

FAITH AND VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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A Soldier Boy's Protection

He lay in the trenches, this soldier boy,
His body so weary and worn,
His clothes were wrinkled and dirty
From brambles and bush they were torn.
His shoes were worn thin, his body knew pain,
He had trudged for many a mile;
This young boyish face, so handsome and fair,
No longer wore a glad smile.
He heard the horrible sounds of war,
And death stalked all around;
Forgetful of mud, this soldier boy
Lay flat upon the ground.
His face was grim, his lips were white,
He wondered how long he could last;
Surely death would come his way
Ere another hour had passed.

But in a land so far away
God spake to a child in prayer,
And she felt a burden of crushing weight
Kneeling before Him there.
"Oh, God, this burden is so great
I cannot understand.
Father, surely someone is in need,
Of a touch from thy nail-scarred hand!"
In an agony of soul she prayed,
Beads of sweat formed on her brow:
"Oh, God," she cried, "have mercy
And help this needy one now."
Hours passed, still she wrestled with God,
A faithful little soul in prayer;
God lifted the burden, she cried, "It is well,"
And her praise rang out on the air.

A soldier boy lifted his head to see
A battlefield now all clear.
Peace and quiet reigned again,
Not one sound of war could he hear.
And a soldier boy all weary and worn
Said, "I just can't understand."
How could he know that someone in prayer
Had moved the Father's hand?

A mother will again one day hold her boy
And kiss his brow so fair,
For a child was faithful to answer God's call
One day in her closet of prayer.

—Allene Warford Howell.

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What God Has Done For Me He Can Do The Same For You

Written by a girl age 17.

I am praying that this experience with God might open the eyes of some poor lost sinner who doesn't realize his condition in this old wicked world.

My husband left for the army Feb. 22, 1942. We didn't think we could stand to part, we both cried like babies and clung to each other until he said he had to go.

I was a sinner and didn't think much about God until I had grieved several days. We began to have church at home and at the neighbor's homes and a great conviction came on me, but I just kept putting God off.

Husband was taken to Washington first, then back to California where he stayed until he was sent across. I would pray for him to be saved. Night after night I lay on my pillow and wept and fought my conviction. I wanted to be saved but I wanted to wait until he came home so he could get saved with me. This went on for about three months. We would have good preaching and God would call me but I would sit and reject my dear Saviour. I was a slave to smoking and was afraid it would injure my unborn baby and tried to quit but I would nearly go wild for a cigarette, so I prayed to God to take the habit from me. Thank God, since I threw that cigarette down I have never craved another one. My dear Lord took me at my word. I was at that time a sinner. God was showing me what he would do for me if I would trust and live for Him. For about three weeks I hadn't heard from my husband and I prayed to God not to send him across until my baby was born, so that he could come home then. In a few days I got a letter from him. He had started to Australia, and something went wrong and they came

back. God answered my prayer and turned that big ship around and sent them back. He answered my prayer, a little unworthy sinner like I was. Thank God.

When I kept rejecting God I grew so miserable that I couldn't sleep at night. The devil was holding to me on one side and the Lord on the other side. My time was up and we were looking for my husband in every day but he hadn't come yet. God was going to have His way. I kept saying I would get saved when he came home. I knew something had to be done and that was to give my heart to God. One night I fell on my knees by my bed and called on the Lord. I had rejected God so long until I could get no answer. Oh, I wanted God so bad, but he had to know I really wanted him to save my life. I had put Him off so long I had to pray three days and nights off and on, before I got satisfied in the Almighty. The evening I got saved, my husband left for home and arrived Monday morning and our baby was born Thursday morning. That is the way I prayed for God to let things be. He answered my prayers. I give the Lord all the praise.

Husband had to go back to camp and it was so hard for us to have to part again. He could hardly leave our little girl for he knew he was going to have to go across when he got back to camp, and we would be parted for a long time. I could hardly stand it. I prayed to God to help me bear it. I was so weak until I would have grieved myself to death if God hadn't answered my prayers and strengthened me. I went to church when my baby was 15 days old and was baptized when she was three weeks old. I am still working for God and trying to warn dear lost sinners and tell them what a good friend the Lord is and what he will do for us.

My husband is now in England. I haven't heard from him in a long time, but I am looking to a real friend I know I can trust to take care of him. Our Lord is the only one that can spare his life and bring him safely back to the arms of his waiting family. My baby and I live by ourselves.

Dear friend, whoever you might be, please take my Saviour for your very own. He wants to save your soul and care for you and yours.

Mrs. Freida McFadden, Vian, Okla.

OLD AGE

My dear friends, let me say to you, in the precious name of the Lord Jesus; if there is any one thing that is of great importance to an individual, it is his or her age. And yet he has but little, if anything to do with it at all.

In the blessed holy book of God, you will find these words, "How old art thou?" (Gen. 47:8) Now these words were used by Pharaoh interrogating Jacob when they had met for the first time. Pharaoh,

a great king; Jacob, a servant of God.

It is true that age not only marks the individual responsibilities of those early Bible characters, but it does the same thing for you. This question is now facing you. "How old art thou?" it refers to the age that God has sent as a blessing to you: or in other words, the age that you are called to serve. As the poet has written:

"To serve the present age,
My calling to fulfill.

Oh, may it all my powers engage
To do my master's will."

In the word of God, we also read these words, "A time to be born, and a time to die." (Eccl. 3:2). Now my friends, as you well know, you have had but little to do with that first date, the time of your fleshly birth. Let us also leave the second in the hands of God, the time of your body's death. But from the date of your birth, down or up to this present moment marks the space called your age; a blessing that God only could give.

The beasts of the forest, the birds of the air, and the fishes of the sea all have their ages, with little knowledge thereof. But it is not so with you. How old art thou? Think of the great responsibility that hangs around your being here today. Are you old or young? Does it make any difference? Let us see: one's age may consist of youth, manhood, or old age, hence Paul said when he was a child, he thought and did as a child, but when he became a man he put away childish things. Truly so: a child cannot labor nor fight, yet this busy age is calling for both. Not only is our government now calling for farmers or workers, soldiers or fighters; to win this present conflict: but God, our Maker, Saviour, and Comforter is also calling for more true laborers in his vineyard and more valiant-hearted soldiers that don't fear to die.

Now then, if your children are unprepared to meet the necessary requirements of this modern age, who is responsible? Old folks, wake up, both to your duty and danger, before it is too late. You that are living today, must die tomorrow, and the next day give an account of how you have made use of the blessings and opportunities of today. Truly it was a wise man that said, "Train the children for what God and our country would have them to be, in manhood, or even old age."

Our present draft age is from 18 to 65, no children included. Listen, it takes prepared old folks to train and prepare children. And again, an unprepared child is a manhood failure.

Truly we hate to see our young men rushed almost as it were, into instant destruction, prepared or unprepared; but this busy age of service is not only calling, but sending, and they must go.

Mothers, fathers, grandparents, what are you doing to help conditions? Really, there is no time to lose. Old folks, now is your time to pray. Our homes, schools, and churches are in your hands (with very few exceptions) and your boys on the front are calling for prayer.

Listen friends, God Almighty, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost, three in one, is now ready to hear and answer prayer. Sin is the enemy that must be destroyed. And this is calling for a united force at home, to pray the acceptable prayer. United we stand, but divided we fall. Christ plainly tells us, "That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in Heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matt. 18:19-20).

I am persuaded that there are too many old folks clinging to their own self-righteous name, rather than to assemble in Jesus' name. And too, if you are an old sinner, your prayer won't be heard. Listen old folks, the only way to be ready to die is to be ready to live. Old and young, and even middle age must all come and be united in Christ in love to win this war against sin. United we live, but divided we die.

It is also a truth that we cannot deny: God has a salvation that makes old folks young and young folks old.

The best time to be born is today. And the best time to die is today. Paul tells us to "Reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:11
—G. W. McMillan

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His Resurrected Life

The apostle Paul loved the Lord so much that he hated his own life, his own righteousness and desired only the righteousness which is of God by faith; for he said, "That I may know Him and the POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION." Phil. 3:10. He wanted to know God and the power of his resurrected life in his soul.

Get your Bible and read Luke the twelfth chapter. The sacred Word of God tells us since we are in the way to give diligence that we may be delivered from our adversary. Webster says that an adversary is an opponent, one that is against you, usually in a hostile sense. Jesus Christ is your adversary. He is against your self life and unless you crucify and put to death the self life, you will be pointed out to the Judge (which is the word of God) and the Judge will deliver you to the Officer (which is the Holy Spirit) and you will finally be thrown into a prison-house of sin. Paul says if we sow to the flesh (self life) we shall of the flesh (self life) reap corruption. (Gal. 6:8).

