

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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THE ONE CHURCH

As we read through the Holy Bible,
There are many scriptures we see,
Which teach us that God's only Church
Is Mount Zion, the home of the free.

The foundation is apostles and prophets,
With Jesus the chief corner stone.
'Twill pay every soul to search for it,
For no other church does God own.

The door of this building is Jesus,
And if any by Him enter in,
They've left sin and its pleasures behind them,
The approval of Jesus to win.

They are lively stones in the building
That is called by the Father's own name.
They cannot get in it by joining,
But all must be born again.

God's church has no spot or blemish:
It is pure and free from all sin.
The book of life is the record,
Only pure ones are written therein.

This church is the Bride of Jesus,
He is coming for her some glad day.
If your name is not on the Lamb's book of life,
Your soul will be cast away.

God knows every one of the members.
From sin their hearts are all freed,
His love binds their hearts together,
And they go where His Spirit doth lead.

—Alice Elizabeth Hall.

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Only One Family, One Nation, One Church of God

From the very beginning, the devil has tried to counterfeit God's plans on almost all lines by bringing up a substitute for the true, and by so doing, many are taken captive into his cunning devices at His will.

Notice that Jesus speaks of the true vine, which signifies that there is a false vine; also true holiness, so there is false; pure religion, so there is impure; a true church, so there is a false. According to Isa. 66:8 and 1 Pet. 2:9, the church of God is the Holy Nation. It is also one great family in heaven and earth named and going in the Father's name (Eph. 3:14, 15). It matters not how close one gets to this family by works and good deeds, he is not in it until born in (John 3:7); for God only acknowledges one family of all the families of the earth (Amos 3:2). As our earthly father has one family, so it is with our heavenly Father.

Since many (called church of God) have found Zion (family, church of God) to be well situated, and that she is the joy of the whole earth and a Bible name (Psa. 48:2), many families (false churches) of the North (cold formal) are moving up and settling close to the entering of Jerusalem (family of God Jer. 1:15); setting their throne (false church) at the entering of Jerusalem (true church). We find in Zech. 43:8 just how close the false church is being set to the true: "In their setting of their threshold by my thresholds, and their posts by my posts, and the wall between me and them." I am glad for the wall or line between the false and the true. Amos could see the line in Amos 7:7-8.

These other nations (false churches) may appear almost right. Remember, a counterfeit is always almost right. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Prov. 14:12.

Let us consider the other nations (false churches) in the light of God's word: "Behold the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance." Isa. 40:15. Did you ever sprinkle dust on the scales to see how much it would take to move the balance? This scripture says they are counted as the small dust. There is not enough weight to them to move the balance. In the day of judgment they will be as Belshazzar, "weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." Dan. 5:27. For "All nations [false churches] are as nothing; and vanity." Isa. 40:17.

Many will try to bring up strong arguments for their way, but the Word of God calls upon you to "Produce your cause [scripture], saith the Lord: bring forth your strong reasons saith the king." Isa. 41:21. We find in Jer. 32:34 that they have set their abominations in the house (church) which is called by my name. When they are demanded to give scripture for bringing in things that they cannot prove by the Bible, they then cannot answer by scripture, "For I beheld, and there was no man; even among them, and there was no counselor, that when I asked of them, could answer a word." Isa. 41:23; for the Word says the Lord is our lawgiver (Isa. 33:22) and "if they speak not according to this Word it is because there is no light in them." Isa. 8:20.

Such things as worshipping God with instruments, bobbing the hair, accepting honorary titles (such as, "D. D." and Rev.), tithing, double marriage, Rally Days, Summer parties, year books, pulpit committees, and many other such abominations are going on in the house (or church) that is called by His name. So when asked to give Him proof in going to the Lawgiver (Isa. 33:22) by saying, "it is written," as Jesus did (Matt. 4:4), instead the saying is carried out which says, "Every founder is confounded." Jer. 10:14.

Since the false churches have set themselves all around the walls of the true, as in Jer. 1:15, it is impossible for the natural man to see the true except he be born again and listens to the Shepherd's voice. The false churches go in His name (Church of God) only to take away the reproach, for they are not willing to do what it takes to have on the robe of righteousness. They continue to wear their own apparel (rags, Isa. 64:6) and eat their own bread (ways, Isa. 4:1).

The true church of God is on the Rock; and though there be some very close, yet they are on the sinking sand, for "other foundation can no man lay than that is laid which is Jesus Christ" 1 Cor. 3:11.

You may say it doesn't make much difference with me which one I am in, but it will in the day of judgment, for all the false churches shall be rooted up before Jesus comes (Jer. 1:10, Matt. 15:12-14; Rev. 18:23).

—D. A. Gibson.

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WHY A CHRISTIAN SHOULD NOT JOIN A CHURCH (So-Called)

Many people teach that after one has accepted the religion of the Lord, it is necessary to join what they call a church. There are so many false ways in the world that everyone needs the guidance of God. Men who have not been born again are not fit for teachers because the scripture is of no private interpretation (2 Pet. 1:20). For this reason false teachers put their private interpretation on the Word and lead precious souls astray for whom Christ died.

We find, according to the Word of God, that

when we confess our sins to God and forsake them, we have peace with Him through faith. He teaches us nowhere to join ourselves to a man-made church. If we did join ourselves up to a sect after we were saved, our soul would starve in those places, for false teachers are not capable of breaking the bread of life. We would be as the prodigal was when he joined himself to a citizen of that country. We would perish with hunger.

The popular churches (so-called) of today are operated contrary to God's plan. He said, that He openeth and no man shutteth, and shutteth and no man openeth." They take it in their hands to open and to decide whether they take you in or not, and vote you in instead of you being born in. The Lord teaches us to join ourselves to Him and make a perpetual covenant with him. We must be born in His church. "And of Zion it shall be said, this and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her. The Lord shall count when he writeth up the people, that this man was born in her." Psa. 87:5,6. If a man is born at home, why is there any need of hunting something to join, for he is already in the family of God?

The church is not a structure where people meet together, as some people suppose. The word plainly tells us what it is. "But ye are come unto Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels; to the general assembly and church of the first born, which are written in heaven and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect." So we see by these that it is altogether unnecessary to join a church, for we are already in the church which Jesus built, which few people know about. Jesus said, "Upon this rock (himself) I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." All these things they call churches today, the devil has his way very well with them. The members can smoke an old pipe or something else, hate one another, and every work of the flesh mentioned in the catalog of sins can be found in them. The preacher loves filthy lucre much more than he loves souls. "Wherefore, come out from among them and be ye separate saith the Lord and touch not the unclean thing and I will receive you," also "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." We cannot be yoked up with sinners and please God. He commands us to be separate from sinners, whether they are professors or not. We would please God much more if we stood alone than to be joined up with people who do not teach nor practice the word of God. We know they use part of the Bible to cover up the deceitfulness of their clique to fool honest souls into joining them, by promising them they can go to heaven by their way of living. When your funeral is preached, if you have been one of their members, regardless of how vile you have lived,

whether you were a drunkard, whoremonger, any unclean person, or known as the most ungodly person in town, these false teachers will make a flowery speech about your life and tell what good examples you lived and talk as though your soul has gone to heaven. Shame on such lies, told for filthy lucre's sake. It causes souls to be damned in a devil's hell.

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers to feed the Church of God which he hath purchased with his own blood. God has only one church as we see here by the definite article, "the"; and one kind of ministers, such are called of God and sent by the same, who preach the word without charge. He has purchased his church by spilling His life's blood that you might be born into his family and to supply you with grace to live above sin. If we love him better than the things of the world, and serve Him, he will take us to heaven without our names on an earthly church roll; for he plainly teaches that our names are written in the Lamb's book of life, which is in heaven. Then why would eternity- and judgment-bound souls want to be connected to an ungodly band if they are in the church which needs no joining.

We need not be confused about which is the right way, for Jesus said, "I am the way." Get saved, live for God, forsake the things of the world—shows, dances, parties, ungodly car rides, drunkenness, card playing and socials—whether the preacher teaches against them or not. Jesus has promised a teacher, which is the Holy Spirit, to lead and guide us into all truth. If we find ourselves yoked up with ungodly men of this sort, let us flee for our life; for Jesus is coming soon to reckon with His servants. Man made churches can never take us to heaven, so it behooves us to be redeemed by the blood of the Lamb and to keep our souls clear before our Maker.

—Everett Hilbun.

