This is a strong statement and yet it is most assuredly true, for Jesus has all power both in heaven and in earth (Matt. 28:18). As a soul comes to God with godly sorrow in his heart because of transgressing His commandments, seeks forgiveness and mercy and holds the innocent blood of Christ before the Father as an atonement for his sins; God will have mercy and blot them all out as a thick cloud and will not remember them against that soul any more. Jesus was the Just One that suffered for us, the unjust. He paid the penalty of death for the sins that we had committed.

If a soul would come to God in his sinful state and ask God to mete out justice to him, he would receive eternal punishment, for God's law is: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." In another place he says, "All men have sinned and come short of the glory of God." When a soul comes to God pleading guilty of being a sinner and asking God for mercy and forgiveness, then God shows mercy and is faithful to forgive them and to cleanse them from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). As long as we follow him and do His will, we can keep free from all guilt; for the Scripture says, "But if we walk in the light we have fellowship one with another, (He with us and we with Him) and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." (1 John 1:7.)

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It is sad to the humble saints of God to see and to know of the vast multitude of professing people that have no real knowledge of being freed from sin. Most of them are just following the crowd, the least way of resistance, and are on the broad way of destruction. It seems that so many folks are blind to the true way, and it is easy for blind leaders to get a good following.

It seems to me that those who read the Bible would know that the crowds of professors are on the

wrong road, for Jesus has said, "Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life; and few there be that find it" (Matt. 7:14). Human organization is a mark of the "Beast power." It becomes an idol that men worship and will not be led by His Spirit. God's Church is divinely organized, and does not need any of man's help, for the members of His body are held together by the Divine Love of God in each heart, they are not of this world even as He is not of this world, their citizenship is in heaven and the heavenly life flows from heaven into their soul, and they bear the fruits of the Spirit because of this life and force from heaven in the soul.

Jesus says, "If the blind lead the blind, they both fall into the ditch."

Dear souls, you who are entangled with professors, with man-organized churches, and with this world; if you will cut loose from all and just swing out on the promises of God and let Him lead you by His Spirit, He will bring you into sweet fellowship with all others that are free from these things and the spirit of such. Just abide in Him, as the branch (You) cannot bear the fruits of the Spirit unless it abides in the Vine (Christ). (John 15:4).

We ask the prayers of all the dear saints every where that God will bless the printing work and supply all the means that is needed to keep the "Silent Preachers," the tracts, going continually to the people; that the Gospel of Christ by the printed page will reach the multitude of lost souls in sin. Our decision is to do His will at any cost.

#### NOTICE

The saints everywhere, and any one else who wants to come, are invited to attend our fifth Sunday, all day meeting April 30, 1939 at Shawnee, Okla. Saints here will furnish dinner for all visiting saints.

We expect to have an ordinance meeting that day.

Concerning the Monark Springs, Mo. National Camp Meeting— A letter from Bro. John Strech of Neosho, Mo. informs us that he has a part of the frame of the kitchen to the dining hall up, and cannot do more toward it until more means is supplied. Every one that can should send in means for this work so all can be in readiness for the coming Camp Meeting. He also states that he will not be able to get the electric fixtures that were used last year. They were borrowed for the meeting. These fixtures will have to be purchased and that will take means. Every one should remember his place in the body, and function freely as God directs in giving for this purpose. Let us not shift our responsibility in this matter upon others, but be workers together with God for a wonderfully good camp meeting at Monark Springs this coming summer.

Send your offering to Bro. John Strech, Neosho, Mo. (Editor)

## NOTICE

We have some more of the 1938 year of papers bound together with a good cover which we are going to send to all who want them at 35 cents post paid. This book consists of eleven Faith and Victory papers which were issued in 1938. The large amount of good spiritual reading and encouraging testimonies are worth more than the price; and besides this, the September copy has the picture of the tent and Ministers attending the National Camp Meeting at Monark Springs, Mo., and the December issue has the picture of the Faith Publishing House and the workers in it. You should have one of these bound copies in your home. Order one or two of them today. Send one to your friend or a Christian who is isolated and needs spiritual food.

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## PRAYER REQUESTS

Sister B. Montress of New Jersey asks the saints to earnestly pray for Laura Christman to be healed of broken, fractured, and splintered ankle of ten years standing. Her leg from her knee down is badly swollen. Her 84 year old mother is critically ill, too. Pray for God's will to be done.

Pray for Maggie Morgan of Bessemer City, N. C. to be healed of heart trouble. Also pray earnestly for the salvation of her son and his wife, and for her son to be healed of low blood pressure.

Pray for Sister Alpha Daniels of California. She suffers much pain in her head.