In John 19:41, we read, "Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man laid." Dear reader, did you not know that your heart or soul is a garden and that there is a sepulchre or tomb there and that you either have your self life crucified and in the tomb and Christ loose tilling the garden, or you have Jesus crucified and in the sepulchre and the self life loose sowing to the flesh, bringing corruption, destruction, and damnation to your never-dying soul?

It is very natural for man to want the self life to be loose. When Pilate wanted to release Jesus the Pharisees who were possessed with the enemy self-life all cried out at once, saying, "Away with this man, release unto us Barabbas." Luke 23:18. It is written that Barabbas was a robber. Here is the trouble with the majority of the people today that profess Christ; they cry for Barabbas (the self life) to be loose, and the self life is a robber. It professes Christ and robs God of the glory that He would get if He were allowed to live in the soul.

"The word 'Christian' is being used as a label for a very cheap substitute for the religion of Christ. His demands are so terrific, so mind-stretching, that to become a real Christian means a funeral. The old self must die and be buried. But men have found a way to hang a symbol of the cross over their hearts instead of putting it inside, and the old self remains very much alive.

"The most tragic thing that Jesus ever said, and the thing He has had to repeat frequently since, is, 'Why do you call me Lord, Lord, but do not the things which I command you?' 'Ye cannot serve God and mammon,' He said, and yet millions have accustomed themselves to living compartmentalized lives, until they develop into well-meaning, sincere, self-deceived hypocrites." They seem to know very little about what it means to crucify and put to death the self life and yet make quite a show of being religious. Paul said, "I am crucified unto the world and the world is crucified unto me." Let the worldly, self life die and let the resurrected life of Christ live in your soul. They cannot both live in the same house or body. Jesus said, "If a man come to me, and hate not his father, [that worldly, self life in him] and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his OWN LIFE also he cannot be my disciple." Let us harken unto the voice of Jesus and live with Him in glory.
—Fred Pruitt.

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— NOTICE —

If anyone has a book entitled, "Birth of a Reformation" for sale, I would be very much pleased to buy it. We are in need of one of these books at the "Lord's Print Shop." Let us know what the price is and we will send the money for it.

"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.

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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—such are not authorized in the Word of God.

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.

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.

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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray fervently for Sister Leola White of the Guthrie, Okla. congregation whom the enemy has attacked with afflictions and is trying to destroy her mind. We are setting apart April the 4th for a day of fasting and prayer for her healing and deliverance. Do be agreed with us on that day.

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Pray for Sister Rood of Visalia, Calif. who is ser-

Editorials

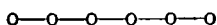
The printing work at the "Lord's Print Shop" has been progressing nicely, and the workers have all been very busy, printing tracts and booklets and keeping the orders for tracts and books filled. The calls for gospel literature have been increasing. We are not only sending tracts and papers to practically all the prisons and penal institutions in the U. S., but tract users order tracts from all over the country. We are sending many thousands of tracts to the boys in the army camps. Some of them get saved, and many others are greatly blessed by receiving and reading them. Many of the boys in the army camps are anxious to get the tracts, books, and papers, and we are glad to send them the literature.

This April issue of Faith and Victory has quite a few testimonies from the soldier boys and others that are connected with and interested in the soldiers' lives. We pray much for our boys in the army and camps, and also for our governors and rulers and those in authority that they may so legislate, govern, and guide the affairs of the nation that peace will be restored and that this awful bloodshed and destruction of human life may be stopped. May God make these war-lords afraid to carry on such slaughter of life, causing so much misery and bleeding hearts among the innocent.

Clifford Wilson, one of the Lord's "Print Shop" workers has been sent to a Civilian Public Service camp, situated at Fort Collins, Colorado. We all miss him very much here in the shop and in the congregation and many prayers are going up to God that He will give him grace and wisdom to follow Him all the way. Roy Jennings of the congregation has also been called to the same camp and the two brothers in the Lord left together on the 9th of March for Ft. Collins, Colo. Bro. Vada McMillian is expecting to be sent to a camp in California soon. He is one of the workers here in the "Lord's Print Shop" so it will be quite a loss in the office help. While the Lord is allowing some of the workers to be taken out of the shop, He is at the same time supplying others to take their places. Sister Myrtle Grice, a young saint from Louisiana arrived here last Saturday to labor in the printing office for the Lord. She has spent a week in the shop at this writing, and is taking hold of the work nicely. She is glad to be doing something for the salvation of precious souls.

We serve a mighty God, yea, an Almighty God, one who doeth all things well and is abundantly able to care for his printing work. Pray for the workers and the new ones, that they will become so pliable in his hand that God can use them in any way that He pleases. This work of saving souls through the gospel going forth by the printed page is of far greater importance than all the defense work that the government is doing. A soul saved is worth more

than all the world. What would a man give in exchange for his soul?



Just a word to our readers about the money that was sent in to purchase the plates for the "Select Hymns" song book. We wish to say that we have been returning this money to the different ones and so far as our records show, have sent it all back with the exceptions of some who have willingly asked us to keep it and use it in the Lord's work. There may be some that gave money for these plates as offerings in some of the camp meetings that we do not have on record and if you will let us know about it and the amount we shall be glad to return it to you. There may be some that we have missed. If so, will you please write us and tell us the amount and we will return it to you. If any one has given money to others to send in for these plates and you wish your money back please let us know as we are more than glad to return the money to you if it be your pleasure.

Last fall the Gospel Trumpet Company wrote us that they were expecting to print a song book with the songs selected from the "Select Hymns" song book and thought to finish it in January or February but just recently we received a letter from them stating that it seems impossible for them to get the revised "Select Hymns" book printed. A paragraph from their letter reads thus—"We have run into a long, long series of snags on our attempts to get out a revised "Select Hymns." We had a number of our music people go over the book and try to pick out a list of possible songs. These lists were brought together, including yours. We found that there was a wide disagreement about which songs should be included and that makes it seem quite hopeless."

They spoke of expecting to need the metal in the older song plates as a means of securing new metal which they would need for newer publications. It seems that it is out of the question to look for any song book that we could use from that source.

OBITUARIES

Ola Mae Boone, born at Melisse, New Mexico on April 26, 1915, passed away at San Bernardino, Calif. on Feb. 23, 1943. She was 27 years, 9 months, and 27 days old. She leaves to mourn their loss, Mother and Father, Mr. and Mrs. Ansel G. Duncan of El Paso, Texas; two sons, Charles C. Jr, and Leslie Boone. Funeral services were conducted by G. E. Harmon. Text; Heb. 9:27 and corrective scriptures.

Lillie Lutishia Simons, born Nov. 7, 1883, married Festus Nelson Lea on Jan. 18, 1903, died Feb. 13, 1943 at the age of 59 years, 3 months, and 5 days. She leaves 4 sons: Oris, Guy, Roy, and Bobbie; 3 daughters: Lorene, Christine, and Avis; 7 grandchildren, 1 sister, 3 brothers, and a host of friends. Two daughters preceded her in death.

All of her children were at home at her death except Sis. Christine Hilbun. Sis. Lea was a devoted mother and a real saint. She is missed by both saints and sinners.

She was sick for several months, but trusted God and looked forward to going home to be with Jesus and those gone on before. Funeral services were held at the chapel where she faithfully attended during her life. Services conducted by Sisters Katherine Key and Katherine Simpson.

oOo ————— NOTICE TO THE SAINTS

A letter from Bro. E. W. Sanders of Green Pastures, Okla. informs us that they have received as donations for the building of the Lord's meeting house the sum of \$71 for which sum they are very thankful to the donors, and are looking with expectation for the Lord to so move on hearts that they can soon begin the building. They need this building to use to worship God in and the saints everywhere ought to feel interested enough to pray for them and for God to send in the means that is needed and that all who can will lend a helping hand. Send your offering for the building to H. V. Sanders, R. 1, Box 255, Choctow, Oklahoma.

—Meeting Notice—

This is to notify the different assemblies that the April meeting will begin at the Church of God in Boley, Okla. April 16th and last until Sunday, the 25th. We will observe the Lord's Supper and Feet Washing. Come praying and you who cannot come, send your prayers. Your cooperation will be much appreciated.

—Frances Bell, Pastor.