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Cleansing Fire and Holy Ghost

When John the Baptist began to preach, he said, "Repent ye, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand." When Jesus began to preach, He said, "Repent; for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand." When Jesus sent his disciples to preach, He said, "As ye go, preach, saying, The Kingdom of heaven is at hand." Notice "AT HAND."

Jesus taught his disciples to pray, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven." And yet, the disciples looked for something literal. They could not understand. Jesus told them of his coming sufferings, death, resurrection, and they did not like it. They strove to be greatest. Peter tired to defend with the sword, and later denied Jesus. God's great plan of salvation was not yet perfected in

them; they were yet carnal; they still had Adam's nature in them.

After Jesus' resurrection, they were still full of unbelief. He stayed with them forty days. He ate with them, and they saw his bruised hands, feet, and side, they heard his loving words and were happy. At the end of forty days he led them to Mt. Olivet, and there they saw Him ascend to heaven. They had his promise of another Comforter, the Holy Ghost, and were told to wait for Him.

After ten days, the Holy Ghost and fire that John the Baptist spoke about, came from heaven. The fire burned out carnality, the Adam nature, and the Holy Ghost took full possession of them, soul and body. From that time, He was their teacher, leader, guide, and comforter. The Kingdom of heaven, which they preached "at hand" was now in them and they were in the Kingdom of heaven. God's salvation was now perfected in them and they were holy as Jesus was holy. God, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Ghost in the holy disciples, has given us the blessed gospel of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

When the day of Pentecost was fully come, God moved the whole Jewish world. They were gathered at Jerusalem out of every nation. The Holy Ghost spoke through these unlearned disciples so that every man heard the wonderful words of God in their own tongue. Thousands repented, were baptized for the remission of sins, and received the gift of the Holy Ghost. The gift of the Holy Ghost is God's crowning work of this great salvation.

God's holy prophets, Daniel, Joel, and others prophesied of this great event, the giving of the new covenant, the New Testament. The flesh and blood of Jesus is in the New Testament. Jesus said, "Except ye eat my flesh and drink my blood, ye have no life in you." Notice how he dwells on this scripture in the 6th chapter of St. John. And because of these sayings many left him.

God's great teacher, the Holy Ghost, is the only one who can lead us into this great gospel Kingdom of heaven and reveal Jesus in the soul.

—Mrs. J. Edw. Wetzel.

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Neosho, Mo.—To the saints scattered abroad, I feel it would be good to write a few lines to thank the ones who sent offerings for Sister Reese after her horse was burned. We received some letters from different ones with donations to her. She appreciates it very much, and is thankful to all those who responded to her needs. She also thanks the saints at Guthrie for the donation they sent. Still remember her in prayer, she isn't very well in body. Your Sister in Christ, Sister Allen.

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MEETING NOTICE

Boley, Oklahoma—The Boley April meeting of the church of God will begin Friday April 24th and run over May the 3rd—10 days. Come and be with us and receive the good things of God. The Boley saints welcome you.

"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 constitute 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—

Single copy, one year	\$.25
Single copy, five years	1.00
Five copies to any address, one year	1.00
Twelve copies to any address, one year	2.00

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 24:2; 1 Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

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.

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

920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma.

BOOKS TO BE PRINTED

"Life's Sketches of Mother Sarah Smith" and the "Religious Controversy" by C. E. Orr.

These books should be reprinted and in circulation. We would like to print a good supply of them to send into the many prisons and to souls every where. To do this we will need near \$200.00 and we are asking God for this amount. Please be agreed in prayer with us for this need.

—NOTICE.—

Pray earnestly for Mrs. Melissa Wayt of Anthony, Kans. who has a bad face affliction.

Editorials

In Isaiah the 26th chapter, beginning at the first verse, we read, "In that day (gospel day) shall this song be sung in the land of Judah: (Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, Rev. 5:5.) We have a strong city; (God's family) Salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks." Webster's Dictionary says that Bulwarks are solid walls raised up for defence. There is no one in the city except those who have been "born from above"—those who are delivered from sin—and the Lord is their defense, their strong High Tower. All who are in Him are safe.

The second verse, "Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation that keepeth the truth may enter in."

In the 21st chapter of Revelation, we have a beautiful picture of the city of God, the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God (10th verse). This picture of the New Jerusalem, the blood-washed company that are born from above, the family of God, the church of God which God inhabits here in this world, for she has the glory of God and her light is like a stone most precious, clear as crystal. John also saw the wall around her great and high. Yes, and there were twelve gates. No doubt these gates had reference to the twelve apostles, who were proclaiming salvation to the people through the one Gate, even Christ. Thro' the apostles' teaching, the gateway to heaven was opened up to all men and they could come from the north, the east, the west, and the south and enter through Christ into the city.

Isaiah says, "Open ye the gates." In other words, proclaim the truth, pointing souls to Christ that those, the righteous ones may enter in and become an inhabitant of New Jerusalem, the great city of God. In Psalm 87:3, David says, "Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God." The fifth verse reads thus, "And of Zion (the church) it shall be said, this and that man was born in her; and the highest himself shall establish her. The Lord shall count when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there." It is not the will of God that his people be scattered in the different creeds of men. All the illustrations and metaphors of the Church in the Bible relate to objects that are solid, together, and separate from the unsaved, from the world and free from sin.

Those who teach that the church or family of God is mixed up and scattered in all different sects and man-made churches and stop there are certainly blind leaders; are in the fogs of the world which dims their vision. They could not be God's messengers which he is using to separate the wheat from the chaff and bring the wheat into his garner. The word of God truly taught and Christ lifted up will cause the righteous to separate themselves from the

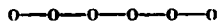
sin and darkness of sectism and become a city that is set on a hill that cannot be hid.



Those who have no clearer vision than to think that the Body of Christ, which is the church, is lodged up in all the dark creeds of men make me think of a man who lived down in the valley. He stepped out of his house one morning, looked around, and said, "It is very cloudy today and there will be no sun shining."

"Another man high up on the mountain near by stepped out of his house on the same morning and saw the sky clear and the sun shining brightly. He could also see the fogs and clouds hanging over those in the valley. People that are too near the world get in the fogs and they seem to think that everybody else is in the fog like themselves. Those who get upon Mount Zion will be in the light and sunshine and will have a clear vision and will teach the truth like Jesus and the apostles did. Jesus said, "Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one as we are." John 17:11. He further said in the 14th verse, "I have given them thy word, and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." The worldly church members in the sects will love you if you will acknowledge them as part of the church, honor their idol and never teach the truth of the Bible about the exclusive Church, the one without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, and never teach the truth about, "Come out of her my people."

Paul says, "Now I beseech you brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together (not in division) in the same mind, and in the same judgment." If Paul were here preaching, none of the sects would allow him to preach to their congregations. They would have him branded as a dangerous man void of true understanding, and one that was tearing up churches, a babbler of strange doctrines. What a sad condition the professing man-made churches are in. Truly, the day must be at hand when the tares are being gathered into bundles to be burned (Matt. 13:30). The end of the harvest is certainly upon us. Brethren, let us be true reapers, even if the professed churches do hate us.



Sunday, March 15th was a very busy day for the writer. Sunday morning a car load of us went into the country five or six miles and held services in a school house. The Lord was very gracious and blessed very precious in the delivering of His word to an interested congregation of men, women, boys, and girls. In the afternoon, four car loads of saints went about fourteen miles (near Crescent, Okla.), where we had preaching service. After this service

we officiated in a baptismal service. Bro. and Sister Tucker, their son Marshall and wife, and son, Jewell were baptized. The Lord made this service a blessed one by His presence. They were a happy family as they followed the Lord in water baptism. On our way home we stopped at Bro. Porch's in Crescent and had singing and prayer with them and encouraged them as the Lord led and blessed. At eight o'clock in the evening the Lord gave us a message to deliver to the congregation at Guthrie and gave us much liberty in speaking of the great things that Christ Jesus has done for poor sinful man.

Truly, our soul doth magnify the Lord for his goodness to the children of men. When we lay down at night we had such peace and comfort in our soul to know that the time had been fully spent for Him that day.



**A Call for Volunteer Soldiers
In This War Against Sin.
"GOD SAVE AMERICA"**

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2 Chron. 7:14.

We know that every soul that retains the "Born Again" experience has a burden for souls and are willing to spend and be spent for the sake of getting the truth of the Gospel of Christ to their fellowmen, who may be drooping in darkness or only have dim light. It is God's will and pleasure for every member of the Body of Christ to be alive in their respective places to do all they can to aid all the rest of the body in "Lifting up Christ" to languishing, dying souls, that they may have an opportunity to "Come unto Him and find rest" and assurance of heaven. Therefore, knowing this to be true, we are making a proposition to every member of the body so they can function in their places in the body and be a "worker together with God" in getting the gospel to lost souls by the printed page.