## CAMP MEETING NOTICE

There will be a camp meeting of the Church of God in Dayton, Ohio starting Aug. 11th and closing August 20th in time for the Newcastle, Ind. camp meeting which starts Aug. 25th. So those desiring to come can attend both camp meetings. Dayton is a city of 250,000 or more and is easily reached by highway and train. Highways No. 25, 49, U. S. 35, and others. The Penn. R. R. Big Four, B. & O., N. Y. Central, and others. The Camp ground will be located at corner of South Upland Ave. and Maplewood St. Those coming by train take Drexel St. car or Soldier's Home car on W. 3rd St. Get off at W. 3rd and Upland Ave. Walk one block south to camp grounds. Those coming by car come west from city on Route 35 which is on W. 3rd St. Turn south at Upland Ave. one block. The Camp ground is five blocks east of the Soldier's Home. This will probably be the only camp meeting in Ohio. We extend a wide invitation to all to attend and help make this a real Holy Ghost camp meeting. Meals will be served on the free will offering plan. Those coming, come prepared to take care of yourself as much as you can. Please bring bedding and straw ticks. Come to be blest and to be a blessing. Leave all your troubles

at home and only bring the Lord with you. The saints here will do their best to care for all who come. Those sending means or provisions for the meeting or to help, send to Cleo Murry, W. 3rd and Upland Ave. For further information, write to the above address.

## OBITUARIES

Bro. Wilson Randle was born January 19, 1860 in Paris, Tenn. and died March 1, 1939 at the age of 79 yrs., 1 mo., and 12 days.

At an early age Brother Randle became a member of the A. M. E. Church. He moved to Okla. in 1890 and filed on a claim in Blaine County. On May 3, 1898 he was united in marriage to Alice Hicks in Watonga, Okla. To this union were born twelve children, five of whom preceded him in death—three in infancy and two in later years.

In his late life Brother Randle heard the truth preached in its fullness, which helped him to see that he had not been living just as he should. He came out of sectism and was saved in the Church of God. He testified in services on Wednesday evening that heaven was his home, that he knew he was going there, that there was nothing between him and God, and nothing in his way. He was happy and satisfied. Returning the next day he had a stroke of paralysis. He trusted in the Lord for relief and bore his affliction with patience unto the end. His favorite song was "I Have Heaven in My View."

He leaves to mourn his passing; a wife, four sons, three daughters, and fifteen grandchildren. Let us remember them at the throne of grace. His wife asks us especially to pray for her.

Funeral sermon by Bro. Ulysses Phillips.

Text: Numbers 23:10 b. —Bro. E. W. Sanders

"I'd like to think when I am gone  
That I had filled a needed post,  
That here and there I'd paid my fare  
With more than idle talk and boast.

"I'd like to think that here and there  
When I am gone there shall remain  
A happier spot that might have not  
Existed, had I toiled for gain.

"That some one's cheery voice and smile  
Shall prove that I had been worth while,  
That I had paid with something fine  
My debt to God for life divine."

## Obituary of Sister Viola Trudgeon

Ivy Viola Trudgeon was born April 24, 1881 in Weberville, Michigan, died Feb. 19, 1939. She was married to Albert J. Trudgeon Jan. 17, 1901. To this union were born 11 children. Nine children and thir-

teen grandchildren are living to mourn their loss. Five sons and four daughters: Helen Haven Sweet Home, Oreg., Violet Thomas Sunyside, Wash., Ruth Bethel Aumsville, Oreg., Pearl Moses Sunyside, Wash., Guy Trudgeon Boise, Idaho, Archie Trudgeon Wichita, Kansas., Rennel Trudgeon Sunyside, Wash., Earl Trudgeon Jefferson, Oreg., Roy Trudgeon Independence, Oreg.

Her husband and two children preceded her in death. She heard this present truth preached when about thirteen years old by Brother D. S. Warner and others. She always believed in the one Church, the true Church of God, and died in the triumphs of a living faith. She was heard to praise God as she departed this life. She was a true Mother and a pillar in the Church of God, and is missed by her beloved children and the dear saints of God; but our loss is her gain. We can truly say, we weep not as those which have no hope.

The funeral service was conducted by H. W. White and others. Text: Rev. 14:13—"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; yea saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labours, and their works do follow them."

## The Despised Church

"They call thee an outcast, saying This is Zion, whom no man seeketh after" Jer. 30:17. "Despise ye the church of God?" 1 Cor. 11:22. Our first text describes the proud, haughty, self-righteous spirit of those who despise the Church of God. Our second text brings it to a personal attitude "despise ye?" God's church was not designed for the worldly minded, lovers of the world, and the popularity of man made churches; but for the redeemed of God's true humble saints. God, speaking through Jeremiah, tells us the condition of God's people. Most of them were in captivity, all because they failed to do all the commandments. Therefore in this scattered condition and confused state, the heathen scoffed at them with "This is Zion, whom no man seeketh after;" but praise our God, He promised them deliverance, and they received it. The church at Corinth refused the teachings of Christ regarding the ordinance of the Lord's house, and instead, were making the house of God a place in which to eat, drink, and revel; just as the worldly-minded are doing today. They have their pie- and chicken-suppers and all other kind of feasts in order to satisfy their fleshly, carnal minds. Yet some of them bear the name "Church of God," when down in their hearts, they despise the Church of God. To despise the Church of God, means to refuse its founder, its doctrine, its people, and its ordinances. Now dear ones, think a moment. How many do you know, be-