REVIVAL MEETING NOTICE

The Church of God at Pasadena, Calif. is planning to have a revival meeting there, to commence the last part of April if the Lord is willing. There are only a few saints living there, but the Lord has been blessing the efforts put forth. We desire the advancement of the work, and those precious souls in that city may see the light of God's Word, and sinners may be won to the truth. We earnestly desire the prayers of the people of God, that the Lord's presence will be with us and for the success of the meeting.

I would like to mention that Pasadena is a beautiful, healthful city in southern Calif. It is a desirable place to live. The conditions of work for both men and women are plentiful and good wages. The church would welcome any of the saints to come and reside there and be with us as the Lord leads.

Continue to pray for us.

Emma Holden Cage, 1007 E. 1st, San Bernardino, Calif.

— NOTICE —

Those who have lots on the National Campground at Monark Springs, Mo. and desire to have shade trees set out on them, should send your order before April, 25th direct to the caretaker of the ground, Bro J. E. Kurtz, R. 3, Neosho, Mo. During this spring planting season, he is setting out trees on other areas of the ground, and will also be ready to set out yours. We recommend the purchase of the Chinese elm as a fast-growing, hardy, shade tree. They will cost fifty cents (50c) each for the 6-foot size, and we suggest that you send an additional twenty-five cents (25c) per tree for work in plant-

ing. One or two trees for each lot is sufficient. Send your order to Bro. Kurtz, stating your lot number, and he will secure the trees and set them out.

—L. D. Pruitt, Secy-Treas.

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Misinterpreted Gospel Doctrine

"Then cometh the end, when he (Christ) shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father when he shall have put down (destroyed) all rule, authority and power." 1 Cor. 15:24. Note that this great event takes place at our Lord's second and last coming, which brings to a final close this probation age or dispensation of the gospel, when Christ's work as a redeemer and mediator between man and his Creator has ceased to be.

Since all mortal life on this earth ceases to exist anymore, it is plainly evident that the works of salvation is no longer effective for the office of Christ as a Saviour is abolished. Natural or physical death ends all hopes of mercy and salvation beyond the tomb. Luke 16:19-31.

The inspired Word of God as declared by St. Paul in Hebrews 10:10:37 plainly indicates that when Jesus comes again, He will not tarry or stay here for any so-called millennial reign, or to set up his kingdom, as so many deluded and deceived people claim.

You will note in 1 Cor. 15:24 the Lord Jesus turns over or delivers up his kingdom to God the Father. At this time all the saved will be instantly changed from mortal to immortal beings. (1 Cor. 15: 51-52) and will be caught up in the clouds to join those redeemed ones who will come back with the Lord. 1 Thes. 4:17. All of these shall return with the Lord Jesus who will present them (the church) faultless before the presence of his (God's) glory with exceeding joy. Jude:24.

In the light of the above strictly gospel truths, the great soap-bubble of the so-called millennial heresy explodes into nothing. Some organizations differ from others regarding the millennial theory. I heard one Pentecostal minister claim that Christ would remain here 1300 years after he comes again, while another stated it would be a thousand years, and everybody would have a glorious chance to get salvation since Satan was to be bound a thousand years. God gives his faithful full gospel ministers the wonderful keys (pure gospel) that enables them to unlock the kingdom of heaven to all who rightly seek salvation from sin, thus co-operating with the Lord to bind (destroy) Satan right in this very life and time, not in a fancied millennial age. See Matt. 16:19.

Positively there can never be any better chance or opportunity for the sinner than right now in this very day to seek and get full salvation, for if Jesus should come down personally among us before

the last day seeking to find the lost, there would be comparatively few that would be willing to sacrifice and give up all worldliness and every sinful, filthy habit and deny themselves by taking up their cross and following Jesus in holiness of life and heart. In 1880 the prophecy of Zechariah 14:7 was fulfilled and there came forth the only definitely true conception of the real church of God which upheld the sound doctrine of a holy, dedicated, set-apart, sanctified life, thus bringing back light on what constitutes genuine heart-felt experienced salvation from all sin.

This reformation brought about a great conflict as Satan's forces came into direct conflict with this great spiritual awakening, for Satan was sorely displeased at greater light of the gospel being revealed.

Many of those pioneer ministers and their followers have passed away but they knew what Armageddon really signifies, for their preaching aroused bitter envy and hatred from many religious organizations. Opponents tried to mob them or to break up their meetings. Sectism was arrayed against them. Truly the battle of Armageddon (a false deceptive Christianity, Rev. 16:16) was on to confuse, divide, separate, and scatter God's people.

Satan then arrayed his forces to counterfeit true Bible holiness, or the only true Christ-born Church. So then there came into being from time to time faked deceptive holiness movements under various names such as Pentecostal, Faith Tabernacle, Pilgrim Holiness, Full Gospel, or tongues movements, Nazarene holiness, Gospel Missions or Tabernacles, Zionist movement and many other similar names or organizations of which there are many all over this country who could not or would not interpret the book of Revelation, especially the 20th chapter, in symbolic language, thus they wrote into their creed the millennial heresy which was good news to satanic forces.

Try to convince some of these organizations that they are in darkness and they will assume a hostile attitude toward you for they delight to nurse their pet heresy. They use literal or political terms instead of symbolic or spiritual interpretations, which throws them into reverse as to sound gospel doctrine. Satan, fearing his time is swiftly growing short, is using these methods to slow up or hinder the work of God.

Most all of these people preach true gospel doctrine in a measure, but not in its fullness, for they fail to go far enough to clear up their heresy or misinterpreted doctrine. Satan could not deceive and confuse if any organization did not preach and practice some sound doctrine for he must be understood as a genius and strategist of the highest order to confuse and wrongly lead. He can make many believe that the Word of God is untruth, for the Lord Jesus said in referring to false pophets (teachers and min-

isters) who are led away from sound gospel truth, that if it were possible the very elect would be deceived. Matt. 24:24.

I was once sold on the millennial heresy for a very short time until I began to study the Word of God, for I was like those at Berea (Acts 17:11). I studied to learn if these things were so. This is every one's privilege to do so, since we are commanded to search the scriptures. John. 5:39.

I plainly saw the first resurrection, the thousand years reign, binding of Satan and the battle of Armageddon, were rightly interpreted by symbolic terms only. Otherwise it does not make spiritual sense, but conflicts with sound doctrine. God is highly pleased to have His Word rightly interpreted and understood, and displeased to have it wrongly preached to confuse and lead astray his people. "Add not thou unto His (God's) Word, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." Prov. 30:6.

There always has been a conflict or opposition between truth and error; between definite Bible holy living and a faked or counterfeit religion or belief, for genuine one hundred percent full gospel doctrine has never been popular with sectish organizations which teach it's non-essential to observe those ordinances that help to make a gentle, patient, humble Christian to sit at the feet of Jesus and daily learn how to grow in grace, wisdom, and knowledge of the way the pure in heart and life must trod on their way to everlasting glory where the wicked cease to trouble and there the weary shall be at rest.

—John H. Griffith

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Hammond, La.—To the dear Saints abroad, Greetings in His dear name. It has been some time since I have written through the columns of this paper and feel led by the Lord to do so this morning. This paper is similar to a letter from the home folks, for the saints feel so near to me no matter who they are or where they live. When I read their articles and testimonies, it lifts us up to know that He has quite a number scattered about who haven't bowed their knees to Baal (the god of this world). I just know that the saints are the most beautiful people of all the earth and why shouldn't they be, when the Lord has beautified them with salvation, a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. (Psa. 149:4; 1 Pet. 3:4) We need to keep encouraged to toil on a little while longer for it will not be long until He will say to us, "Come up higher." And in these troublesome times there is great need of us doing all we can to get the truth to others so they may also find the secret of comfort and help, so they may pray with faith in behalf of their loved ones. So long as people regard iniquity in their hearts, the Lord will not hear them, but when their hearts are cleansed from sin, they can then pray with a clean heart and a pure motive, and the Lord will hear. Praise His name! He is truly precious to those who know Him.