The Lord has provided us with a building and machinery and help to print the Gospel of God's inspired truth in tract form, in papers, in books and booklets, and we are anxious to get the truth to souls in a larger measure than ever before. We are asking those who have "presented their bodies to Him as a living sacrifice" to help us do this.

We have a plan in mind how to do this and we believe that God has given it to us. We want to send a sample paper and tracts to every soul possible. If you will take the following advertisement and have it inserted in your local paper it will enable us to get the truth to a multitude of souls that otherwise may never hear or know about our loving Saviour as He has revealed himself to us. It will perhaps

cost you less than a dollar to put this add in your local paper. If you want to send the add off to some national paper that has a large circulation, it may cost more, but what is a few dollars in comparison to even one soul saved? **The Farm Journal** of Philadelphia, has over a million subscribers. Just think of the souls you could reach in this way. These sample packages contain a copy of **Faith and Victory** in which a subscription blank is inserted, and forty tracts with a "Tract List" and information how to get these tracts. The messages in some of these tracts are to encourage the saved and in others to convince and convict the sinner of his need of a Saviour who will save from all sin. It is just the kind of reading material that the general public needs. The postage on this package costs us three cents to any Post Office in the U. S. A. We will send them out promptly.

If all the children of God will earnestly pray for America; pray for our legislators, rulers, and those in authority; pray God that men and women every where repent and forsake sin; God will hearken and America will be saved from a deluge of blood-shed, defeat, and ruin.

Following is the advertisement you can have inserted to bring the orders directly to the Faith Publishing House at Guthrie, Okla.:—

HELP SAVE AMERICA

Send for a free sample of forty different Gospel tracts; also, paper "Faith and Victory."

Faith Pub. House, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla.

Obituaries

Ethel Mae McNeill, daughter of Alfred and Emma McNeil was born Jan 4, 1873 at Huntington, Tennessee and passed away at her home, 605 E. First Street, Hennessey, Oklahoma, December 26, 1941 at the age of 68 years, 11 months, and 22 days.

The family came west and established a home at Topeka, Kansas where she grew to womanhood and united with the Presbyterian church. In 1890 a second home was made west of Kingfisher, Okla.

She was married to George F. Robinson and to this union four children were born, two sons and two daughters. Her home in this city was a pleasure to her loved ones and friends. She was a loving mother, a devoted sister and an indulgent neighbor.

Striving always to satisfy her heart's longing for a fuller and freer hope in Christ, she became a member of the Church of God and her joy in laboring in this vineyard was boundless. The will of her Master was made manifest in continuous service by precept and example. Her civic duties also were ardently pursued. She ever lent a helping hand and spoke a cheering word to those in need.

Mrs. Robison suffered a short illness. Everything was ministered to her comfort through loving care and fervent prayers, but the Saviour loved her more and she went home to live with Him. Her steadfastness and unswerving trust were shown a short while before the end when she sang one of her favorite songs, "By Faith and Not By Sight."

She leaves to mourn her passing: a son, George L.

Robison, Denver, Colo.; two daughters, Mrs. Edna Allison, Hennessey, Mrs. Fern Perry, Chicago, Ill; a sister, Mrs. Willa J. Clark, Hennessey; a brother, Hurl E. McNeill, Kansas City, Mo.; two Sons-in-law; a daughter-in-law; and many other relatives and friends. Her parents, husband, a son, two brothers and a sister preceded her in death.

O, deem not they are blest alone
Whose lives a peaceful tenor keep;
The Power Who pities man has shown
A blessing for the eyes that weep.
There is a day of sunny rest
For every dark and troubled night;
And grief may bide an evening guest
But joy shall come with early light.
For God hath marked each sorrowing day
And numbered every secret tear;
And heaven's long age of bliss shall pay,
For all his children suffer here.

Text: Rev. 14:13, by Bro. M. Spears.

A WORD OF APPRECIATION

To us it is hard to find words to express our thankfulness. But we want to thank all of you for the means that has been given in to buy a car for us. We truly ask the Lord to richly bless and reward you each one for the great sacrifice and surely He will, for He said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

We desire your prayers that we be faithful unto the end.

—Darius and Evelyn Gibson.

—A PASTOR WANTED—

In Minneapolis, Minn. there is a small congregation of saints who are zealous for the Lord and have no Pastor. They are not able to fully supply the upkeep of a minister but are able and willing to do a lot toward helping him. They should have a minister and his wife to take care of the work properly. Minneapolis is a city of 500,000 people and a consecrated minister could make himself very active surrounded with so many people needing the truth. Only those that are established in the Church of God truth need apply and only then as clearly led by the Spirit. If the Lord makes you interested, write to: Church of God Mission 809 8th So. St., Minneapolis, Minn.

Campmeeting Notices

The NATIONAL CAMPMEETING of the Church of God will be held July 17 to 26, 1942, on the campground at Monark Springs, Mo., which is five miles east of Neosho, Mo. This will be only a ten-day meeting, instead of the two-weeks' meeting as heretofore. The shorter period seemed to be more desirable.

Plan now to attend, and in so doing you will be helping to keep up our first line of defense in this great spiritual warfare. All America should turn out to an old-fashioned campmeeting where Holy Ghost conviction would cause people to tremble and fall down before God, repent of their sins, and get deliverance from the sin principle. Then perhaps

the nation would be spared as Ninnevah of old. The lack of auto tires and perhaps gasoline rationing may cut down private automobile travel, yet the trains and buses will take you to the National campmeeting. In these times we need the Lord as never before, so you be there July 17 to 26.

The lack of funds and the high cost of materials have forced us to postpone the construction of the new dining hall on the national camp ground. However, those who have pledged money for this purpose may continue sending it to the Secretary, so the fund will be increased in order to do the work later.

Shortage of volunteer labor has resulted in the failure of our tree-planting and camp ground improvement plan for this year. We trust that more definite plans for the execution of the work will be made at the coming campmeeting.

As in past years, it is suggested that each person interested in the campmeeting would send one dollar (\$1.00) to the Secretary by July 10 to help meet the current expenses of the meeting which will be 30 per cent greater this year. This co-operative plan would not leave all the financial burden on the few. Let each of us do all we can for the meeting—in giving, working and praying. Further detail information will be given later.—L. D. Pruitt, Secretary, 1005 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla.

THE OKLAHOMA STATE CAMPMEETING of the Church of God will be held July 31 to August 9, inclusive, 1942, at Guthrie, Oklahoma. The camp ground is located near the saints' chapel in the 600 block on West Warner Ave.

A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend this meeting. Remember the dates, July 31—Aug. 9. Further information will be given later.

The Campmeeting at Union City, Ind. will begin August 14th at the corner of Carter and Union Sts. and continue ten days, closing August 24th. The church of God meeting place is located on the line of Indiana and Ohio, twelve miles west of Greenville, Ohio. It is on the Indiana Route No. 28, 32, and 227; and Ohio state Route 47 and 71. All are welcome to attend this meeting. We are expecting ministers to be present from many different states to preach the Bible truth with love, mercy, and judgment. We expect God's presence to be there to save souls, sanctify believers and heal the sick and suffering. Those wanting tents can rent them.

For further information, write to Sister Mae Nottingham, 360 North State Line St., or Opal Williams, 117 North St., Union City, Ind.

Three services daily—10:30 a. m.; 2:30 p. m.; and 7:30 p. m. Meals served at 360 North State Line St., in Bro. John Nottingham's house. All who come will be cared for. The meeting will be supported by free-will offerings. —Sister Opal Williams, Pastor.

The CAMPMEETING at SCIO, ORE. will begin July 2nd and end July 12th, lasting ten days. We would love for all the saints, ministers, and lovers of the truth to plan to be with us if the Lord wills. Further details later. — Ira D. Stover.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

The saints at Guthrie, Oklahoma will have all day meeting on April 5th, Easter Sunday. Dinner will be served on the grounds and the ordinances of the Bible will be observed in the afternoon.

All are invited to come and meet with us on that day. It is good for the saints to meet together in holy fellowship and to give honor to Him who was resurrected to live forever. Observing the ordinances is a very sacred occasion, and not one to be lightly thought of by those who are living sober, righteous, and godly in this present world.

We extend a hearty welcome to all of God's children, also to any who might be in need of spiritual help.