sides the dear saints, who love the ordinances of feet-washing, greeting the brethren with a holy kiss, and many other things which we could mention? Few, I must say. Now, we want to notice some things why people despise the Church of God. First, because we believe Catholicism to be the "Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of harlots and abominations of the earth." Rev. 17:5. Also, we believe and teach sectism to be the harlot's daughters of the Mystery, Babylon the Great, and do they despise God's church. Then we teach and prove by the Word and the Spirit that they are wrong, and will not and cannot, as long as they are tied up in those cages, bring their lives in harmony with the divine Word and Spirit of God. Then, again, people despise the church of God because it teaches against all worldliness and pride, following after the fashions, all evil and filthy habits, all jesting and foolishness. Now, these are some reasons why people despise God's Church. Then it teaches that women and men should dress in modest apparel, not exposing their person to the gazing eye of a lustful and sinful world. Then, too, it teaches a clean ministry, which would be: first, Holy Ghost men and women, having only one living wife or husband (1 Tim. 3:2), obedient children, full of faith; and many other things which we cannot mention here. They despise it because it is against all false theories of a Millennial reign of Christ on earth. Last, but not least, God's Church is despised because it is what it is. First, it is the blood-bought of Jesus Christ (Acts 20:28), a divinely organized body of worshipers (1 Cor. 12:28; John 4:24), the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Tim. 3:15), yes, and all the blood-bought, humble followers of Jesus from the beginning to the end, which make up the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12, 13), with Christ as the only head (Col. 1:18) of that body. Truly, God has always had a called out, sought out, separate people, and today is no exception. He has one today, those who are called out of sin and darkness into the glorious light with the people of God. Then, too, there are those who have been born into the Church of God, who have been taken captive by the sleight of men and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive (Eph. 4:14). But, praise the Lord, many have heard the call "come out of her my people" (Rev. 18:4) and have obeyed, and have come to Zion as the prophet Isa. says "with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads" (Isa. 35:10); and today in this evil time, when the so-called churches are working with the world, the flesh, and the devil, as never before, God's true children are hearing the call everywhere, and making their escape from the cages of deception where they can be in the glorious liberty of the children of God. (Rom. 8:21). Truly we thank the dear Lord tonight for the Church of God. Surely David saw her in beautiful array, when he said

"Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God" Psa. 87:3. Dear ones, "Despise ye the Church of God?" If not, obey the call, 2 Cor. 6:14-17, (Rev. 18:4, 5).

May the blessings of heaven rest upon all is our prayer.

His servant, T. Z. Lawson.

FILTHINESS

To wear filthy clothes is distasteful, we know; To have bad habits, puts on a bad show; But filthy conversation is an index to sin 'Cause it comes from the heart—shows we're filthy within.

Now all kinds of filthiness, whatsoever it be, Must be cleansed here on earth; for in God's Word we see:

If when we depart we are filthy or vile, We'll "be filthy still"—for quite a long while. —Erle E. Forbes.

Tulsa, Okla.— I wish to tell of the goodness of the Lord. I am a witness that Jesus heals. I thank the Lord first, and the saints for their prayers that caused me to be healed. Sing song no. 314 in Select Hymns in remembrance of me.

"JESUS KNOWS"

Dear saints, we know nothing except what the Lord reveals unto us. Turn to 1 Samuel 3:7: "Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord revealed unto him;" also read Deut. 29:29: "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law."

Yours in defense of the Gospel, Wm. Reed.

Natchitoches, La.— Dear Bro. Pruitt: This is to let you know that the Lord has completely healed me of the deafness for which I requested prayer. It seemed almost unbearable while I was so afflicted, but now I thank the Lord for this trial because it truly gave me spiritual strength. I am yet praising Him from my heart for deliverance.

Sidonia Benjamin

Fallis, Okla.— Dear Saints: I told my little niece to write and ask you to pray for me, and she said she did last Monday. The Lord has healed me. Today is Wednesday, and I am able to dress myself and walk about the house. I was in bed one week. I am so glad that I am one of God's true children, and have found the true family of God, the family that I was born into by a spiritual birth. I am singing "God Knows and He Cares." Rejoice with me, but continue to pray for me that I be all that God wants me to be in every way. Sister Ellen Chandler.

Meridian, Okla.— Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt: Greetings in the name of the Lord. I am writing a few lines to tell you how wonderful the Lord was to us after we obeyed His will. You remember, I called at your home Monday to ask you to pray for Mother, and now I praise Him for answering prayer. When I got home Mother was healed. I can never get through thanking Him for it. Pray that I will always do His will. Sister Scott.

Othello, N. C.— Dear Brother and Sister Pruitt: I thank the Dear Lord for the work you are doing. May the Lord's richest blessing be upon you and your office workers. Some one, I know not who, sent me your little paper, the Faith and Victory. I have received one every month for about twelve months. I suppose my subscription is about out. Husband and I feel like we cannot do without it. We do not want to miss one so I am sending you one dollar. Send us the paper one year, and keep the remaining seventy-five cents to use to the glory of God in what ever way you think best. We surely do thank the one that sent us the paper, and are sure God will bless them.

Husband and I are both saved, and we love all of God's people. We want to ask their prayers that my health may be improved. I have been in bad health for the past ten months. I have catarrh in my head, my throat and eyes are weak, my nerves are bad, and my back is weak. It is very hard for me to care for our two small children, and do my house work. We are poor and not able to hire much. My husband has an awful cold that just lingers. We want the saints to pray for us, that God will heal us, for we believe that God can heal when all doctors fail. I am sure I have been helped through prayer many times. Your brother and sister in the Lord, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Harless.