Not so long ago we witnessed a sweet death when the Lord saw fit to take to Himself our dear Sister Lea from near Kentwood, who had lingered in sickness since last July with heart trouble and her smothering and suffering was surely severe much of the time but in

answer to prayer the dear Lord so wonderfully brought her relief so she could rest for some while. She looked forward to her death like one would to going home and was anxiously waiting the last summons. She said that all of her life she had lived just for that moment, when she could go be with her Savior in heaven to rest forever. Oft times she would examine her heart and life to see if there was one thing that would displease the Lord and talk to us about it and have us pray with her. We told her it wouldn't be long until the Lord would remove her out of her suffering (she had felt very definitely for some time that it was the Lord's will to take her) and the day before she left us, she turned to me and said, "I feel just like I did, can't tell any difference. How much longer do you think it will be?" I told her she came near slipping away from us that morning and was a great deal weaker and wouldn't be long now. Then the last morning she wanted to know now how much longer it would be. I answered that she was about there. Then after night I told her it would be but a very little while longer now, and she passed to her reward that night at 11:35, conscious to the end, a short while before, she folded her hands across her body. Death has no sting to the righteous and why should we fear, why make a fuss about it, for we are only going home, to the place of eternal rest that we have talked about, sung about, read and prayed about, looked forward to for many years, toiled, watched and waited, and at last we make the port. Praise His name! I want to add, that every one of Sis. Lea's children, both saved and unsaved, wanted her to trust the Lord for her healing or relief, whichever the Lord saw fit to do, and wanted the saints with her. Two of her children are saved and five unsaved. I told them there wasn't but one thing they could do for their mother and that is to make preparation to meet her in heaven. Her husband, Bro. F. N. Lea, lived and died a faithful life about nine years ago, and his life is still an inspiration to others in that community. They attended Sunday School and services when others quit. Now, I feel confident they are being rewarded for their trueness. Saints, we need to be faithful unto death, no use to think of slacking up anywhere along the way, the promise of heaven is only to those who are true to the end. God bless you. Christian love to all.

Yours in defense of the gospel,— Mrs. Katherine Key

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Hastings, Nebr.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt: I am a reader of your Faith and Victory paper and want you to know that I, too, find in its pages just what my soul needs, and that is the pure and unadulterated truths of the gospel. Jesus said He was the Truth and the Light. He said, "Search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." I am doing that very thing. I love the blessed old Book and can truthfully say it is a light to my pathway and a guide to my feet. In Luke we read, "And thou child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: For thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways: to give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins, Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring frem on high hath visited us, To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." There are twenty-three verses and four hundred and eighty-five words in the sixth chapter of the book of Romans. The word sin is mentioned seventeen times and the word iniquity two times. Thank God, we have a remedy for sin, Jesus Christ the righteous. When King David got rid of sin and iniquity, he said, "But let all (and that includes me) those that put

their trust in thee rejoice: Let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them." Will close with love.

James A. Dyer.

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H. Q. Co. 3rd Bn. A. P. O. 256 50th Armd Inf., 6th Div. Camp Cook, Calif.—Greetings to the dear saints of God. I visited you on July 4, 1942, but did not get to see Bro. Pruitt, and did not even get to stay for services, but enjoyed seeing the Faith Publishing House and all the printing machinery. I am isolated if anyone ever was. I have been in the desert for about five months, and have been through many a trial, but have truly found that God is on the desert as well as anywhere. He has been very precious to this young man, for which I thank him.

I just received the March issue of Faith and Victory today. I was glad to get it. I was privileged to visit Glendale, Calif. and see Bro. and Sis. Harmon on a three-day pass from the desert.

I desire to please God anywhere I have to go. It is true that the future lies unseen ahead, but we know that our Redeemer liveth and is a very present help in time of trouble. I have to put up with drinking and the taking of God's name in vain, but every time I get a chance I tell them about it.

My wife at New Castle, Ind. is much better now. Thank God. It is through the prayers of the faithful that my dear wife is still here on earth. Continue to pray for her spiritually and physically. She is a good true girl and it surely is something to know that you have a true wife when you are 2,200 miles from her and home.

I would enjoy hearing from the saints.

Pvt. Charles L. Pitts.

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Fort Huachuca, Ariz.—Dear Sir: I read a piece of your literature entitled "48 Hours in Hell" and I think it was grand. It seems as though I could use this piece of literature for a pattern while I am in the Army. It was sent to me by a very close friend of mine and I thought it would be a good idea to write for more literature and tracts since I noticed on the copy that I have for me to write in case I needed or wanted more literature.

I am what you would call a "used to be Christian" but on account of the environment that I am surrounded with, I have gotten weak but I am successfully growing stronger spiritually.

I am hoping by all means that I will receive the above mentioned in the near future.

Sgt. Mark A. Roberson, 714th Medical Sanitary Co.

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Durant, Okla.—Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I read your testimonies and get real blessings from them. I don't want to miss a copy of the paper and wish it came more often. But I wish to tell you of a task God put on my heart some time last year. There was a convict camp not far from our city where I lived. God put it on my heart to help get the gospel into the camp to those prisoners. I prayed and prayed. Finally it was clear that I was to send for tracts and give to the prisoners. Glory to God. Thank God for salvation and good people who are glad to do this for the Lord and believe He will get glory from it.

Pray for me. I want to be a good soldier. At this time I live one-half mile from this prison camp. See how God moves.

One of His sheep, Mrs. Carl Thomas.

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Bakersfield, Calif.—Greetings to the saints. This night finds me still saved having no desire to go wrong

on any line. I truly thank God for the willingness in my heart to ever live a true and upright life all the days of my life realizing time is so short. We have no time to lose for we need to be up and doing at all times. I want all the saints to earnestly pray for me that the Lord keep me stirred to do my duty on all lines and let my words be few and seasoned with grace. The devil tries so hard to succeed in getting us young saints off on talking too much. I ask you to pray much for me that I prove faithful to the end.

I have a testimony here from our dear Bro. Everett Pierro who has been called away from our congregation to the army. This testimony was so much encouragement to the saints here I feel like it will be encouraging to some one else. The saints here had called him and talked to him over the telephone.

"344 Aviation Sqd., Army Air Base, Newark, N. J. To the saints at Bakersfield, Calif: Greetings in the name of our Savior through the love and fellowship that is in our salvation, I pray God's blessings on every one of you. This 31st day of January, deep in my heart I wish to be with all of you in body to hear the sweet songs of Zion and the encouraging testimonies. I know they would help me on my way. Dear saints, when I heard your sweet voices in the distance it was just what I wanted to hear and I was so happy I forgot all of my trouble and I thought about the song that says just one glimpse of heaven and we would forget all about our troubles and thank God for holding out to the end. The soldier that woke me up to answer the phone when you called, was as glad as I was for me to hear from the ones I had so often talked about, and to see me look so happy. I was so happy and looked so different and felt so unlifted, that one of the boys asked me if I had had a drink. When I told them how many saints were there to say hello, he grabbed my hand and said, "You must be a good boy." Thank God for the sweet saints. Dear saints when I heard my brother Grant's voice, I was made to rejoice deep down in my heart because I know God still answers prayer. Dear saints, there are plenty of tests and trouble but since I have the victory, I am so thankful until there is no complaint. But my request is, 'Saviour, keep me near to Thee and keep my fellowship with all the saints, and keep me humble.'

Your brother in Christ, Everett Pierro"

Bro. Pierro's wife has left here to go where he is. I desire the saints to pray for them that the Lord keep them encouraged. If anybody knows any saints near where they are I wish they would send the address to them or to me. Pray for me that I be what God would have me to be.

—Helen Gaines

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Fontana, Calif.—Greetings to Bro. and Sister Pruitt and to all the dear saints, Thanks for your prayers in behalf of my request. Some time ago I fell off a scaffold to the cement floor while painting and broke both feet, heels, arch, and left leg close to the joint. I was carried to the hospital and both legs were bound up in a cast. It looked as if my days were over for ever walking again. When one's foundation on which he stands gets broken, it is likely to leave him a cripple. This is what the doctor told me. Today I am saved from sin and am happy to tell you the Lord has sent His Word and healed me. I can walk straight—no cane or crutches are needed to lean upon. I can run too, if I have to. I am fifty years old. In three weeks time I was ready to leave the hospital. Thank you for your prayers that made me whole. I owe my life to God and his children and his service. Pray for me, that I ever be true to the Lord. Your brother, Milton Smith.

Young People's Section

HELP ME

Lord, help me to be
More like Thee each day,
And guide all my thoughts
And words that I say.

I want e'er to live
Crown down at thy feet,
That I may gain heaven
When work is complete.

When the path is rough
Lord, help me to be
A fearless, brave soldier
And still trust in Thee.

Help me to witness
To your power to save,
And tell friends you died
And 'rose from the grave.

—Johnnye Lee Carter
(revised).

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Editorials

The booklet entitled "The Instruction of Youth in the Christian Life," written by Bro. C. E. Orr, has just been reprinted. In those 32 pages are instructions of vital interest and importance to young people. Every young person should have a copy. It may be secured by addressing your request to this office with the price of 10c, postpaid.

