

FAITH AND VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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THE CHURCH AT JESUS' FEET

Do you see the church that is honored and blest
Of the Lord, by the Lord? 'Tis the place of His rest
In the midst of His people, securely He dwells
In their hearts by their faith. The glad story He tells
How He overcame death, hell, and conquered the
powers

Of the grave by His Spirit He gave to help ours
When the battle is hard, and uncertain the end
He appears to fight with us, a wonderful friend,
While we hold our peace and see victory sure,
For His greatness is in us to help us endure.
And the prayers of His people combine to destroy
The works of the devil while naught can annoy,
For Satan is conquered through His power alone.
In the church of His choice, His flesh and His bone
His body, revealed to believers below,
Which connects with the family of spirits we know
Up in heaven, all one, the same banner display.
"God is love," "God is light," "God is spirit," today,
Salvation is bulwark, is breast work, and walls.
His sheep hear His voice, quickly answer His calls.
He rejoices to know they are following still,
And are anxiously seeking to know His good will.
Peace in earth with all men, with no schisms between,
His little ones all are the meekest yet seen.
They feed in green pastures, delectable food,
On the mountain of holiness, purely the good
Alone know the blessing and fellowship sweet
Of the church that is sitting at Jesus' feet.

—C. Z. Stonecypher

—oOo—

"Come Hither. I Will Shew Thee The Bride, the Lamb's Wife."

"And to her was granted that she should be ar-
rayed in fine linen clean and white." "Thou art all
fair, my love: there is no spot in thee." "Husbands
love your wives even as Christ also loved the church
and gave himself for it: That he might sanctify
and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word.

That he might present it unto himself a glorious
church not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing;
but that it should be holy and without blemish." "My
Dove, my undefiled is but one: she is the ONLY ONE
of her mother, She is the choice one of her that bare
her. The daughters saw her and blessed her: Yea
the queens and the concubines, and they praised her."
"Awake, awake: put on thy strength O Zion: put on
thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the Holy City:
for henceforth there shall no more come into Thee
the uncircumcised and the unclean." "Thy God
reigneth: That sayeth unto Zion: Thy watchmen
[ministers] shall lift up the voice: with the voice to-
gether shall they sing; FOR THEY SHALL SEE EYE
TO EYE, when the Lord shall bring again Zion."
"Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence. Touch
no unclean thing. Go ye out of the midst of her
[Babylon]: be ye clean that bear the vessels of the
Lord." "Thy people also shall be ALL righteous: they
shall inherit the land for ever. The branch of My
planting, the work of My hands that I may be glori-
fied." Glory to God! Thus saith the Lord, Amen.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ who has blessed us [the church] with all spir-
itual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: accord-
ing as he hath chosen us [his bride] in him before
the foundation of the world, that we [the church, his
bride] should be holy and without blame before him
in love." "And an highway shall be there and a
way. And it [the church] shall be called the way of
holiness: the unclean shall not pass over it: but it
shall be for those: the wayfaring men though fools
shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any
ravenous beast [beastly or unclean person] shall go
up thereon. It [unclean people] shall not be found
there: and the ransomed of the Lord [his church]
shall return and come to Zion [the church] with
songs and everlasting joy upon their heads; they
shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sigh-
ing shall flee away." "And it shall come to pass in
the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house
[the church. Jesus said, 'Upon this Rock (Himself)
I will build my church: and the gates of hell shall

not prevail against it.')] shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills [false churches or sect Babylon] and all nations shall flow unto it" (His church). God said, "Mine heritage is unto me as a speckled bird [made up of all nationalities, black, white, red, brown, yellow—people of all nations] the birds [sect churches] round about are against her." (the true church).