Chicago, Ill.— Dear Brother Pruitt: I had taken up with teaching of this Millennialism. A dear sister gave me some tracts on "Millennium Refuted." I spent an entire morning and evening studying and searching scriptures to see where I was wrong.

Praise His holy name, the Spirit opened my eyes to every scripture. Now I am able to testify with all doubts gone, that this Millennialism is a false teaching. Beware, dear ones, of this teaching. It almost had me. Praise God for bringing me out of it.

Redeemed through the precious Blood of my Lord Jesus Christ, Sister June Badol.

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# ◆ « Young People's Section » ◆

## EYE HATH NOT SEEN NOR EAR HEARD 1 Cor. 2:9

There is a life mortal eye hath not seen,  
More beautiful than earth's fairest face:  
'Tis the sinful heart of man made clean  
By God's transforming grace.

There is a melody to the ear unknown,  
Surpassing music's sweetest strain;  
'Tis the melody that sings in every heart  
Whose life at Jesus' feet is lain.

There is a touch unknown to sense,  
More tender than a mother can bestow;  
'Tis God's gift of love, faith's recompense,  
That all who seek may know.

There is a food unknown to taste,  
For 'tis not of culinary art;  
'Tis the hidden manna Jesus gives  
To every trusting heart.

There is a fragrance unknown to sense,  
More fragrant than the sweetest rose;  
'Tis a life in which **The Master dwells**,  
That in love and kindness grows.

—J. A. Ellis.

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### EDITORIALS

David sends this petition up to God: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer." Psa. 19:14. This desire, no doubt, was very pleasing to the Lord, and it should be the earnest desire of every soul, that every thought and meditation of the heart would be acceptable in the sight of God. If we love our Redeemer as we should, we will want even our meditations brought into subjection to the will of God. This is truly possible, and can be our happy experience while pilgrims in this world.

In the first Psalm, David speaks of the godly man who is like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season. He has this experience because "his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law doth he meditate day and night." David, testifying for himself, says, "O how I love thy law! It is my meditation all the day. Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold. Therefore I esteem all thy precepts

concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way." Surely, we will not be going in a false way when we love God's Word sufficiently. On the contrary, we will welcome the hour of complete meditation and devotion, and be found where God's Word is read and taught.

A great many benefits come from meditating and feeding upon the Word of God. There is a growth in spiritual strength. True wisdom and understanding come from the Word. By it we are warned, corrected, admonished, and instructed. How can the soul live without it?

Why is it so necessary that the meditations of our heart be just right? Because "As a man thinketh, so is he." The conduct of man, whether in word or deed, originates in the heart and flows out in the life. Therefore God looks on the heart—the source of our words and deeds.

If we would have the words of our mouth acceptable in the sight of the Lord, then the meditations of our heart must first be upon right things. What we think upon, more or less, controls our conversation. Jesus asked this question of the hypocrites in His day: "How can ye, being evil, speak good things? The implied answer is that they could not speak good things, for He further says, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Matt. 12:34. "A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Our words are registered for or against us. In the day of judgment, our wrong words, if any, will be the accusing fingers that point unmistakably to the condition of our heart. "And if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God." The exhortation in this writing is summed up in this scripture: "Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life." Keep the heart's door closed to every suggestion of the enemy. Meditate upon the Word of God, the entrance of which into the heart will shed abroad heavenly light therein. —L. D. P.

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Guthrie, Okla.—Dear Ones: I am glad I can say the Lord is my salvation, in Him will I trust. It is wonderful to know we belong to Him, and there is no power that can pluck us out of our Father's hand as long as we are willing to serve Him. I find in Him all I need, and have decided to serve Him all the days of my life. —James Murphey

**"BLESSED ARE THEY WHICH DO HUNGER  
AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS;  
FOR THEY SHALL BE FILLED."**

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." If our treasures are in heaven, naturally our thirstings will be after heavenly things, and we will often be found reading the Bible or some spiritual literature, and feasting upon the things that will make our heavenly march more attractive; thus feed the longing of our souls. When our hearts and minds are fed by reading and meditating upon some good spiritual literature, it will supply us with good spiritual equipment to fight the good fight of faith when trials beset and the devil is doing his utmost to crowd in the things of this world and to draw our hearts and affections away from God.

When our hearts and minds are fed upon spiritual things, we are in good condition to visit the sick, and attend prayer meeting or any other church service. Then will our prayers and testimonies be uplifting and food for the hungry. I don't mean to say that it is wrong to look into the daily paper; but when one has his mind so taken up with the things of the world and spends hours reading the news paper, crowding his mind with current news and the awful things with which our daily papers are filled, then throws the paper down to retire for the night, he has cheated and robbed his immortal soul of life giving food which he might have gained had he spent the same amount of time searching the scriptures; for they are light and life to us.

Your brother for a closer walk with God,

R. M. Porter.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Taylorville, Ill.—Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: I read some of your tracts. They are wonderful. After reading them I passed them on to another woman like I should. I was waiting for something to do for the Lord, and it makes me feel good to work for Him. I am so happy since I have believed that I wish to spread my joy all over. It has only been two months since I found the Lord, and oh, what happiness since I believe. I was sick and very close to death's door. I couldn't talk any more, and the doctor cried because I had been his patient for seven month's and he couldn't do anything for me anymore. My friends, too, were upset because there were no more hopes for me to live. I told the Lord that I did not want to die and asked Him to let me live for the sake of my boy and husband. I had not told them my condition and had asked the doctor not to tell them, for I could not stand to have them crying for me. I was a Catholic and I'd gone to confession and communion like they teach, but I wasn't any better. I was so unhappy at the thought of dying.