All day meeting with ordinance service at the church of God, Union City, Indiana, April 5, Easter Sunday. Everybody welcome. —Sister Opal Williams.

Madisonville, Tenn.—Dear saints, I feel like writing my first testimony. I am glad to say I enjoy reading the Faith and Victory paper so much. It puts so much light into my soul. I have been trying to serve my Lord for a long time and mean to as long as I live. I am in very bad health. I have stomach and heart trouble. I am requesting the dear saints to pray that the Lord will heal my body for I have five little children to care for and I am needed so bad. Your sister, Lillie Williams

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CHURCH NAMES

This question, "Who started the church of God?" was asked by someone and answered by a Nazarene preacher in a holiness paper and reprinted in the Gospel Trumpet issue of Dec. 27, 1941, with comments written by a Gospel Trumpet preacher, then reprinted from the Gospel Trumpet paper in Faith Messenger with more comments. I now have this article as printed in the Faith Messenger before me and shall try, by the help of God and His Word, to correct the mistakes these ministers have made.

The Nazarene preacher wrote as follows:

"Not knowing which church of God is meant, it is hard to give a correct answer," but he seems to simmer it down to one point; to-wit, "Any group calling itself 'The Church of God,' and dubbing itself as being the true and only Church and all the rest sects is the 'sectiest' sect of all."

First. Christ said, "Upon this rock I will build my church." Matt. 16:18—not the Baptist, Methodist, or Nazarene; for these three do not agree, hence they are not the Church of God. Jesus said "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matt. 18:20. This is the constitution of the Church of God, or the church itself to which Jesus directed those in the 17th verse, "Tell it to the church." And how could they do that if there were no local church to tell it to? So we find that Jesus did build his church, which was or-

ganized (or set in order) by the Holy Ghost, Acts 2nd chapter. In his last commission, he said, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always unto the end of the world." Matt. 28:19, 20. "All things whatsoever I have commanded you" includes water baptism, the Lord's supper, and washing the saints' feet (as in 1 Cor. 11:23 and John 13th chapter) and keep unspotted from the world (as in James 1:27 and Eph. 5:27).

The first writer in the above named article seems to see a church of God whose headquarters is at Anderson, Ind., and another at Fort Scott, Kans., also another at Springfield, Mo. that belongs to the "unknown tongues" group, etc. To this, I would say that all man-made organizations are not the Church of God, because the headquarters of the Church of God is in heaven. All others are sects. They say and do not. "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Luke 6:46, 48, 49. Men vote in and vote out the ordinances. The church of God keeps them all. Men vote in members, but the Lord adds to his church (Acts 2:47) and their names are "written in heaven in the book of life." (Phil. 4:3, Rev. 20:12, 15). As for the "unknown tongue" church of God, there is no such church mentioned in the Bible; but twelve times the Church of God is mentioned. The word "unknown" can not be found in the Greek, from which the King James version of the Bible was translated; nor in any other translation except the King James, and there it is in italics, which denotes a word supplied by the translator. The Greek has it "foreign languages." We believe this is sufficient in answer to the first writer on "Problems of church names."

I can say with the second writer on this problem, "I love all these brethren, but do not fellowship their doctrine." But "with love toward all and malice toward none," I wish to make it a little stronger by saying it is not only our PRIVILEGE to profess to belong to the Church of God, but our DUTY for "he that is ashamed of me before men I will be ashamed of before my Father and the holy angels." Again, where he says saints ought to "try" to live as did the morning saints, we should not "try," but "live it." In 1 John 2:6, we read, "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk even as he walked."

The third writer, who wrote the comments for Faith Messenger, seems to think all denominations are scaffolds on which to build the church of God, but this is a mistake. I worked on one of those scaffolds for about nine years; but if I benefitted the local church of God in any way I do not know it. I do know that I did not preach and practice some things that belong to the church of God. I did this in my

ignorance, therefore God forgave me. I kept telling my bosses that our scaffold was not safe, but they would laugh at me and stick in another Methodist nail or cover a weak place with a Methodist plank.

That there are local churches of God no Bible student can deny. Paul wrote two letters at least to the church of God at Corinth, and they got them. No one else would claim them. I once received a letter addressed to the Church of God at Clovis, N. M. The Baptists, Methodists and others would not claim it. When I went to the Post Office, the letter was handed to me. I took it, and by this I acknowledged there was a Church of God in Clovis.

According to the third writer, who thinks that no group of people in any town has a right to take the name Church of God because it takes all the Christians in every denomination in that town to compose the church of God, I had no right to the letter at all, but if I did take it, I should have taken it to every sectarian in town and read it to them. What think ye? "O consistency, thou art a jewel!" Paul wrote to different churches of God in Galatia. There were seven churches of God in Asia. The Lord told John to write to them all. He did. Read Rev. 1: 4 to end of chapter, also chapters 2 and 3. Paul wrote also to the church at Thessolonica, "which is in God," not in the Methodist, Baptist, or Nazarene.

Now read Acts 20:28. "Feed the church of God." Can a church of God minister go into any denomination and feed them with the commission or with the 13th chapter of John or the 17th chapter of John, or the 5th chapter of James, or in scriptures which teach us to be sanctified wholly? You know you cannot. You know you could not preach against sectism, "cry aloud and spare not." The greatest evil in christendom today is dividing God's body, his church. They would not accept your teaching. If they would, they would heed the call to "come out of her, my people" (Rev. 18:4). If one would omit all of the Bible that the different denominations will not accept, he would have to turn down all the Bible. I will go anywhere there is an open door, but I will not shun to declare the whole council of God." If accepted, they will "come out," but if not accepted I would be set out.

Some seem to think man organizations are all right if they are not exalted to the extent that they obscure the church that Jesus built; but the more you help them the higher they are raised, and thus you help to obscure the only church of God. Any group of people who teach and practice all the word of God have a right to the name of "Church of God," especially so if their lives are compatible with the Word of God. It is an exclusive church, excluding everything that is not of God. It is also inclusive in that it includes everything of God. "He that is of God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth us not."

—G. E. Harmon.

« Young People's Section »

A GREAT CHANGE

What a change was wrought within
When Jesus saved me, praise His name!
The love of the world, its pomp and show,
When Jesus came in, just had to go.

The pleasures that once my heart did thrill,
I'm dead to them. They never will
Bring gladness to this soul of mine
Since I have felt His touch divine.

I am longing now for things above
Where all is perfect peace and love;
I'm looking for the day to come
When He will take me to my home.

But while I'm in this house of clay,
I want to walk and talk each day,
For the glory of Him, who died for me
To set my soul at liberty.

Thank God for victory thro' His name
O'er all sin we do here reign.
Jesus so loved us He paid the price;
We praise Him for His sacrifice.

—Sylvia E. Shoop.

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Editorials

Solomon reminds us that "if thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small." Prov. 24:10. When a person faints he loses control of himself and becomes helpless. One who is physically weak is more susceptible to fainting spells, and often these may be produced by a sudden fright or excitement. In the language of the wise man, their strength is small, and as a result, they faint.

Surely these are days of adversity—days which try men's souls—and the outlook is for darker days. These tests will determine where spiritual strength lies. Many whose spiritual power is weak are fainting and will continue to faint. However, it need not be you. Ample provisions have been made for you to have overcoming grace for every test of life. In the Word of God, there are "exceeding great and precious promises" for our benefit. In a certain hard test the Lord re-assured the apostle Paul in these words, "My grace is sufficient for thee." New courage may be derived by often looking away from our crosses to the crown—the reward at the end of the race. Let us continually remember, not to be "weary in well doing, for in due season ye shall reap, if ye faint not."

According to reports, about 200,000 men will be inducted each month into the armed forces of the nation to prosecute the war in all parts of the world. Of this number there will be some conscientious objectors to military service, and for these the Government has made provisions. In order for Christian conscientious objectors to obtain the exemptions offered by the Conscription Act, they should ask for and fill out carefully, "Special Form 47 for Conscientious Objectors," which is in addition to the general questionnaire. We have a pamphlet entitled, "Information and Counsel to Conscientious Objectors," which has been especially prepared for Christian men to give information in obtaining exemptions. This pamphlet, and also "Official Statements of the Church of God in Regard to War," may be secured free by addressing your request to this office.

Those men who obtain exemptions as conscientious objectors will be placed in Class I-A-O or Class IV-E. Class I-A-O are those available for noncombatant military service. Class IV-E are those available only for civilian work of national importance.

—L. D. P.