The following is a reprint of part of the first chapter entitled —

INSTRUCTION

"Let me quote a few sayings of a very wise man. 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.' Prov. 1:7. Read also Prov. 15:5. 'My son, hear the instruction of thy father' Prov. 1:8. 'Take fast hold of instruction, let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.' Prov. 4:13. You should read these texts over several times. Commit them to memory. Try to feel the weight of them. 'Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning' Prov. 9:9. The way we regard instruction is a proof of what we are. 'He is in the way of life that keepeth instruction.' Prov. 10:17. The word 'keepeth' in this text has a twofold meaning. It means to hold in memory, and also to put into practice. Be diligent in doing this. It is

dangerous to trifle with instruction. If we do not practice what we learn it were better that we never learn it. 'Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge.' Instruction is the way to knowledge. If you would know the true way of life you must give heed to the instructions pertaining to the way. 'He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul.' Prov. 15:32. Those who treat instruction in the Christian life with neglect have not a proper regard for their soul. 'Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.' Prov. 19:20. Now is the time, young man and woman, to lay the foundation for your later life. It is in vain that you hope to be wise in your old days if you neglect the instructions of youth. 'Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.' Prov. 23:12. This word 'apply' is a strong word. It means to lay upon. We lay one object upon another that the one might absorb the virtue of the other. Lay instruction upon the heart that the heart might absorb the virtue of the instruction. We fail to receive instruction as we should except it becomes a principle fixed in the heart. 'Buy the truth and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.' Prov. 23:23. We often hear the first clause of this text quoted, but that is not all the text. Buy instruction. You are not at all likely to buy a thing for which you have no desire and you are not likely to have much desire for it if you have but little knowledge of its value. If you had a full knowledge of the worth of good, wholesome instruction you would buy it regardless of the cost, price, and you would not barter it away under any conditions. Please read attentively the following words. 'My son if thou wilt receive my words, and heed my commandments with thee: so that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasure; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.' Prov. 2:1-5. Reader, do you want to find the knowledge of God? Here is the price to pay. First, **incline your ear.** You have seen an animal with his ears stuck forward in intent to catch every wave of sound. This is a picture of the intent you should have to hear the instruction of wisdom. Second, **cry after knowledge.** This expresses the eagerness of soul, the labor, the diligence given to obtain knowledge. Third, **lifest up thy voice.** Just as a child will cry and lift up his voice for food necessary to the sustenance of his young life, so we are to cry after the knowledge

of God. Fourth, seekest her as silver. Fifth, searchest for her as for hid treasure. Years ago men rushed, at the risk of their lives to the gold fields of California and Alaska searching for this hid treasure. Consider for a moment, with what eagerness men seek for silver and gold. How it ought to shame the Christian for his indifferent manner in seeking the knowledge of God. We should lay hold upon all instruction that leads to the knowledge of God with that hunger of soul, with that eagerness, that never-to-be-wearied effort that men lay hold upon that which leads them to the possession of gold. It is in the study of the Bible and the laying of its instructions up in the heart that will bring us to the knowledge of God and to the path that leads to heaven."

—L. D. P.

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Tillamook, Ore—Dear saints of God: Today as I was preparing to iron some clothes God told me to write my testimony to let all the good saints know that last night about 10:30 I truly became sanctified wholly. I know some of you are thinking that I was sanctified at Guthrie, Okla. campmeeting over a year ago. It is true I sought sanctification there and professed it for some time but I was not satisfied with that experience. I also went to the altar at the last Oregon camp meeting after Bro. Harmon had preached a wonderful sermon and again I professed sanctification but if some one had asked me if I was satisfied, I couldn't have even whispered "yes." But my longing kept on and on. I'd wake up in the nights and wonder why I couldn't get through and why I couldn't have that precious Holy Spirit in my heart as so many other saints had.

To make a long story shorter, I sought sanctification at four different altars and I can't begin to tell how many times I begged God to send His sanctifying power to me in my own home. I studied all the books I could find on sanctification and I hunted nearly every scripture pertaining to it in the Bible but I just couldn't find what was holding me back. Then at last one night last week my husband and I had just gotten home from a rook party at which I had won the prize for high score of the evening. Thank God, He has forgiven me for that. I said, "James, I just don't feel right about these parties. I wouldn't want to be at one of them when Jesus comes, and if you don't mind I don't believe we'll go to any more of them." And his answer came cutting my heart clear through. He said, "That's what I've been thinking for a long time. It doesn't seem like a Christian would go to them." I just can't explain how I felt. Here was a person not even professing Christianity in any form and I was praying every day that I'd be a light and an encouragement to him to seek God. How miserably I had failed, not only had I been separating myself from God, but also had been placing a stumbling block in my loved one's way.

I sought God more earnestly after that than ever before. Never would a rook party stand between me and the Holy Spirit. But there was still another obstacle to be removed. I had a temper that was almost uncontrollable. At times I'd have to nearly bite my tongue off to keep from saying things that would only hurt some one else or make matters a lot worse. The more I thought along this line the more I decided that it was just as big a sin to think those evil things as it would be to say them.

So last night I decided I was not going to quit praying until I had the Holy Spirit in my life so real that

I'd never doubt again if it took me a week to do so. It took a little over two hours but such wonderful hours. God and I had a blessed time talking, praying, listening, and waiting. It is wonderful to listen for God to stir our heart-strings and grand to wait for God to have His way. It's too easy to go our own way and not wait on God. How much trouble we could spare ourselves if we would but be patient.

And as I was praying all of a sudden I stopped and thought, "Well, what have I been saying?" and over and over I'd been repeating, "I know I'm sanctified, I know it, I truly know it, I'm all His, everything is His, he has sanctified me wholly." What a joy and peace is mine. I've nothing to worry about. From now on God can have His way with me completely.

I want to thank all the saints for the prayers offered for the healing of my body. God has been very merciful to me and has healed me completely. I have not had one bit of trouble from that day to this. Praise His holy name. I just feel so full today I don't know how to bring this letter to an end. I feel like I could write a book on the sanctifying power of God.

I hope and pray that this will help some needy soul to seek after God for sanctification. Don't let the devil tell you to take it by "dry faith." It must be gotten by "living spiritual faith." Rest on God's promises, trust him completely, don't try to hold even one little thing back, it just won't work for God can see the tiniest particle of ugliness in our hearts. Don't give up the first, second, or third time, keep seeking until you know you are sanctified wholly. It isn't guess work, it's real.

I'll close now with these words that I'm standing on and trusting God's promises all the way and I know I'm going to make Heaven my home no matter what the cost may be. And when I meet Bros. Harmon, Pruitt, John Wilson, Ostis Wilson, and my Dad in heaven, I'll shake their hands and say, "I'm so glad for those sermons that put me under conviction so that I knew there was something I needed and didn't have." It's uncomfortable to sit and hear sermons when conviction is poured on you till you can't sit still and you feel like every one is looking at you. But sinners, they aren't looking at you but they'll be praying secretly for you and if you want to see God and gain a home in heaven you'd better be doing something about the uncomfortable feeling for salvation and sanctification are waiting for all who will seek Him with a whole heart.

Pray for me that I'll be all God wants me to be.

Your saved, sanctified, and satisfied sister,

—Orpha Mapes

CORRESPONDENCE

Fort Douglas, Utah—Dear Bro. Pruitt, In the Feb. issue of the "Faith and Victory" paper you have some books advertized that I am interested in getting. I am always interested in any good book that will help feed my soul and help me to walk in the strait, narrow path that leads to heaven.

I enjoy reading every bit of the "Faith and Victory" paper and I would like to continue getting it, so please extend my subscription for another year. I think my subscription expires in May of this year.

We are much in prayer about my youngest brother who is in the Army with the Chemical warfare service in Alabama. Since that is a combat unit to destroy lives, and we have God's Commandment not to kill, I feel sure that the Lord will deliver him from that unit if we have faith in Him and pray for his deliverance. I was in the Infantry when I came into the service a year ago and through prayer and faith in our God I was transferred

into the Medical branch of the service. Pray for him that he will be transferred if it is the Lord's will, and also pray for the rest of us boys that are in the service of our country. Pray that the few of us that have accepted Christ as our Savior and Redeemer may shine as bright lights to the many sin-sick souls in the world today.

May the Lord bless you and help you and all the other dear saints to carry on with His wonderful work until He calls us all Home to Heaven with Him.