One of the seven angels said, "Come hither and I will shew thee the BRIDE the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and he shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem descending out of heaven from God." "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." "Having the glory of God: and her light was [or is] like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone clear as crystal. And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. The city had no need of the sun, neither the moon to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are SAVED shall walk in the light of it, and the kings of the earth [the saved kings] do bring their glory and honour into it; and the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they do bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

Some say, brother, you have given us a description of heaven here—and I do not deny it. But, dear ones, I would have you know that on the authority of God's holy word that a line cannot be drawn between the true church of God and heaven. We can see a line (a cord of love) around both the church and heaven, but no line between them. We, the true saints who are in the flesh and living on this old earth, are living in the lower story, but some of these days we are going to move upstairs. Glory to God!

Some people get their picture of the church by looking at the earthly congregations, but I prefer the true picture of the church as God's holy word portrays it. There is no strife or division in the true church any more than there is division and strife in heaven. It is true that we have to fight hard against the wolves to keep them from destroying God's precious little flocks which are here on earth, but thank God, when we move upstairs there will be no wolves up there to disturb us. Amen.

You will notice that every one of these scriptures I have quoted declare the church to be a clean, pure, holy organization with no defilement in it whatsoever. You may find strife and division and even adultery in congregations but not in the church. There is nothing in the church unclean. These scriptures

I have quoted declare positively that nothing unclean can get into the church. The true church is an exclusive organization and Christ alone is its head. The church cannot be divided. She is built on one foundation. 1 John 2:19 says, "They went out from us but they were not of us, for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us." Well, glory to God, the precious old book says, "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure having this seal. The Lord knoweth them that are his."

—Geo. W. Stephenson.

—o0o—
"I WANT TO BE A WORKER"

I want to be a worker,
 For there is much to do:
 And so I'll serve the Master,—
 He was a worker, too!

—Albert Emerson Brown

—o0o—
HIS BODY WHICH IS THE CHURCH

The Holy Bible is full of the teaching of the church from Genesis to Revelation because Jesus is the central figure in the Bible. The scripture in the third chapter of Genesis, which reads or teaches that the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head, was referring to Christ who was born of the Virgin Mary, begotten of the Holy Ghost not of the flesh or of the will of man but of God. Literal man had nothing to do with the bringing of the Child Jesus into the world.

Because the body of Christ is the church, therefore it is spoken of by the prophets and inspired men of God in symbols and metaphors in numerous ways, and one needs to be "in the Spirit" to receive and clearly understand the glorious and bright shining church of God which is in the world but not of the world. It is connected up with heaven and Jesus Christ is the head and governor.

Just last night I awoke with a severe case of kidney trouble and was suffering so much I could rest in no way. I suffered and suffered and could only get temporary ease while in prayer. Wife and I prayed and pled with God but could get no permanent relief. Wife called two brethren who were sleeping upstairs to come and pray for me. They came and prayed for me, and while they continued in prayer it seemed that God sent an angel from heaven to touch and heal me. The awful cutting pains all left and I felt so good. The Lord then brought the scripture to me of Jacob's ladder. Jacob saw a ladder set up on the earth (Thank God, the church is set up on the earth) and the top of it reached heaven (Part of the church is in heaven. They are connected.); and behold, the angels of God ascending and descending on it (The angels of God carry the messages from the church, family of God

which is on the earth, to heaven and bring the answer down.) And behold the Lord stood above it. Read the twenty-eighth chapter of Genesis. The Lord stood above it—He is the head of the church both in heaven and earth. The government is upon His shoulder, of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David (Jesus has now the throne of David, as he is the head of the church which is his body). We read in Luke 1:32 of Jesus in this manner, "He shall be great, and shall be called the son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of his father David: and He shall reign over the "House of Jacob" forever. The House of Jacob is a metaphor of the church or the family of God who are now willingly and gladly yielding to Christ as their king, ruler, and governor. Jacob was later named Israel by the Lord, so we are often spoken of in the Bible and called the "Israel of God," or just "Israel" and many times are referred to as Jacob.

When Jacob saw the ladder and the Lord standing above it, the Lord began to pronounce blessings upon him and his seed. Among other things, he said, "And in thee and thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed." I thank God that we can be the seed of Jacob and the seed of Abraham today. Paul says, "We are all the children of Abraham by faith," also we are all the children of Jacob by faith.