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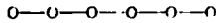
THE STORMS OF LIFE

I am sure that each of us has witnessed many storms, some of which were furious and others that did not amount to much. When the over-hanging clouds become dark and threatening, we begin to prepare for the storm and to be on our guard against anything that would damage. The leaves of the sturdy oak tree begin to tremble as if they were wondering whether they would be secure or be blown many miles away. The oak stands staunch and fearless. And why shouldn't it? For many years it has stood alone and faced the terrific storms and each time the roots became stronger and reached farther into the soil. Though it has known many a blast that bowed her, she has risen again and grown loftier and prouder.

Are we, like the oak, gaining victory from defeat? Spiritually, we face various storms (trials) each day. If we do not overcome, we are defeated, and after each defeat, it is harder to overcome the next trial. We rise by things that are under our feet, by what we have mastered of good and gain, and the vanquished ills that we hourly meet. We do not reach heaven at a single bound, but we build the ladder by which we rise, and we mount to the summit, round by round.

One evening the sky became darkened and a high wind began to blow from the north. The shrubbery seemed as if it would be up-rooted and the trees

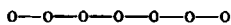
swayed to and fro. We were driving homeward along a country road, and as I looked out the window, I noticed a beautiful flower, which was almost hidden from view by other shrubbery. It didn't seem to be at all bothered by the storm, but only nodded its tiny head. That little flower taught me a lesson. If we stand alone and live close to the Lord, he is going to protect us from the storms of life. While people all around us are being shaken, we can find a refuge in Christ. That little flower appeared more beautiful as it stood all alone, than it would have if it had been one in a hundred. It seemed to prove to the world that it could stand alone, and yet share its perfumed fragrance with those about it. So like the flower, may we let our light shine even though isolated from the saints; for our light will shine brighter when surrounded by darkness. As we are crushed by going through hard trials, our life will be as sweet smelling perfume to those who surround us, if we come out victorious. As we encounter the storms of life, we can feel assured that they are only stepping stones to higher ground.—Ruby E. Doolittle



Dear Saints, In Psalm 9:1, David says, "I will praise the Lord with my whole heart." I can praise Him with my whole heart this morning for he is my Saviour, my sanctifier and my healer. Yes, he truly is all in all to me.

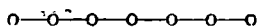
God's word says, "Ask and ye shall receive." Praise the Lord, his word is true. I have been asking the Lord to give me more compassion for the sick and to help me to become more like Jesus in patience and in humility, and in every way. The dear Lord, because of his love for me sent affliction. He saw the earnest desire of my heart and knew just how to answer my prayer. He permitted me to become so afflicted with stomach trouble that no food would digest properly. At times I was unable to eat. The Lord desired to have more time to talk to me and wanted me closer so he permitted me to be in bed several days. Truly there was sweetness in the affliction.

In obedience to James 5:14, the saints anointed me and laid on hands as they prayed the prayer of faith. God fulfilled his promise and because of Jesus' stripes he healed my body. By God's help I am going all the way. Pray for me. One of God's little ones, Fern Fortner.



Tarleton, Ohio—Dear ones, Greetings in Jesus' precious name. You will find enclosed a small offering to help in the work where needed. My dear companion and I pray for the work, that the tracts and good papers may continue to be published and go forth to be a blessing to many precious souls. Many are hungry for the pure word of the Lord, but they do not know where to go to find it. I mean to go right on until the crown is won. I do thank the dear Lord for the old-time truth. Please pray for us. God bless every one of the faithful workers and all of you is my prayer.

Your sister in the one body and in the fight for precious souls,
Mrs. V. E. Curry Hardman.

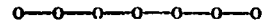


Senath, Mo.—Dear Saints, Greetings in the name of our blessed Lord, the one who has suffered so much for us that we may have life eternal. I feel led to send a few lines through the little paper for the first time,

hoping that they will be a blessing to some one. It seems so little we can do for our Saviour here. This is a dark place, no church of God congregation, and the little paper is certainly a blessing to Mother and me. We can hardly wait for the next paper. There is much truth and soul food in it. I pray that the dear Lord will continue to bless your labors for Him.

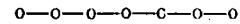
Dear saints, help me pray for my dear father and brothers and sisters, that they won't put off salvation too long. I have one brother in the army in California and another brother left for the army today, which leaves our hearts very heavy. But I am very thankful we can look up to Jesus and he knows and understands all of our heartaches and can help us bear our burdens, bless his name. How could I do without my Saviour? He has paid such a great price for everyone and says, "Who-soever will may come. I feel that I need your prayers very much. I am a widow with one little girl seven years old. I do want to raise her up for the Lord.

Your sister in Christ, Cassie Irvin.



Foster, Okla.—Dear saints everywhere, I am writing to request prayer. I believe I have high blood pressure, and desire the Lord to heal me. Will all of you please pray for me? I surely need the prayers of the saints for my unsaved family, also that I have the needed wisdom about how to put on the whole armour of God.

A sister in Christ, Ruth Palmer.



Republic, Mo.—Greetings to all the saints in Jesus' dear name. I am saved and more determined than ever to serve, trust and obey the Lord regardless of cost.

The Lord surely has been good to me. It looked like the devil tried me on every line while I was at the Assembly Meeting at Guthrie; but I had it settled that I would trust Him without compromise if I never was healed. I want to report what the good Lord has done for me since I came home. Today (Jan. 18) is has been four months since the wreck in which my son-in-law was killed and I was badly crippled up. This morning I arose, dressed, and walked across the room and back without the use of crutches, for which I am truly thankful to God and to all the saints for your prayers in my behalf. I also want to thank everyone that was at the assembly who helped me with your means, which I never shall forget. My prayer is that God will reward every one. Continue to pray for me that God will have His way with me and completely heal me.

Ten Ways of How To Get Along With Others

1. Keep a bridle on your tongue, always say less than you think, cultivate a low persuasive voice. How you say often counts more than what you say.
2. Make no promises you can't keep, and those you make keep them no matter the cost.
3. Never let an opportunity pass to say a kind and encouraging word to or about somebody. Praise good work done, regardless of who did it. If criticism is needed, criticize helpfully and never spitefully.
4. Be interested in others, interested in their pursuits, their welfare, their homes, and families. Make merry with those that rejoice; with those that weep mourn. Let everyone you meet however humble, feel you are their friend.
5. Always be cheerful to those in distress: Hide your pains, worries and disappointments under a smile.
6. Preserve an open mind on all debatable questions. Discuss, but do not argue. It is a mark of superior minds to disagree and yet be friendly.
7. Let your virtues, if any speak for themselves, and refuse to talk of, or about other's mistakes. Discourage

gossip. Make a rule to say nothing of another unless it is good.

8. Be careful of another's feeling. A friend in need is a friend indeed.

9. Pay no attention to ill natured remarks about you. Simply live that nobody will believe them.

10. Do not be anxious about dues. Do your work well. Be patient, kind and sweet. Forget self, and you will be rewarded. Amen.

This is my motto. —Bro. Ole Lowe.

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Kennerdell, Pa.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt, Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I thank the Lord for victory. By watching and praying, trusting and obeying, I am living for God through trials and sufferings. I must keep trusting Him, for all things work together for good to those that love the Lord. I have taken "Faith and Victory" for two years. I read the papers over and over. They give me wonderful courage to go all the way. I send them to others that they too may get blessings from them as I do.

Dear saints everywhere, be faithful unto the Lord and He will strengthen you. May the Lord's blessings be on one and all. Your sister, Mrs. Hazel Koonse.

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Scio, Oregon—Dear Brother Pruitt and all of God's dear children over the land, Greetings in the dear name of Jesus. I wish to spread abroad a testimony of what the dear Lord has done for me. I pray that it will be an encouragement to others in trial.

About the first of December my right knee began to hurt. The pain continued to increase until about the twentieth. Also, my leg was swollen from the knee to the ankle and very red. About the twentieth it opened just below my knee and I had relief for some time. But God saw fit for it to open four times before it had all the puss pockets so they could drain.

But what I want to thank God for is that it was no worse, also that He was with me at all times and didn't let more pain come than I was able to bear. Before I was saved it took from two to six months to gain my strength back, but thank the dear Lord, I can already walk around almost as good as before.

I also want to thank the dear Lord for the prayers of the children of God in this trial. The Lord surely could see I was needed here. For while I was sick, there was no one to drive the car and getting things from town was a problem. The third time I was out of the house I rode in the car about 70 miles and had to drive about half way.