Your brother in Christ, —Sgt. John R. Lorenz
Station Hospital, Fort Douglas, Utah
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Tampa, Fla.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt, Greetings of love in the sweet and precious name of Jesus. I am glad that I can still report victory in my soul today over all the power of the enemy. Praise God. I have it all fixed and settled to go through by His help as long as He spares me in this dark and sinful war-torn world.

The perilous times the Bible speaks about coming surely must be here now the way things look. People have gone bad after the things of the world, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. What an awful time that will be when these poor lost souls must stand before the judgment seat of God to give an account of how they have lived here in this world. But it will be too late then. How sad! How sad! Knowing all these things, how very careful we ought to be in all our daily walks of life so that our light will shine brightly and not get dim in this world. I want the Lord to put more of a burden in my heart than ever before for lost souls. Oh, how much we need to pray. No wonder that we are told to pray without ceasing. We know that prayer changes things and I know it does. We also know that He does hear and answer the prayers of his children. Praise His name. Let us not forget to pray much for our young soldier boys. I feel so sorry for them. They need our prayers and so does our country and our rulers and those who are in authority and those poor people in the foreign countries. I feel so sorry for them, I do pray for the Lord to have mercy on them all and bring them to Him too, for they have a soul to be saved as well as we.

Today I have been living on the mountain top. I have felt so close to the Lord and such wonderful peace in my soul, my cup surely has been running over. Sometimes we must go through rough and stony roads and have some hills to climb, too. But then when we get to the top, oh what sweet peace, wonderful peace, we have in our souls. Well, praise God, the toils of the road will seem nothing when we get to the end of the way. I feel really encouraged to fight the battle to the end.

I have been busy all winter writing good letters and when ever I get a chance, I speak to people about their souls and do whatever I can for the Lord in every way as we know time is short and we have no time to waste. The way things look we are living on the edge of time right now. Bro. Pruitt, I do pray much for the Lord to protect the printing and workshop there at Guthrie. I feel sure that He will. I pray for you and Sister Pruitt and all the workers there, for I know you need lots of prayers. Let us all pray lots for each other.

Christian love to all, —Sister A. C. Krause
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Chicago, Ill.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt, I thank God for touching my eyes. They don't bother me now. Truly I can thank Him. I have much to thank and praise Him for. Please continue to pray for me and my family. May God bless the work there and supply all your needs.

One young girl where I work was discharged today because she has weak lungs. She had been working

with me and she asked me what she could do about it. She is of a poor family. I asked her if she went to church anywhere and she said she didn't and so I told her about God, that he has power to heal her, that nothing is impossible with Him. I asked her if she would like to be prayed for to be healed. She said she would. Please pray for her that God will get glory out of this.

May God bless you and keep you in His will.
In the one body, —Thelma Johnston

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Chicago, Ill.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt, Greetings in the name of Jesus. I surely enjoyed reading Bro. Orr's book on Holy Living No. I, and am determined to live holier every day.

My husband has two friends of his in the Army and I have been enclosing tracts in the letter we send them. I'll just write a few extracts from their letters about how they enjoy the tracts. Here's one from Camp Beale, Cal. "Dear Mr. and Mrs. Badal, I received your most welcome letter for which I thank you very much, also the literature you have sent me. I have read it over several times. In life people like myself very seldom think of God and his church but when we are faced with misfortune hard luck, and war, then only and only then we turn to our Saviour for guidance." Here's a few extracts from another one. He was in Louisiana then. He says, "By the way, also thanks a million to your wife for the tracts that were enclosed in the letter." Then he writes from Florida where he is stationed now, "I want to thank Mrs. Badal for the literature. I read it and passed it on to some of my buddies, who enjoyed reading it."

I always remember all the boys in the camp, and I'm sure all the church does. Pray for me and loved ones that we will endure to the end.

Your sister in Christ, —June Badal

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Holland, Mich.—As I was thinking about the love of God, this came to my mind: in what way can we show the love of God the most in our life? First of all, in our every-day life; then by the word of our testimony, if our testimony agrees with the life that we live. So many testify to a holy life and do just as others do, partake of the things of the world and go where the people of the world go. This kind of a life does not agree with the Word of God, which says, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." 1 John 2:15. "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous." 1 John 3:7. Thank God, we do not have to be deceived by any man or false prophet. —Cornelius Brandt.

Dayton, Ohio—Dear saints in Christ, Greeting in Jesus' name: I have received the Faith and Victory paper for more than a year—paid for by someone, I know not who—and feel it has brought untold riches to my soul. I do not want to miss any issues, so please continue it. I feel lonely and sad today when I see so much sin around me, yet I have much to thank the Lord for that I am well and have my right mind.

I have been here now over four years. The doctors have consented to release me, but the devil has a determination to overthrow it all. I am trusting the Lord daily for a closer walk with Him. I know what He did for me and my family and for those who fully trust Him.

The Lord permitted me to take a trip home last summer, which made us all feel He was very close to us all. Willis Burkett, Veterans Adm. Facility, Co. 23.

Burlington, Wash.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt: May God richly bless all of you in the Lord's work. I

still love Him and am determined to live for Him. I cannot praise Him enough for His goodness to me. He gives love, health, contentment, joy, and sweet peace. There are many things I can be happy for. He is a wonderful Saviour to the child of God. This world is in such turmoil, but let us be strong to the end and have faith in God. Rest assured when God calls us, we shall be found in our place.

With Christian love,

Adelia Davis.

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Springfield, Mo.—Our faithful Bro. and Sister Pruitt in Jesus' name I greet you. God bless you. We were glad to get the good letter and glad to hear that the good Lord is blessing in meetings there. I know He will ever bless your faithful efforts. I also thank you for those good tracts. Please send a few more of each of them. I am praying continually for the work there. It is so precious to me. It means so much to have a clean publishing work, and I want you dear ones to know I have all confidence in your doing your very best for Jesus. I truly want to always do my very best. Pray for us. So many precious souls are seeking help we need much holy wisdom from heaven. Sister Porter is home now and doing fine, praise the Lord. The dear Lord is blessing our labors.

God ever bless you.

Essie Wilson.

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Potter, Ark.—Dear saints of God: I am in great afflictions. I have Rheumatism all over my whole being, and can sit up only a little while at a time. I also have the Pellagra. My throat is a shield of blisters. God has raised me up so many times, and there is nothing too hard for the Lord. He is able to heal all our diseases. I am asking you to pray for my healing. I am trusting wholly in Jesus for soul and body. I want the prayers of all the saints everywhere.

My brother, Willie Powell, who had Breakbone Fever in the spring of 1940, whom I asked you to pray for, is fat and fine. In 1942 I wrote you for prayer and anointed cloth for my mother who had a cancer on her face. The cancer fell out leaving a hole, but soon healed up. She is still well and is 80 years old. Her name is K. J. Powell. She is still here in Potter with me. Also pray for my grandchildren. Two of them have Trench Mouth and one has fever. I believe your prayers will be answered. Yours in Jesus, Mrs. K. E. Renfroe

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Fairbury, Nebr.—Dear Bro. Pruitt, I greet you in Jesus' dear name. I am so glad I can report victory in His name. I am still standing for the old-time truth, though I am isolated. There is a G. T. meeting here, but I'm not going to it. They have let down the standard and compromised the truth and now they are drifting farther from the old-time truth.

I am praising the dear Lord for healing my sore lip. There are some signs yet, but I am claiming it by faith and not by sight. Please keep on praying for me. Praise the dear Lord, I love him with all my heart. I am standing true if they take my head off. All of you dear ones stand firmly and preach the Word at any cost. I know the dear saints are going through many persecutions in these last days, but the dear Lord has promised that he would go with us to the end. The days are getting darker all the time. Only a few will go all the way. Praise the Lord for the few. I am glad to be one of them. I am praying for the publishing work there and I believe the Lord is answering.

Your sister in the One body, Mrs. D. M. Hardman.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Chicago, Ill.—Dear saints: God bless you all and encourage you in these times. You have our prayers

in these dark times. Surely we are aware of your labors for God and realize with the shortage of help and material to work with, you are working harder than ever to get out the gospel to the poor (Matt. 11:15).

What a mighty God we serve! He never fails, praise His name. How sweet to be in harmony with Him and have that sweet peace in our souls. Dear ones, I surely love God with all my heart right now. How I thank and praise Him for ever saving me and showing me THE WAY. How He makes our hearts tender to all mankind no matter what the tests may be. With each test we are made stronger so that we may be a help to our brother and sister who is weak in the faith.