When Jacob awoke he said, "Surely the Lord was in this place and I knew it not." He was afraid and said, "How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the House of God [the church or family of God] and this is the gate of heaven." All souls that go to heaven first must get in the church of God here and let Jesus be their King, and Ruler, and Governor, for the church is the gateway to heaven. The church is the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27). The angels bring life, power, wisdom, and healing down from heaven into our souls and we are kept spiritually alive by their continual ministrations. In Heb. 1:14 we read of the angels, "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" or heirs of Christ, for Paul says we are "joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together." Rom. 8:17.

Brethren and sisters, it is high time that we all begin to know more perfectly what manner of folks we are, and at all time clearly represent heavenly things to men that the church of God which is his body may shine in this dark world of confusion, giving God an opportunity to point souls to the true church of the living God which is the pillar and ground of the truth. When the church shines as God through his sacred scriptures teaches that it should shine, then will people of all nations flow into her. This will take place before Jesus comes to take

his church (which is without spot or wrinkle or any such thing) home. You can be one of the number if you will humble your heart and yield fully to Him each day.
—Fred Pruitt.

— oOo —

THE BODY OF CHRIST

The church is Christ's body,
His only true bride.
He loved and redeemed her
And for her He died.
So "all in Christ Jesus"
Are washed in His blood—
"Baptized by one Spirit,"
The people of God.

Baptized in Christ Jesus
And set in their place,
Each joint in His body
Is fitted with grace;
The names are all written
On pages above,
All bearing His image,
And the mark of His love.

They love one another
With brotherly care,
And meeting together
Find Jesus is there.
In "heavenly places"
His praises they bring,
And songs of redemption
Together they sing.

Abiding in Jesus,
Much fruit we will bear;
Our faith in His promise
Brings answer to prayer.
So gladly we follow
The steps that He trod,
And walk in the pathway
That leads upward to God.
Arthur L. Johnson.

— oOo —

HUMBLE FLIGHT

As a bird wings upward,
Singing as it soars,
So the heart turned Godward
Trembles and adores
While approaching heaven
With a humble flight:
Here, a world of sorrow;
There, unending light!

—Albert Emerson Brown

"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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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.

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

From age to age this voice shall cheer:

Whate'er may die or be forgot,

Work done for God, it dieth NOT."

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

PRAYER REQUEST

Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt, I am sending in my request for prayer for my dear mother. She is afflicted in her body with a light stroke and I ask the prayers of the saints that the Lord will completely heal her. I am looking for complete healing. Also I have a husband and seven children that are unsaved. Pray that they will be saved and some of them need healing.

Your sister,

Annie Payne

Editorials

God is blessing the printing work here in a very precious way and making us able to reach a large number of soldier boys, also the men and women that are bound in the prisons scattered throughout this country. The gospel by the printed page is being used of God to enlighten and save souls, and we rejoice in his precious service.

By reading the many testimonies in this paper and other issues, you can get some idea of how His Spirit is working with the tracts and papers and edifying the body, which is the church, and illuminating their understanding and bringing them into the unity of the faith in Christ. The Lord is doing a lot of culling out and bringing in, in these days and those with the real life of Christ in their souls are seeing and flowing together.

In this issue of "Faith and Victory" paper, you will find much truth printed concerning the true church or tabernacle (Heb. 8:2) which the Lord has pitched and not man. Paul says, "The church, which is his body." The true church is the living body of Christ in the world. Each member has His "resurrected life" in his soul, and cannot be a member of His family without this. When any member by self-righteousness or the love of the world grieves the spirit of God away, he is no longer of His body, the church, no matter how much he may claim it. Instead of being His, he becomes the enemy of the cross of Christ and the church of God which is His body. This kind generally give more trouble to the lambs of God than any others, for many times they imbibe a bigoted, self-conceited spirit and think, surmise and speak evil of the innocent ones, thinking to further their gains and influences as they have lost sight of the meek and lowly Lamb of God. Paul says, as he classes them with others that are ungodly, "From such turn away."