Dear children of God, be encouraged, for though we live in a troubled time, we have a God who is sufficiently able to care for us. Let us pray much for each other.

Your brother in Jesus, Carl M. Busch.

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Okemah, Okla.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt, Greetings. I am saved and encouraged to hold up the only true way, as I found about thirty one years ago it just suited me. I accepted it and am settled down in it to stay. Thank the Lord for salvation, for "whosoever is born of God overcometh the world." 1 John 5:4. Notice especially the word IS (present tense)—"whosoever IS born of God doth not commit sin, for His seed remaineth in him and he cannot sin because he IS born of God" 1 John 3:9. Also remember the word IS in the 8th verse: "He that committeth sin IS of the devil." And the 10th verse of the same chapter reads plainly, "In this the children of God are manifest and the children of the devil." The 11th verse also has an IS in it, and this verse stays in my soul, "For this IS the message that ye heard

from the beginning, that we should love one another." I get a thought from the word IS in the fifteenth verse of the same chapter: "Whosoever hateth his brother IS a murderer." Pay strict attention to the word IS. "And ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." I want to pay strict attention to the little words. It is the "little foxes" that spoil the vines. Pray for me.

Your brother, saved to sin no more, W. W. Crawley

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Bellville, Texas—Greetings in the name of Jesus. I am thanking the Lord for Bible salvation. There is nothing I care for but more of Jesus in these evil days. I am so thankful for the little "Faith and Victory" paper. It is a God-send. May the Lord bless and help you to continue to circulate this paper to unsaved souls.

I wish to add a request for prayer. My health at this age is failing, but Jesus is a healer. Pray earnestly for me that if it is His will He will restore my health so I can be of more service to Him. I also send a request for my mother. She wants this real saving grace. Pray for her that the Lord will bring her out of Babylon. I know the Lord is able. Pray that my faith fail not.

Your saved sister, M. L. Washington.

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Greetings, dear saints of God. I am only a little one in the Church of God. I am happy to write my testimony to all of the readers of "Faith and Victory." May God bless all of you. When I found Jesus He healed both soul and body. I am under the innocent blood. "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" Heb. 2:3.

—J. M. Allensworth.

Utica, Pa.—Dear Ones, I do thank and praise God for His abiding presence in my soul just now. He is mine and I am his. Praise the Lord He is just the same Jesus that he always has been. I am willing to take up my cross where I have laid it down. Jesus is nearer and dearer to me now more than ever. I am willing to be all He will have me be in this life and forever. He is altogether lovely.

Miss Frances Sheffer

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Good Pine, La.—Dear saints, one and all, Greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus, our Savior and keeper divine. "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." Praise our God for His wonderful love and mercy. How I do thank Him that I left all the world to follow Jesus. I am satisfied in Him. He is my strength from day to day, without Him I would fall. Praise His name!

Dear saints, I am persuaded we need to study the word of God more and more; need to "study to shew ourselves approved unto God workmen which needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." We need to be able and ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh us a reason of the hope within us. We need to hide the word of God in our hearts that we might not sin against Him.

I can say this morning I am glad I counted the cost, and my heart is fixed. I expect to follow all the way that leads to home, sweet, eternal home.

Saints, young and older, take courage, be brave, fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life. God is on His throne and is still hearing and answering prayer.

Yours for the truth in Christ Jesus, Ruth Murphey

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Reedley, Calif.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt, We get your paper every month and think it is the best paper we ever read. I see in it that you have a "Lord's Print

Shop" where you print tracts and send them to other places, even to our California San Quentin Prison. I am sending an offering to use for this purpose. I like to help all I can to get souls saved, for the time is short and we are looking for the Lord's coming any moment. Oh, what will it be when He comes! Please send us one package of assorted tracts and renew my subscription for a year. We read the tracts first and then send them in letters to friends. In Christ, Mrs. A. F. Ertmoed.

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Gideon, Mo.—Dear saints of God, I received a Faith and Victory Paper the other day. I don't know who had it sent to me. I am not saved but I want you dear saints to pray for me. I was saved in Springfield, Ill 30 years ago. We moved to Dinmundy, Ill. and bought a meeting house and let the Church of God saints have it, the Anderson, Ind people. They got so worldly that after I lost my dear wife I drifted away. I met you saints eight years ago but lost account of you. I am so glad I received the paper. I love God and His anointed saints. I want the paper. You dear saints pray for me. I am 69 years old.

Joe Fields.

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Marshall, Mich.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and Co-workers in the Lord, Greeting in the Lord. I am praising God for His wonderful plan of salvation. This morning finds me pressing on with the help of God to go all the way. Wife and I have been having a hard battle with the flu. I wrote to the dear saints to pray for us. The third day after I wrote late in the evening I told wife I felt the saints were praying and we got wonderful relief. It was not the end of the battle. We had many hard battles, but praise God, we feel this morning that God has done His best. In a day or two wife took very bad again. She thought it was the end and that she was going this time. We prayed and I laid hands on her and asked God to touch her body and heal to His glory. Today we are both up doing our work. I am writing because I promised God to give Him the glory. I know of no better way than through our little paper Faith and Victory, which is an encouragement to us. When we read the sermons it makes us feel we have heard our brothers preaching. Bro. Pruitt's sermons are always a great help to me. I have met the brother and believe he is a dear brother. I praise God for such people. I love to read the testimonies. We are isolated and it helps us to take courage. Praise our God. I could write more that might be of help to others, but I do not want to take too much space.

Please remember me as I have rheumatism in my shoulder quite bad. May God bless all of you is our daily prayer.

Bro. and Sister Wm. Vanzandt

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To Saints and Ministers—I am not as old in the work of the dear Lord as most of you. I am not a preacher, but just one of God's smallest servants striving to grow stronger in His service each day of my life. I have been deeply impressed for some time to admonish God's dear ones. God says to admonish one another in love and "an open rebuke is better than secret love."

We need to pray for our ministers. I think especially of those who are not yet experienced enough for a place an old established minister would fill, who need prayer lest their hearts be lifted up till they think the work of God would not go on without them. Ministers need to preach God's word and not so much of self or their own experiences. Experiences are all right in a testimony meeting, but if preached from the pulpit night after night it gets tiresome. People grow tired and restless so when the word does finally come they have

grown indifferent or dull of hearing and lose the good food which they should have for the maintainance of the spiritual welfare of their souls. When a visiting minister who is established in the truth arrives, the home minister should not rush to the pulpit, putting self on exhibition, but should ask the visiting minister to feel free in the Lord. Perhaps the Lord has given them a message and we should esteem others better than self and prefer our brother or sister to ourself. That is what God's word says. Evangelists can tell experiences more effectively than a stationary minister because they have different and new congregations to preach to from time to time. If an experience is repeated too much in one place, the hearers will not be edified. The home minister should tell his people what God wants them to know from His word and stop when God stops. Do not preach self. I long to see more old time power. Let us as Christians be on the firing line for God. Some of you good, old, established ministers, please take some of these fledgling young ministers under your wings and try to help them get their balance. I don't mean young preachers only, but those just starting to preach. Do not discourage them just as long as you see a ray or one spark of God in them. If He has called them they will show it in time, and if He hasn't it will be brought to light; but let us not be guilty of saying, "Oh, no, God has not called you to preach." We may be the means of a soul being lost. Let self be hid behind the cross. Preach Jesus, not self, and he will do the rest. He said, "IF I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." Let us lift up Christ in our preaching in our everyday life. Let Him be seen; let me be hid, should be the motto of every child of God.

Your sister in the faith,

D. B. McClendon.

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Richmond, Va.—Dear Brother and Sister Pruitt, I am thinking of you dear saints at Grithrie and wishing I could see you all, also feast on the good things of God. I praise the dear Lord for this great salvation that keeps us seven days a week free from sin. The power of sin is great. I praise the Lord for victory over the things of this world. It seems as if I am doing nothing. I give out tracts and talk to all I can get to listen to the truth. This is a hard place for the truth. I preached at several places. If we stand for the whole truth we are not loved by the world. There is so much free-love spirit here. Before I work with that kind of people I'll walk alone and comfort myself in the scriptures. I haven't found any saints here yet. I am praying if there are any here, God will lead me to them. I surely did enjoy the little Faith and Victory paper. It is the only paper I know in which the truth is printed. I praise God for all the dear saints that stand true to God, so we could know the way. The kind of literature we have in our home will tell what we stand for. I have several requests for prayer. I do not forget to pray for you dear saints there. I love poor lost souls and want to see them saved.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us beware of false holiness. We can know them by their fruit. Pray for me and family.