There in my grief I began to sweat and I told God that if I had to die I didn't care, but "let me believe in Thee with all my heart. Let me feel that I am with Thee before I die." I had never done anything for the Lord. The Priest assured me that I had, but I said, "No, I never did anything for Him. Then I found the Lord and my joy began. I don't want anything to do with the lies which the Priest tells. I don't want his confession and his communion. All is silly and hypocritical. All the nuns were surprised when I told them that. At first they thought I said it for fun when I'd refuse the confession and everything from that evil church; but they began to learn little by little that I meant what I said. And now because I have a joy and I want to give that joy to someone else they are against me. A nun told me that I should be ashamed of myself to talk about religion; but I said, "I'm not, for my God wants me to tell the truth." She said they would send me away from the hospital, but that's not going to stop me from obeying my beloved God. He gave me everything—life, joy, and health (for I am better now than I have been for years). I can walk now and keep improving every day. My friends and the doctor are surprised. I told them 'twas God that saved me. It made believers out of some of my friends. They realize that it was nobody but God. I have many hopes for them, because if they believe that, they are going to believe in my God too. I want them to know God and love Him like I do. What happiness!

I want you to think about my case. I have been unhappy for twenty-two years. It was then that my trouble began. I was only twelve years old, and from that time, I began to think that there was something wrong in the religion of men, because I had read once in a prayer book that you have to renew your person in Jesus Christ in order to believe. I didn't know how I could do it. I did try to be good, but I'd forget. I had no way to get instructions. It seemed like everything was against me and my family, for we had troubles, one after another. But now since I have found my God and believe in Jesus Christ, I am free like a bird.

My brothers and sisters, I love you.

Your sister in Christ, Rosie Melchiorri.

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Pomona, Calif.—Dear Young People: Your testimonies through this month have been of great encouragement to me. I'll use this method of testifying for my Lord who has done so much for me. He gave His own life that we might obtain eternal life.

He knows what lies ahead of us and sees any danger point where we might fall. Sometimes the Lord lets trials come our way to draw us closer, but do not fear. He knows just how much we can bear and will not try us above that we are able.

Do you remember the time Jeremiah went down to the potter's house? The potter held in his hand a marred vessel. In his mind he had a vision of the vessel he wished to make. Carefully he re-made and fashioned it into a vessel that seemed good to him. The clay uttered not a word as to what kind of a vessel it wanted to be.

"But now, Oh Lord, thou art our Father; we are the clay and thou art the potter, and we are all the work of thy hands" (Isa. 64:8). God is the potter and we are the clay. He wants to mold us into a beautiful vessel to glorify him. He has in his mind a plan for our lives if we will only submit our will to His and be pliable in His hands.

Dear friends, let us not be self-willed, but say, "Not my will, Lord, but thine be done."

In His service, Fern Fortner.

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Shawnee, Okla.— "Bless the Lord, oh, my soul, all that is within me bless his holy name."

Today finds me saved, sanctified, and satisfied with God and His way. Today I was able to be out in the beautiful sunshine and walk a block to one of my neighbor's house. How I thank God for His saints and their prayers and kindness to me. They have been a constant joy to me during this eight months of affliction. Once during the summer when the enemy was pressing hard, a car load of saints from the city came to see me, and like Paul: "Whom when I saw, thanked God and took courage." Oh, it is wonderful how the Lord has cared for us and comforted me. He never allowed me to get lonely. Either by His comforting Spirit or someone, He kept me company. I want to thank the dear saints for the offering they sent me by dear Sister Wilson (a precious saint). It was needed much by us, and I ask God's wisdom in spending because I know the saints make a sacrifice for we are all poor.

Saints, you all know I am a little woman, small of stature. The Lord brought me through this eight months in bed without losing an ounce as we can see.

Bro. Stephenson, Mother Boles, and Sis. Watkins were over Monday. Brother Stephenson taught some beautiful truths. Thank God for the saints.

Pray that the Lord will continue to give me strength, also that my daughter may soon find work.

Edna Baker

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Richwood, W. Va.— Dear Ones, Greetings in Jesus' Dear Name: May the richest blessings of God be upon you is our prayer. Following is a brief account of our trip:

We left home Dec. 18, and visited our son and daughter at High Point, N. C. From there we went to Hartsville, S. C. to Sister Mary J. Jones'. We found her and her son, Bruce, getting along very well. There had been some contention among the

neighbors over a lot which had been donated for church purposes, as to the kind of a house that should be erected. The community was divided between the Free-Will Baptist, Missionary Baptist, and Church of God people, each wanting to control it. There wasn't a very good feeling in the community, consequently the meeting was hindered. You can see how destructive division is for the community. No marvel that God classes it with adultery and every hateful thing. Yet we had some very precious times with the few that attended, and learned to love them very much. We went from there to Sumpter, S. C. to Bro. Newell's where we conducted a few meetings in Bro. Newell's house. We had better success there as there had been no recent contentions. Two professed salvation. We enjoyed the fellowship and hospitality of Brother and Sister Newell extremely, also Sister Newell's two sisters. We met another old saint out several miles who was very thrilling to talk to. We went from there to Central, S. C. and visited a niece and nephew of mine. The niece, Mabel Watson, seems about ready to take her stand for the truth. We went from there to Western, N. C. where I was raised. We surely enjoyed our visit with old time friends and relatives, talking of the good old Bible way, sowing the precious seed. I had three invitations to preach which I accepted. I also scattered a number of my books which I believe will be a blessing to some. We arrived home and found the faithful ones pressing on the good way. They are corresponding with some parties about coming to take charge of the work here. We are trusting God to send the right parties, and we know He will if He sends them. Pray with us that we make no blunders.