Many good articles have been sent in for the paper which we do not have space for as the paper is small, and we wish to say to those who have sent in articles, if they do not appear in print it is not always because the teaching is not sound, but because space will not permit us to use them. When an article is very long we hesitate about putting it in, for it would crowd out some other shorter articles perhaps that are more to the point and carry weightier truth. When writing testimonies, you should look to the Lord to help you to make them short, and to the point. Those who send in obituaries should see that they are not in a lengthy detailed style that space might be saved. It will be necessary to change them, if long ones are sent in when the deceased is not a well-known saint. Obituaries, as well as other material should be printed to the glory of God. The experience of the deceased with the Lord should be stressed more than other acts of life.

If you quote scripture in your writings, you should always copy it out of the Bible, even if it is a familiar scripture to you. This way you can put in all correct punctuation marks and be sure that not a single word is mis-quoted.

Many good poems have been sent in, but we can only use a few in each paper. Quite often poems are sent in which have good meanings, but are not good poems. It is necessary to either change them or discard them. If you do not understand how to write poems, and have some truth which you wish to tell others, you should write it in a testimony or article and not try to write a poem, unless you get help from someone who understands how to write poetry. We are not writing this with any purpose of discouraging any one in writing what God is really giving. We do appreciate God-given articles, poems, and testimonies for the Lord's paper and shall use every one that God makes us know that He wants to go out as we have space.

The thought we want to get to every one is this, that when you write, look to the Lord to help you to put down what He has on your heart in a precise and pointed manner, so space will be preserved for others who may be inspired of God to write also.

Those who write long articles and feel like they must be in print should have them put in tract form and thereby respect the small space that the little paper can afford for articles. May God bless and help each and every one of his dear saints.

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MEETING NOTICE

The saints at Okeene, Okla. are very encouraged to keep pressing on in Jesus' dear name. We had all day meeting the third Sunday in March and observed the ordinance of the Lord's Supper. The Lord wonderfully blessed. Ministers present were: Bro. E. J. Trotter of Watonga, Okla., Sister Mary Williams of Hennessey, Okla., Sister Ada Davis of Hennessey, Bro. Ulysses Phillips of Dover, Okla. We had a high day in Zion. The Lord is wonderfully blessing in this place. We need your prayers and cooperation, especially those who live in this community. One was sanctified and saints encouraged.

Meeting will be held at the colored school house seven miles east, two miles south and three-fourths of a mile east of Okeene every first and third Sunday of each month. There will be Sunday School at 11 a. m. We need much prayer. Lewis Williams

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Campmeeting Notices

The campmeeting of the Church of God will be held on the old Southern campground at Hammond, La., from June 25 to July 4, 1943. It is located about one mile south-west of the I. C. Railroad depot. Highways 51 and 190 lead here. We have good bus and train service, also mail service. All who love the Lord and his people are welcome to come, also those who have a desire for spiritual or physical help. We believe the Lord saves, sanctifies, and heals, and unites his people into one body. Come and hear the full gospel preached by His ministers whom He may send.

This meeting will be run on the free-will offering plan and if any one has provisions or money you care to donate for this purpose, it will be used that way.

Please bring your sugar and point ration books, also your straw ticks, bed linens and towels. Straw furnished free. Also sleeping quarters on the camp ground. Send provisions or write to Max F. Williamson, care of post office, Hammond, La., Secy-treas., or Mr. and Mrs. Ray Key Box 370, Hammond, La., residing ministers.

The Lord willing, the Dover camp-meeting will be held this year at the chapel grounds one mile north and two and one half miles east of Dover, Okla. beginning August 27, and continuing through September 5th.

The Rock Island rail road and highway 81 pass through Dover. Anyone desiring to be met at town please notify us in time. Be sure to bring your bedding, and come praying.

For further information write Ulysses Phillips or Henry Caldwell, Dover, Okla.