Your sister standing for the whole truth, Laura Powell

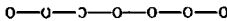
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Duarte, California—Greetings to all the saints, I am happy to be a witness for the Lord who so wonderfully saved my soul and healed my afflicted body, so that I am able and working out in service now. In these dark days when everything looks black, I am glad the heavenly Father still has mercy on us who are willing to accept his way. May His power and glory reign within all of us is my prayer. Please pray for me that I keep the faith.

Your sister, Frances M. Wright

Hoffman, Okla.—Dear saints of God, I feel led to write my testimony through the "Faith and Victory" for the first time. I enjoy reading the testimonies of others. The Lord saved me from a life of sin, and I mean to go all the way with Him because he is so good to me. I got saved and was baptized when I was very young at a camp meeting. At that time I was the only saved member of our family; but soon I was appointed to teach Sunday School, after which my mother got saved and some of my brothers. I am glad to say that I believe living the life to the best of my knowledge, drew my mother to the Lord, and she died in the faith at Hoffman, Okla. She, Julia Parker, is missed by many, but I believe our loss is heaven's gain. I mean to live for the Lord until He says, "It is enough, come up higher."

Please pray that the Lord will heal my afflicted husband so he will be able to do more for the Lord than in the past. The Lord is our only doctor. He healed my eye when it was in a bad condition. I told Him that if He would heal me I would tell others. Pray that I be kept by His mighty power. —Sarah Richardson.



Osyka, Miss.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt and readers of "Faith and Victory," and workers at Faith Pub. house. Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. This afternoon finds me saved and encouraged to press on for Jesus. Jesus is so good to us and we want to trust and serve Him all the days of our life. We ask all of you to remember our little boy in prayer. He took sick today and is feeling quite bad. We are trusting in Jesus for both soul and body. He knows best when to heal and when to take, and we are pleased with the Lord's dealings with us. Some might say, "I wouldn't be pleased if the Lord took the Rose Bud from my home." But dear reader, why should I murmur or complain about the Lord's dealings with us? Surely He knows best and He wanted our baby. He could see much farther ahead than I, and I can say Amen to His will. Even though I loved and miss my baby I would not, if I could, call him back into this old sinful and wicked world. He is so much better off. He will never have to take up arms as other boys are doing. There are so many dear, crying mothers, today, weeping over their boys in military service, not knowing what will happen to them. But I can rest secure about my baby who has gone on before. I know he is resting. So pray for me that I please the dear Lord and be all he would have me be, that we may know how to train our other little boy up for Jesus. I am much encouraged to follow Jesus for he knows best.

—Mrs. Everett Hiborn.

P. S. The Next Morning—This morning our little boy is well and hasn't any fever; for which we give the Lord all the praise. C. H.

In Memory of Our Darling Baby, Jerold Lee Hilbun
Passed away Oct. 29, 1941, age 2 yrs., 11 mos. 3 days.

Little Jerold, how we miss you.
Your sweet little face we cannot see;
We do know that you are resting
Safe through the endless eternity.

You can rest from every burden,
You had such suffering and pain;
You were such a sweet little darling
While on the earth you did remain.

You are one your loved one misses,
You were so sweet to us, and dear;
That precious smile and your sweet little kisses
Makes heaven seem to us more near.

Let us who knew and loved you here
The life crown strive to win,
And meet the Savior in the air
Where joy and happiness shall never end.
Sadly missed by Mother.


Granby, Mo.—Dear saints, Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ. Just felt led of the Lord to write my testimony this afternoon as I send my subscription in for the Faith and Victory.

Surely, this afternoon I have so much to thank the Lord for. He is so good to me every day, and along every line. I thank him for this great privilege of prayer, which means much in these days and times. Thank him for this wonderful plan of salvation which covers every need in human life. Thank the Lord for saving and sanctifying me. My prayer is that I might be obedient unto the Lord so I will be entitled to his help. I enjoy reading the Faith and Victory paper.

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Fred Kobus

"The entrance of thy Word giveth light."

BIBLE

STUDY

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God."

The price of the Primary Picture Roll is now \$1.15, and the Lesson Cards are 4c per set per quarter. Please order about two weeks before the beginning of each new quarter from Geneva Ray, 920 W. Mansur Guthrie, Okla.

CHRIST AND LIFE AFTER DEATH (Easter)
Sunday, April 5, 1942.

Daily Readings and Meditations
March 30 to April 4.

- M. The resurrection and life John 5:19-29.
- T. The raising of Lazarus John 11:38-44.
- W. Our eternal home John 14:1-15.
- T. Our resurrection assurance 1 Cor. 15:19-26.
- F. Triumphant over death 1 Cor. 15:50-58.
- S. The risen One Mark 16:1-11.

Printed PortionMark 12:24-27; 1 Cor. 15:50-58.

Mark 12:24. And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?

25. For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.

26. And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?

27. He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err.

1 Cor. 15:50. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

51. Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

55. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

56. The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

57. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Golden Text: "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 15:57.

Practical Truth: Christ brings victory to his followers over death and the grave.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection and life after death, and their purpose in questioning concerning the future state of the woman who had seven husbands in this world, as they did preceding the printed portion of today's lesson, was to make it appear ridiculous. Jesus knew the facts about the future life so did not need to argue with them. He could teach as one "who had authority."

In His answer he affirmed the fact of the resurrection, taught that our future state will be different from the present, and that fellowship with God continues after death. The Patriarchs were dead at the time of Moses, but God told Moses, "I am the God" of them, indicating that they were still alive though their bodies were gone from this earth.

We all realize that our earthly bodies will not last forever. They are subject to decay—are corruptible. We continually war against death and there is no discharge in this war. Some day (unless Christ comes before then) death will overtake us and our bodies will go the way of all the earth—"dust thou art, and to dust thou shalt return." But how comforting is the scripture, "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." Rom. 8:11.

In today's lesson we read of the Christian's victory over death. Death is an object of dread to most people because they have not submitted themselves to Christ so He could remove the sting, which is sin. When He gives us victory over sin, it brings us into harmony with God and His Word and we are not afraid to meet him nor to be judged according to his word. The fear that "hath torment," is replaced by the perfect love which casts out fear.

There are mysteries about the resurrection, that we do not understand, but this does not lessen our faith and confidence in God and His power to do just what He said He would do.

Jesus said of one class of people who were religious because they desired the praise of men, "They HAVE their reward." But the Christian has the promise that his "work SHALL BE rewarded." The men of this world seek only that which gratifies their senses here; their end will be the loss of all things for they have chosen the reward that perishes. But the Christian faithfully labors on in spite of the jeers of the worldly minded, in hope of joys to come. They shall receive the everlasting enjoyment of Christ in glory.

THE MISSION OF THE SEVENTY

Sunday, April 12, 1942.

Daily Readings and Meditations

April 6 to 11.

M. Jesus chooses his helpers Mark 3:13-19.

T. An evangelistic tour Luke 10:1-16.

W. The need of laborers Matt. 9:35-38.

T. Two by two Mark 6:7-13.

F. Working together 1 Cor. 3:1-9.

S. Doing the work of God John 4:30-35.

Printed Portion Luke 10:1-7, 17, 21-24.

Luke 10:1. After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

2. Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest.

3. Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.

4. Carry neither purse, nor script, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way.

5. And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house.

6. And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again.

7. And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the laborer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house.

17. And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

21. In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

22. All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.

23. And he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see:

24. For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

Golden Text: "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." Luke 10:2.

Practical Truth Personal evangelism had an important place in the first century, and it is needed yet.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The sending forth of the seventy shows that Jesus valued personal evangelism. His own preaching would be far more successful if the way were properly prepared. Two can spread the gospel more effectively than one. Individuals are different, and one's method of preaching appeals to some while another's reaches others. One alone might become tired and discouraged. Two going together could encourage and advise one another and be company for each other. This is a good example, and often he sends his ministers forth in that way today; but it is not a rule, because he sometimes sends one alone, and He did in Bible times.

The unsaved multitudes are likened unto ripened grain which is in need of harvest hands to reap it. God knows that His harvest needs laborers, but prayer has an important place in the purposes of God. He wants us to pray for things that need to be done. If we are interested and burdened enough to earnestly pray about a matter, we are in a good condition to be called and sent of God ourselves.

The way in which He sent them was to teach them a lesson in faith. At a later date he asked them if they had lacked anything at this time when they went with nothing. They answered that they did not. He wanted to teach them how our heavenly Father will supply all of our needs if we are working for Him.