This poem was given to me years ago and has always been a big help to me. I thought of it when I read Bro. W. I. Miles' writing in March Faith and Victory. I'll send it to you all to read. Its author I do not know.

May God continue to bless all of you and strengthen each one in body and soul.

Sister Melican.

"A Little Walk Around Yourself"

"When you are criticizing others and are finding here and there

A fault or two to speak of, or a weakness you can tear;
When you're blaming some one's meanness or accusing
one of per—

It's time that you went out to take a walk around yourself.

"There's lots of human failures in the average of us all.
And lots of grave shortcomings in the short ones and the tall.

But when we think of evils menshould lay upon the shelves,

It's time we all went out to take a walk around ourselves.

"We need so often in this life this balancing of scales,
This seeing how much in us wins and how much in him fails

Before we judge another, just to lay him on the shelf,
It would be a splendid plan to take a walk around ourself."

o-o-o-o-o-o-o

English, Ind.—Just a few words to God's children in Jesus' name. I enjoy reading the testimonies that are in the Faith and Victory paper. The paper stands for the whole truth and that is what it will take to stand in the Judgment. We are standing on the shores of eternity, facing Judgment. When He calls we must go. There is great danger of going with the tide. Millions are drifting and are failing to obey God.

Saul lost his power and was rejected by the Lord because he feared the people. He confessed, "I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord. I feared the people."

So many preachers have compromised and lowered the standard of God's holy word in order to please the people.

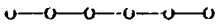
When Samson with his head on Delilah's knees awoke out of sleep he knew not that the Lord had departed from him, but soon found it out when the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and he had to grind in the prison house. Surely he remembered the good times he had as Judge of Israel, and the freedom he had lost.

Nebuchadnezzar saw the three Hebrew children cast into the furnace with flames leaping high. He soon forgot and he did the very thing that God had told him not to do and lost his kingdom. He ate grass with the oxen, his hair grew as eagles' feathers, his finger nails as bird claws. He remembered the time when he was king, and the freedom he had. God had departed.

Many dear ones have lost their power and are groping in darkness, no peace, not satisfied.

Oh God, send an old-time revival, one that is prayed down from the skies. May God help the preachers to preach the old-time gospel as they did in the first century. When they prayed, the place was shaken. They were in one accord in one place.

Dear saints, I wonder sometimes if we are doing our best. I feel led to ask all the saints of God to join in a special prayer for our boys in the war. They are asking for prayer. Will you join with me on the fifth of April at 9 p.m.? Your brother, J. Linton.



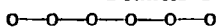
Sandusky, Ohio—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the dear saints, Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I am saved and encouraged today more than ever to go all the way with the dear Lord. I was saved approximately three years ago and have found peace and happiness in my soul and am rejoicing and truly praising God for sending this truth here, and the true Holy Ghost minister, Bro. Chaney of Akron, Ohio. I feel he is a true God-sent minister.

At the time I first met with the saints, I was awfully sick, but the dear Lord has wonderfully blessed me. I am not completely healed, but I am requesting that all the saints go into an agreement of prayer for my complete healing. I have been suffering from my present sickness for a number of years. Truly, I believe if it hadn't been for the prayers of the saints, I would have been gone. I realize my case is serious, but not too hard for God. Please pray earnestly for my complete healing; also for my unsaved family, and that I will be able to stand everything that comes upon me in this life. Your sister, Nellie Hudson.



Detroit, Mich.—Dear Father and Mother, I will answer your valued letter. Hope this finds you well. It leaves us feeling much happier than we have been for a good many months. I went to the hospital yesterday for the report on my last X-ray which was taken a week ago. I talked to the doctor and he told me that my lung was all healed. It shows scars where the disease was. He said he wanted me back for another X-ray the last of April and if it is still the same he would O. K. me and I could go back to work. I want to tell you that sure lifted a burden. And I praised God all the way home. For without his help this could not be. It is most surely an answer to our prayers. Praise his holy name. It is so good to know that we have so many of God's people praying for us. I thank you so much for notifying so many of those dear brothers and sisters of our condition. We got so many nice and encouraging letters, anointed handkerchiefs, and also \$15.00 in money, from people I've never met. I thank God for such people. Heaven will sure be a wonderful place to be, made up of that kind of people. I feel so much better, now that we can begin to see the sun come shining through the clouds of disappointment which had so long hung over us. For so long it seemed this day would never come. But thank God it is here. The weather is even better than it has been for a long time, the sun is shining and the air is nice for me to take my walks. Well, I must close now with love and best wishes. God bless you.

—Francis Pierson and family



Caldwell, Kansas—Dear Friend in Christ, I want to say that I appreciate the prayers of God's children in my behalf. The Lord wonderfully touched my body last Sunday evening and I am now so much better. I am now able to do some work and am getting stronger for which I praise God. My whole desire is to serve Him


and live pliable in God's hands that he may use my life for his glory.

Some of the afflictions I had were, a very much enlarged heart, liver, and intestinal trouble, and indigestion and an acid stomach; could only eat toast and water without discomfort. I have so much to thank God for.

Your friend in Christ, —Mrs. Ruth Tobey

"The entrance of thy Word giveth light."

BIBLE



STUDY

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God."

Order Sunday School supplies about two weeks before beginning of new quarter. The price of the Primary Picture Roll is \$1.15, and the Lesson Cards are 4 cents per set. Each set contains cards for one pupil for each Sunday in the quarter. These sets cannot be broken. Order from Geneva Ray, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla.

PETER AND JOHN BECOME DISCIPLES OF JESUS

Sunday, April 4, 1943

Daily Readings and Meditations

March 29 to April 3.

- M. The Baptist introduces Jesus John 1:29-34.
- T. Andrew brings Simon to Jesus John 1:35-43.
- W. Called to discipleship Mark 1:16-20.
- T. The call of Levi Mark 2:13-17.
- F. Philip witnesses for Jesus John 1:43:51.
- S. Jesus as a soul-winner John 4:5-10, 27-29.

Printed PortionJohn 1:29-42; Mark 1:16-20.

John 1:29. The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

30. This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.

31. And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

32. And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

33. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

34. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

35. Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;

36. And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

37. And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

38. Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

39. He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

40. One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

41. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

42. And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

Mark 1:16. Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

17. And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.

18. And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.

19. And when he had gone a little farther thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets.

20. And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him.

Golden Text: "And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men." Mark 1:17.

Practical Truth: Every follower of Christ should strive to win others for him.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We are beginning a study of the lives of Peter and John, the two best-known disciples of the twelve. The purpose of the Bible is to acquaint us with God and not man, so our knowledge of the every-day lives of the disciples is incomplete. It is believed that Peter was older than Jesus and John younger. Peter lived in Bethsaida and later moved to Capernaum; and John lived in or near Capernaum. They were both fishermen by trade. Peter was married, and probably John was also, for he took Jesus' mother to live with him after Jesus was crucified. This is about all we know about them. The record of their lives after they met Jesus is written in such a way that our faith may not stand in men but in God.

If a man had been looking for geniuses or for brilliant scholars to whom he could give theological instructions and make of them great religious leaders, Peter and John would have been passed by, for it is recorded that they were "unlearned and ignorant" men. But the eyes of the Lord which "run to and fro throughout the whole earth to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him," saw in them honest hearts and a willingness to receive the truth. So He "hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty."

In today's lesson is recorded the first meeting of Peter and John with Jesus. John was one of the disciples who stood with John the Baptist when he said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." (This simple message has resounded through the ages and thrills our hearts today. Thank God for His Lamb! Up to this time lambs had been slain as offerings for sin but they were powerless to take away sin. They were only symbolical of this, the Lamb of God who TAKES AWAY the sin of the world from the hearts of His people.) Up to this time John the Baptist had been telling the people about Jesus and teaching them how to prepare to receive Him. (A true, God-sent preacher will always preach with this purpose in view and keep self in the background.) Peter had heard John the Baptist preach but was not with him at this particular time. It was Andrew's privilege to bring him to Jesus.

At this time Peter and John did not leave their busi-

ness to follow Jesus, but this was one of the most important events of their lives. When one meets Jesus he can never be the same again, for he who meets the Lord must either accept Him or reject Him and accept the consequences of his choice. If Peter and John had rejected the Lord, we would never have heard of them again; but they like millions of others would have lived out life's short span and passed into oblivion. But they accepted Him and now, almost 2000 years later, we know them—not because of what they were, but because of what they were willing to let the Lord make of them.

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PETER AND JOHN WITNESS CHRIST'S GLORY

Sunday, April 11, 1943.

Daily Readings and Meditations

April 5 to 10.