With much love to all the saints, I am your brother in the one Body of Christ, contending earnestly for the faith that was once delivered to the saints.

—George Peek.

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Genoa, Ohio—Dear Saints: I am writing this letter because God has saved my soul and put a desire in my heart for other souls. I am a Christian, being born again by the Spirit of God. Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. (John 3:3). I was a Catholic for 32 years under bondage of the Church of Rome, and a slave to sin. But today I can praise God that I have victory in my soul through the precious blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I didn't get my salvation from any preacher, minister, or priest; but through Jesus Christ. In the midnight hour about four years ago, God revealed to me in a dream what I had to do to be saved from the eternal, damnable pit of hell. Today I am rejoicing in the salvation of my soul.

My father and mother, brothers and sisters have forsaken me, for they know not of the precious

love of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Oh, I pray that God will lead me in Spirit and Truth unto the end of this life. That I may have a reward awaiting when my blessed Lord calls for me, and my race is run. Praise God for His eternal love, grace, and happiness.

Friend, please ask yourself this personal question: "My soul, where are you going to spend eternity?" There are only two places from which to choose: hell fire and brimstone without God, or eternal happiness in the glorious kingdom of God with our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord is always waiting with out-stretched arms, beckoning for the lost ones to come to Him. But it is up to you and me, dear ones, to come to Jesus. If we come, He is always ready to accept us. Ever since the Lord has come to live in me I have happiness and contentment within, always praising God for His beautiful creation, and His love to stoop down and pick me up and wash me from the filth of this world of sin. I was converted three years ago this Jan., 1939 and am still praising God for His Holy Word and our eternal hope in Jesus Christ and His glorious coming. We must always look to our God and Saviour Jesus Christ, for the enemy is always seeking to devour the ones who are truly trying to serve the Lord. There shall arise false Christs and false prophets showing great signs and wonders insomuch that if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Praise our Holy God that He is no respecter of persons.

Your brother in Christ, Steve Tomko.

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Greetings and Love to All the Blood-washed Saints: At this writing I am nine months old in the Lord, and I can't begin to tell you how much I have enjoyed the blessings of the Lord the past nine months. It gives me real joy to know my name is written in heaven, praise His name.

I belonged to the M. E. church for seven years of my life. I was up and down, in and out; but found no real joy. Then I moved to a place where there was no M. E. church, so I joined the Missionary Baptist. I would try to live right for a while but was trying in my own strength, so could not. The Deacon or Pastor would hear that I had gone to a dance and would come to me and get me to say I was sorry and confess to the other church members that I was sorry then they would take me back, because they said they did not want to lose me. Then I would get drunk and have the same performance to do over again. This went on for fifteen years then I got ashamed and quit. Then I met Brother and Sister Smith, heard the truth and found out that the Lord would save a M. E. or Baptist as quickly as He would any other sinner. I guess there isn't any difference because they both

teach that a man can not live above sin and the Word says he that sins is of the devil. The reason they cannot live above sin is because they haven't been washed in the Blood of the Lamb.

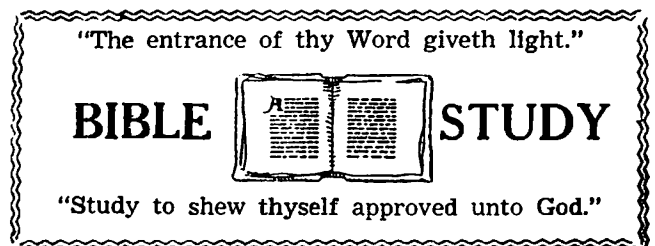
When I was saved I cleaned out the temple. I had used tobacco 4 years and whisky about the same, and went to dances. In fact I was preaching for the devil, and I was about as good as he had in conference, and I always got a good place to carry on the work. Since I cleaned the temple the Holy Spirit has taken up His abode there, praise His dear name, and the dear Lord has called me to work for Him. The devil brings great trials before me, but the Lord says, "My grace is sufficient for thee."

The Lord has become my doctor. My whole trust is in Him, and He heals all my diseases. He says, "Cursed is the man that trusteth in man, and makes the arm of flesh his trust." Dear saints, that is what we do when we call a doctor or take medicine, our trust is not in God.

He says, "By one offering he has perfected forever them that are sanctified. (Heb. 10:14.) Forever is a long time isn't it? I am your sanctified brother in Christ. Saints, pray that I will always be led by the Spirit of God. Also pray that God will bless dear Brother and Sister Smith in the work of the Lord. Brother Smith is my father in the Lord. He also baptized me. We have no permanent place of worship, but we are asking the Lord for one. He says, "If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you."