When they went at Christ's bidding they were able to do even more than they had expected; shown by their exclamation of joy, "even the devils are subject unto us through thy name." Jesus' answer (not in our printed lesson) points out a better kind of joy, "rather rejoice that your names are written in heaven." The joy inspired by a sense of power might lead to pride and self-exaltation; but that inspired by a sense of God's mercy only causes one to be humble, therefore is safer.

Jesus had come to this earth to overcome Satan or "bruise his head," and take from him his lofty position in the hearts of men. When he saw this being done it naturally brought joy to him.

GROWING TENSION WITH FALSE LEADERS

Sunday, April 19, 1942.

Daily Readings and Meditations

April 13 to 18.

- M. Woes upon the Pharisees Luke 11:37-44.
- T. The growing opposition Luke 11:45-54.
- W. Jesus faces criticism Mark 2:23-28.
- T. False leaders condemned 3 John.
- F. Courage to oppose wrong Matt. 21:12-17.
- S. Walking in integrity Psalm 26:1-7.

Printed Portion Luke 11:37-48, 52-54.

Luke 11:37. And as he spake, a certain Pharisee besought him to dine with him: and he went in, and sat down to meat.

38. And when the Pharisee saw it, he marvelled that he had not first washed before dinner.

39. And the Lord said unto him, Now do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness.

40. Ye fools, did not he that made that which is without make that which is within also?

41. But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you.

42. But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

43. Woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye love the uppermost seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets.

44. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are as graves which appear not, and the men that walk over them are not aware of them.

45. Then answered one of the lawyers, and said unto him, Master, thus saying thou reproachest us also.

46. And he said, Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! for ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers.

47. Woe unto you! for ye build the sepulchres of the prophets, and your fathers killed them.

48. Truly ye bear witness that ye allow the deeds of

your fathers: for they indeed killed them, and ye build their sepulchres.

52. Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.

53. And as he said these things unto them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to urge him vehemently, and to provoke him to speak of many things.

54. Laying wait for him, and seeking to catch something out of his mouth, that they might accuse him.

Golden Text: "He that is not with me is against me, and he that gathereth not with me scattereth." Lk. 11:23.

Practical Truth: God requires both inward and outward righteousness.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The devil seems to delight in getting people bound by traditions and customs and ceremonial rites until they are blind to spiritual truth. The Pharisees were bound by the custom of ceremonial cleanness but Jesus hurled the truth at them, the essence of which was, "Man looketh on the outward appearance but God looketh on the heart."

The scribes, Pharisees, and Lawyers are not all dead.

"Graves that appear not." Many cemeteries are leveled and made beautiful with a carpet of grass until they look very inviting to a passer-by to stop and rest, or take a pleasant walk over their soft surfaces. But he would be quite horrified if after he had done this he should learn that there were many skeletons buried there. However, he could have been spared the embarrassment if he had read the sign "Cemetery" above the gate. Phariseical people can be compared to such cemeteries. The outside may be very clean and the holes in which skeletons of sin have been buried have been filled up and covered with a carpet of soft words, fair speeches, and religious performances, until many who are seeking rest choose their (Pharisee's) way which seems so pleasant. But if they would read the sign "false prophet" which the Lord "who knoweth the hearts" of men has hung over their heads, they would not so readily stop and rest there. They are cunning and would deceive the very elect if possible.

Be sure you are being made to "lie down in green pastures," and not on "graves that appear not."

Christ will not dwell in a heart where "self" is alive; for self will choose its own ways and not submit to the ways of God. If Christ does not dwell there, the soul is dead, and if the soul is dead, that one is a "grave that appears not" even though he is a preacher of the "evening light" gospel. Perhaps all the buried skeletons in that one will not be revealed until the judgment day, but the Bible searchlight will reveal a sufficient amount of them now to keep one from being deceived and led astray.

False prophets bear many fruits by which we may know them. When we hear them turning the hearts of the people from the truth of the gospel (which is that they must repent of their sins, confess and forsake them, and let the blood of Jesus be applied to their heart in order to be saved from eternal destruction) to their cunningly devised fables (such as, God is too good to send anybody to hell, good works, the world is getting better, politics, and patriotism made an idol), we readily recognize the fruit, but there is more not so easily detected.

If the first part of each question is true, beware.

1. Does he (or she) often refer to self as being some great one (or even if he does not refer openly to self, perhaps he chooses words and displays them in such a way that an audience would be impressed with his unusual intelligence and wit)? or does he prove by his actions

and words that he feels he was the "chiefest of sinners" and of absolutely no value until saved from sin by the blood of Jesus, thus magnifying Jesus' merits instead of his own?

2. Does he (or she) feel that he is an important member in the body of Christ and should be looked up to? or does he feel he is the "least of all saints," which feeling he proves by being a "servant of all"?

3. Does he take delight in pointing out the flaws in others to make himself appear more righteous? or does he truthfully regret having to expose some wrong doing of another to keep some innocent one from falling?

4. Is he head strong? or is he easily entreated?

5. Is he a "Lord over God's heritage? or is he an example to the flock?

6. Have his sermons made you feel like you would rather hear him preach than any other minister, so that you would travel miles to hear him or sacrifice anything for him while others of God's faithful ministers you do not care to hear, heed, nor help? or do you just consider him one of the many empty vessels which God uses to His glory?

7. Can he sway you and cause you to have a feeling of ecstasy which is foreign to any you feel under any other circumstance? or does he help you to be more established in sound Bible doctrine and cause you to feel the same nearness and presence of God that you feel when in the secret place of prayer?

Can you name other fruits by which you may know them? Space will not permit the mention of any more here.

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WAYSIDE CONVERSATIONS

Sunday, April 26, 1942.

Daily Readings and Meditations

April 20 to 25.

- M. Journeying to Jerusalem Mark 10:32-34.
 T. Lessons by the way Luke 13:18-30.
 W. Mourning over Jerusalem Luke 13:31-35.
 T. Friends with Christ John 15:1-15.
 F. The test of discipleship Luke 14:25-33.
 S. The cost of discipleship Matt. 10:34-39.

Printed Portion Luke 13:22-35.

Luke 13:22. And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem.

23. Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them,

24. Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

25. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:

26. Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets.

27. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.

28. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.

29. And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.

30. And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last.

31. The same day there came certain of the Pharisees,

saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee.

32. And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.

33. Nevertheless I must walk today, and tomorrow, and the day following: for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem.

34. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!

35. Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Golden Text: "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple." Lk. 14:27.

Practical Truth: Earnestness is necessary in those who would enter into the kingdom of God.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Sometimes the entrance into the kingdom of heaven is pictured so easy that people feel they and almost everybody else are already in it; for, say they, almost everyone believes that Jesus is the Son of God, and that is all that is necessary. It is easy enough even for those who do not have normal intelligence to enter, if they care to, but it is also hard enough that no one can enter unless they "strive to enter." Hence there are "few that be saved." When one really believes in a thing it will cause him to act upon that belief. One cannot truthfully say he believes Jesus Christ is the Son of God and yet deny by actions and words that what he said is true and that His commandments are to be obeyed. That would make him a liar. Before one can believe in Christ for salvation, he must obey His instructions to repent and be baptized. Repentance includes the confession and forsaking of sins, forgiving others, and making wrongs right. It is not an easy matter for a person who has always been the servant of sin to forsake it and confess his wrongs, therefore he must strive to enter in.

The 25th verse should fill our hearts with a desire to gather the lost from their haunts of sin and persuade them to enter the house of God before He has closed the door of mercy, for the time will come even as he has said. Some have had the privilege of entering, but would not. Rejected privileges will increase the bitterness of one's doom when he finds he has been rejected. Lip service and a head knowledge of the Lord will avail nothing.

The Jews considered themselves children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and expected to enjoy the same blessings; but Jesus told them plainly that they would be disappointed in this expectation. In God's sight the children of Abraham are those who live by faith as did Abraham. Even the hated Gentiles who were last in privilege could become children of Abraham by faith and enjoy the blessings of the kingdom of God, while the unbelieving Jews were thrust out. But the Gentiles need to take heed unto their ways at the present time. They are falling through unbelief as did the Jews, and if God spare not the natural branches, "Take heed lest He spare not thee."

Jesus knew he must finish his work and not even a king could harm him until God permitted it, so he continued his duties in spite of threats, thus setting us an example of being faithful unto death.

A rejected Christ not only meant desolation to the Jews, but it proves true in the case of any nation or individual. Do not turn Him away!