- M. The transfiguration Mark 9:2-8.
- T. The voice from heaven 2 Peter 1:16-18.
- W. Paul's heavenly vision 2 Cor. 12:1-5.
- T. John's vision on Patmos Rev. 1:9-18.
- F. Longing for God's house Psalms 84:1-7.
- S. The glory of the church Hag. 2:6-9.

Printed PortionMark 9:2-8; 2 Peter 1:16-18.

Mark 9:2. And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them.

3. And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them.

4. And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus.

5. And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

6. For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid.

7. And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.

8. And suddenly, when they had looked round about, they saw no man any more, save Jesus only with themselves.

2 Peter 1:16. For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

17. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

18. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

Golden Text: "A voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him." Mark 9:7.

Practical Truth: Seasons of spiritual exaltation give us courage and strength.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Several times in the past few years we have studied about the transfiguration, but each time under a different topic. This time we view it from the standpoint of its being an experience of Peter and John after they left all to follow Jesus.

Many and varied had been their experiences since they had heeded the call, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." They had been with Him when He

stilled the tempest, had seen him walk on the water, feed the multitudes, heal the sick, cast out devils, raise the dead, and perform all the miracles which caused Nicodemus to testify, "No man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him." But this one scene which they were permitted to witness on the mountain stood out in their memory above all others, insomuch that in later years when Peter was endeavoring to stir up the saints to be constant in the faith of Christ, he refers to this experience as being certain proof of his faith and a manifestation of Christ's divinity.

They were not following cunningly devised fables. A fable is an untrue story, usually told to convey some moral. A cunningly devised fable would be one imagined and told in such a plausible way as to make it sound real.

Satan has such a cunning way of getting people to let spiritual things slip away from them that the majority of people regard the truth of the Bible as cunningly devised fables. They expect to go to heaven, but think it is unnecessary to be born again and live here without sin; but Jesus said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God," and that those who die in their sins cannot go where He is. A large number of Jesus' teachings are completely ignored by the multitudes yet Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." All who can carelessly go on not measuring their lives to the Bible really do not believe it. To them it is a cunningly devised fable. Some are even bold enough to call themselves Christians, yet admit they do not believe most of the Bible. They speak of its glorious truths and call them "Beautiful Myths." They need to get acquainted with the Author of the Bible, then they would know as Peter did, "We have not followed cunningly devised fables." Peter and John had "heard" and "seen" something. Those who will follow Jesus amid the trials and tests of life, through the valleys of persecution and humiliation are often permitted to ascend to spiritual mountain-tops where they actually "see" and "hear" things which strengthen their faith and cause them to say, as John did in regard to this experience, "We beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father."

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PETER AND JOHN IN GETHSEMANE

Sunday, April 18, 1943

Daily Readings and Meditations

April 12 to 17.

- M. Failure in crises Matt. 26: 36-46.
- T. Helping or hindering Christ John 18:4-11.
- W. Praying against failure Luke 22:31-38.
- T. Trifling with temptation 1 Cor. 10:1-13.
- F. Asleep on duty Matt. 25:1-13.
- S. Christians, awake! Eph. 5:5-15.

Printed PortionMatt. 26:36-46; John 18:10-12.

Matt. 26:36. Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

37. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.

38. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

39. And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will but as thou wilt.

40. And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

41. Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

42. He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

43. And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.

44. And he left them and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

45. Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

46. Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.

John 18:10. Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

11. Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?

12. Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him.

Golden Text: "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation." Matt. 26:41.

Practical Truth: If we stand by Christ we shall need to watch and pray.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

At the time of this lesson Peter and John had been following Jesus about three years. Jesus had told them about his coming death and resurrection, but they did not understand. He also told them that they would be offended because of him that night. Peter's over-confidence in his ability to stand true led him to make the statement, "Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended," and "Though I should die with thee yet will I not deny thee." The other disciples said the same thing, but Peter was more bold about it. Peter meant it, but little did he understand the nature of the coming test. If Jesus had allowed him full use of his sword, he probably would have fought till death, but he was not able to stand out against the power of spiritual darkness because he failed to pray and get the strength for it while in Gethsemane.

Probably if the disciples had really understood the cause for Jesus' sorrowfulness they would have realized the importance of this hour to the extent that they could not have slept. Do you not think that in later years, when thinking about this night, they shed tears of remorse because of their weakness and failure to stand by the one they loved so dearly?

This lesson is not complimentary to Peter and John, but it is one we need for different reasons: We can profit by their mistakes; learn that in our own selves we have no spiritual power; and if through the weakness of the flesh we fail as they did, we need not despair.

How many of us at times when Jesus seemed so near have said or thought that we would stand by Him though all men should turn against Him, and then in a test have failed Him in some way? What was the cause of the failure? It can usually be traced to a failure to "watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation." I have heard many different excuses given for backsliding even by those who have again repented and

have been forgiven. Satan would try to hide the real cause of the failure in hopes he can get them again. The most dangerous failure is the failure to watch and pray.

We sing the song, "I Need Jesus," and indeed we do need Him. We need Him to save us, to guide us through life, to help bear our burdens, to supply our needs, to heal our sicknesses, etc. He is ever faithful to us, but do not forget that Jesus needs us. He needs us to lift Him up to earth's lost millions, He needs us to carry on His work until He comes, He needs us to yield to Him that He might show Himself strong in our behalf, He needs us to meet with His people to encourage and edify them when possible. Name other ways in which He needs us, then ask yourself the questions: If all of Christ's followers were just as faithful to Him in every way as I am, what kind of a church would He have on earth? How far would it fall short of living to the Bible standard?

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THE RISEN LORD

Sunday, April 25, 1943
(Easter Sunday)

Daily Readings and Meditations

April 19 to 24.

- M. The empty tomb John 20:1-10.
T. Jesus :ears to Mary John 20:11-18.
W. Peter's testimony Acts 2:22-28.
T. If Christ be not risen! 1 Cor. 15:12-19.
F. Attaining the resurrection Phil. 3:7-14.
S. The resurrection life Rom. 6:1-11.

Printed Portion John 20:1-17.

John 20:1. The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

2. Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.

3. Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple and came to the sepulchre.

4. So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.

5. And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

6. Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,

7. And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

8. Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

9. For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.

10. Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

11. But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre,

12. And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

13. And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

14. And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

15. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

16. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

17. Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father, and to my God, and your God.

Golden Text: "He is risen." Mark 16:6.

Practical Truth: The risen Christ is our supreme source of hope and joy.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Jesus had delivered Mary Magdalene from devil possession, and her devotion even after the crucifixion helps to verify Jesus' words that those who are forgiven most, love most.

There really was no reason for her tears, for the thing which caused so much grief gave her the greatest cause for rejoicing she had ever had in her life when she learned that it was God who had worked and not man. (Even so, our tears are often groundless, and that which seems hardest to bear is working for us the most good. Sometimes we feel that hardships come because man is working against us, when in reality they come because God is working for us.) But there was nothing wrong with the tears. It is natural for a loving heart to weep under such circumstances, and God is not unmindful of them. He sees and He cares.

Mary's devotion was abundantly rewarded. She was the first to see the risen Lord and was permitted to bear the joyful tidings to others.

Jesus had told the disciples that He would arise from the dead, but the ninth verse says they knew it not. They had heard with their outward ears, but their understanding had not been enlightened. Now, when they saw the empty tomb and the grave clothes lying (If someone had moved the body they would not have left the grave clothes in such a manner) John believed that He had risen.

Perhaps you, too, have read or heard some scripture over and over again, but still you do not really "know" the scripture until the Lord makes it real to you through some experience.

A sub-topic of our lesson is: "What the Tomb Revealed to John." In applying the lesson, we should ask, "What does the tomb reveal to me?"

Christ through His death made atonement for the sins of the world. All who accept the atonement are reconciled to God by His blood. But what did the resurrection do for humanity? It brings to us the assurance that His death accomplished what He said it would; that He is alive forevermore, and has the keys of hell and death; and death has no more dominion over us, for He has conquered it for us.

All who would be Jesus' disciples must crucify the "old man" (sin), and be raised to walk in newness of life in Christ. This is the first resurrection, which makes us "blessed and holy." All who have had part in this first resurrection can look forward with joy to the second resurrection, and say, "Because He lives, I shall live also."

An author writes, "It is fitting that on this Easter Day our thoughts should center upon Him. This should be a day of gladness, a day of inspiration, a day of hope." What do you see lacking in this statement? Should not the resurrection mean as much to the Christian on other days as it does on Easter?