I would enjoy letters from any of the saints.  
C. Parker, R. 1, Box 59, Bartlesville, Okla.

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Sunday, April 2, 1939

SAUL BECOMES A NEW MAN

Daily Readings and Meditations

March 27 to April 2.

- M. Saul's Training Acts 26:1-5
- T. Saul the Persecutor Acts 26:9-11.
- W. Saul's Conversion Acts 9:1-9.
- T. Saul and Ananias Acts 9:10-19.
- F. Saul and Barnabas Acts 9:20-30.
- S. The New Birth John 3:1-11.
- S. A New Man in Christ 2 Cor. 5:11-19.

Printed Portion .....Acts 9:1-12, 17-19

Acts 9:1. And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest.

2. And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

3. And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

4. And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

5. And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

6. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

7. And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.

8. And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus.

9. And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

10. And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

11. And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

12. And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

17. And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul,

the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

18. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

19. And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.

Golden Text: "If any man be in Christ he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

Paul before Conversion— Before Paul's conversion he was a Pharisee. The Pharisees were a well educated sect of the Jews. They were very scrupulous in observing the ceremonial law and worship. They also believed in tithing and in the resurrection of the dead.

Paul was a real Jew. He loved the Jews and desired to preach to them at Jerusalem, but they would not hear him so the Spirit ordered him to go to the Gentiles.

As a persecutor— We first hear of Paul as a persecutor, when he was consenting to Stephen's death. Imprisonment and murder were the means used to crush the young church and to scatter the disciples first at Jerusalem and then abroad.

Paul's Conversion— Paul's experience gives us an ideal example of how the spirit of God changes man's ambition, attitudes; yea, and makes a new man entirely, and completely. The Lord will reveal himself unto honest hearted souls that He can use.

The Ministry of Man to Man— While Paul had been of the highest order of the Jews and very highly educated, yet it pleased the Lord to use Ananias, a very common member of the church entrusted with no particular office or position, to instruct him in the way. Is our brother not our keeper? Can we not realize that if we persecute one of His little ones, we are persecuting the Lord himself? We can be a very great hinderance, one to another, or we may be a great blessing, one to another.

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Sunday, April 9, 1939.

THE RISEN CHRIST

Easter Lesson

Daily Readings and Meditations

April 3 to 9.

- M. Christ is Risen Matt. 28:1-8.
- T. Paul at Antioch Acts 13:23-31.
- W. The Message to Corinth 1 Cor. 15:1-11.
- T. The Message to Philippi Phil. 1:7-14.
- F. Paul at Athens Acts 17:16-18.
- S. The Power of the Resurrection 1 Cor 15:12-20.
- S. New Life in Christ Rom. 6:1-11.

Printed Portion .....Acts 13:16, 23-31, 38, 39;  
1 Cor. 15:19-22.

Acts 13:16. Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.

23. Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

24. When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

25. And as John fulfilled his course, he said, Whom think ye that I am? I am not he. But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of his feet I am not worthy to loose.

26. Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.

27. For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him.

28. And though they found no cause of death in him, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain.

29. And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre.

30. But God raised him from the dead:

31. And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people.

38. Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:

39. And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

1 Cor. 15:19. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

20. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

21. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

22. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

**Golden Text:** "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept." 1 Cor. 15:20.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

**Paul at Antioch**— The Spirit of Christ is a missionary Spirit, and when man possesses that Spirit it prompts him to carry the gospel message to those in sin. "To the Jew first and also to the Greek."

**The Message**— Jesus Christ according to prophecy— fulfilling prophecy— crucified— Risen—

and offering himself a world wide Saviour.

The approach to the lesson was by way of law and prophets then presenting the New Testament which was new ground for them.

Note John's estimation of himself in comparison with Jesus. These incidents were not for the purpose of fulfilling the scriptures, but each came to pass by divine appointment, thus the scriptures were fulfilled.

**The Resurrection of Jesus**— God raised him from the dead.

The Gospel climax, the heart of the gladdest tidings in six short words. How holy, sacred, and edifying is the study of this lesson. His resurrection, the first fruits of our resurrection—both linked together. We rise or fall together.

**Results of the Sermon** (Verse 43)— Many followed.

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Sunday, April 16, 1939.

#### PAUL ESTABLISHES CHURCHES

##### Daily Readings and Meditations

April 9 to 16.

- M. The Church in Iconium Acts 11:1-7.
- T. The Church in Lystra Acts 14:8-18.
- W. A Busy Missionary Acts 14:19-28.
- T. A Wise Masterbuilder 1 Cor. 3:10-15.
- F. Missionary Vision Isa. 55:1-5.
- S. Jonah's Missionary Work Jonah 3:1-10.
- S. Missionary Triumph Psa. 72:7-17.

Printed Portion .....Acts 14:1-7, 19-23.

Acts 14:1. And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed.

2. But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren.

3. Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

4. But the multitude of the city was divided: and part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles.

5. And when there was an assault made both of the Gentiles, and also of the Jews with their rulers, to use them despitefully, and to stone them,

6. They were ware of it, and fled unto Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and unto the region that lieth round about:

7. And there they preached the gospel.

19. And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, sup-

posing he had been dead.

20. Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

21. And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,

22. Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

23. And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

**Golden Text:** "As a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon." 1 Cor. 3:10.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

When the word of truth is crushed in one place it rises in another. The Gospel must be preached to every creature. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. There is no other power by which man can be elevated from a life of sin. The Gospel preached under the anointing power of the Holy Spirit will accomplish something for the cause.

**Persecution**—The life that exemplifies Christ will receive persecution. Regardless of the persecutions at Iconium, some believed. When a person embraces the Gospel, a monument is raised, a testimony to the world that a Savior has come, was crucified and resurrected, and is an intercessor at the right hand of God. Our life is under God's protection and no one can take it until God permits. Paul's life was not his own.

**Divine Organization**—Appointment of officers by God recognized by the ministers and all the saints. A church entire and complete in every detail.

Sunday, April 23, 1939.

#### PAUL WINS RECOGNITION FOR GENTILE CHRISTIANS

Daily Readings and Meditations

April 17 to 23.

- M. The Widening Horizon Acts 10:9-16.
- T. Peter's Conviction Acts 15:6-11.
- W. Paul Turns to the Gentiles Acts 13:44-49.
- T. The Decision of the Council Acts 15:13-21.
- F. The Word of Galatia. Gal 2:1-10.
- S. The Way of Life. Gal. 2:11-21.
- S. The Gospel for All. Rev. 22:16, 17.

**Printed Portion** ..... Acts 15:23-29; Gal. 2:1, 2, 9, 10. Acts 15:23b. The apostles and elders and brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia;

24. Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment:

25. It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

26. Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

27. We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth.

28. For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;

29. That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

Gal. 2:1. Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also.

2. And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preached among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.

9. And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

10. Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.

**Golden Text:** "A man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ." Gal. 2:16.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

**Preceding Events**—Paul and Barnabas as Missionaries from Antioch went into Galatia. Some of the Jews and many of the Gentiles were saved; not by keeping the law, but by simple faith in Jesus. The report of how the Gentiles had accepted salvation by faith soon reached Jerusalem. At once the Judaizing teachers came opposing the Apostles, saying that Gentile Christians must keep the law the same as the Jewish Christians. They went from one place to another causing division in the churches.

The church at Antioch desired Paul and Barnabas to go to Jerusalem and consult the brethren in regard to the necessity of Gentile converts keeping the law.

They were received by the brethren and were able with the aid of Peter's convincing argument (his vision) that they were not to fasten "a yoke upon the neck of the disciples" that the fathers themselves had been unable to bear. Also James who had

more influence than others at Jerusalem, arose and declared that they should not trouble the Gentiles who turn to God. The entire assembly placed its approval upon the decision and also commended "our beloved brother Paul and Barnabas" for their missionary work.

**An Example**—Unmoveable, yet tender; meek, yet not a weakling. Let us stand for our conviction, yet remain teachable.

Sunday, April 30, 1939.

### PAUL CROSSES INTO EUROPE

Daily Readings and Meditations

April 24 to 30.

- M. "Come . . . and Help us" Acts 16:6-10.
- T. The Conversion of Lydia Acts 16:11-15.
- W. Casting out Evil Spirits Acts 16:16-18.
- T. Paul in Prison Acts 16:19-25.
- F. The Jailor Saved Acts 16:26-34.
- S. The Gospel in Berea Acts 17:10-12.
- S. The Gospel for Every Land. Psa. 67:1-7.

**Printed Portion:** .....Acts 15:36; 16:4-15.

Acts. 15:36. And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do.

16:4. And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem.

5. And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.

6. Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

7. After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

8. And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.

9. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.

10. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

11. Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis;

12. And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.

13. And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

14. And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

15. And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

**Golden Text:** "And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia." Acts 16:10.

**Practical Truth:** "Go ye into all the world . . . and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

The call for Paul to "Come help us" is a decisive event in missionary history. The commission "Go ye into all the world" was taking on new meaning.

Verse 4—Deliver the decree made by the apostles at Jerusalem to all the people. A decree made by man and yet not man-made, but under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Being led by the Spirit is the secret to a successful life.

God leads in mysterious ways. A great missionary—a very small audience—the record of only one receiving the Word. Give other instances in the Bible where the audiences were small. A message to a few makes the message of no less importance.

**Troas and Philippi**—Name some interesting things that happened in ancient times at those places.

Verse 9—Notice a new missionary added to the number, none other than Luke. Before this he wrote what others told him, but from now on he wrote what he himself saw.

The first decade after the crucifixion the apostles remained close around Jerusalem. The second decade they reached Asia Minor, and it took about ten years more before they came into Europe.

The place of prayer by the river side.

The first European converts.

It is good to read about the missionary spirit sending and working with Paul, but we can testify that the same Spirit is upon the saints at Guthrie. Calls are coming from nearly every direction for helpers, teachers, and ministers to come to the rural school houses. Both young and old alike are taking the truth to the by-ways and hedges. The Lord is especially blessing the young people as they move out for God, planting the truth in every open door. Please remember us in your prayers.

**Our lesson for May 7th continues about Paul in Acts 19th chapter.** We trust that you will not be satisfied to study only the printed portion, but study all the chapter between our lesson.

**"The entrance of thy word giveth light."**