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Obituaries

Sister Selia Duke, born Oct. 15, 1857 in the state of Tennessee, died March 19, 1943 at Guthrie, Okla. In Tennessee she grew to womanhood, and was married to J. M. Quarles May 7, 1876. Later she moved with her husband to Topeka, Kans. and made their home there until they came to Dover, Okla. in 1898. In the year 1917 they moved to San Bernardino, Calif. After residing there about a year they decided to come back to Oklahoma. They located at Guthrie where they lived until death called them hence. Her husband preceded her in death in 1927.

Sister Quarles was converted to Christianity March 4, 1879, living to what light and understanding she had until about 1907 when she heard and accepted the truth as preached by the ministers of the church of God, and lived a faithful and consistent life until the summons came March 19, 1943. She leaves to mourn her passing a niece, Mrs. Leona Smith of Riverside, Calif., a sister-in-law of Topeka, Kans., one son Mortie Quarles of the home and eight grandchildren, a number of friends and acquaintances.

We mourn her passing, but we sorrow not as those who have no hope. We bow our heads in humble submission to Him who doeth all things well. May God comfort the hearts of the bereaved.

Funeral services preached by Bro. U. Phillips, text, Psa. 55:6. This was chosen because she so often talked about the time when she would fly away.

Interment in Cemetery at Seward, Okla.

J. W. Foster of Yorkshire, Ohio preached the funeral of Mother Jenkins of New Paris, Ohio. She was the mother of W. R. Jenkins of New Paris. Text, Matthew 12:50, "For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother and sister and mother."

Esther Jane Jenkins, the deceased, was born at New Garden, North Carolina Sept. 3, 1853; departed this life March 31, 1943 at the age of 89 years, 6 months, and 28 days. She was the daughter of Wm and Mary Ann Jones Revells. She was married to Wm Jenkins Nov. 19, 1871. To this union were born nine children. Her husband and three children preceded her in death.

She leaves five sons, seventeen grandchildren, twenty-one great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. She became a servant of the Lord early in life

and was faithful in his service unto death. Though she suffered much in her declining years, she remained faithful. She was a faithful wife and companion and a loving mother, ever ready to share the cares and troubles of those about her, often endangering her own life and health in her willing efforts to help others. She shall be greatly missed by those who hold her so dear in their hearts. No other can fulfill the mission she has so faithfully performed.

Weep not that her toils are over,
Weep not that her race is run.
God grant we may rest as calmly
When our race like hers is done.

Till then we yield with gladness
Our mother to Him to keep,
And rejoice in sweet assurance:
He giveth His loved ones sleep.

Peaceful be thy silent slumber,
Peaceful in thy grave so low.
Though no more will join our number,
Though no more our sorrows know,

Yet again we hope to meet her
When our day of life has fled,
And in peace and joy to greet her
Where no farewell tears are shed.

She always loved to talk of Jesus and tears of joy would flow. Her knees were calloused by kneeling often and long in prayer. She was such a mother in Christ to us all. We would sing and pray with her, and how she would rejoice. This is our experience with her—Bro. and Sister Nottingham and J. W. Foster.

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Cyrena Myers was born Jan. 1, 1879 near Grant City, Mo., died March 19, 1943, age 64 years, 2 months, and 18 days. She made her home with her sister Coral Myers and her mother until it became necessary to move her to the hospital. Up to this time as long as she was normal she lived for God, being a member of the church of God. She would pray and testify in the meetings and loved to talk of God's goodness to us all. She had eaten her breakfast at the hospital and suddenly slumped over in her chair and was gone without a sound, the nurses said. An autopsy revealed that she had suffered a heart attack.

She is survived by two sisters and three brothers, Eunice Coral Johnson of La Junta, Colo., Kate Young, G. W. Myers, Pren Myers, Meril Myers.

Funeral services were conducted at Green Mortuary Chapel with Sister Ruth Baker, pastor of the Church of God of La Junta, officiating. Text: "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord." Rev. 14:13, the text given to Sister Johnson as a witness of God's accepting her.

Beloved sister, God has called you
To the home you were longing for,
And the pain and tears of this world
You will never suffer more.
For the home that Jesus built you
Is free from sorrow, toil, and care.
We shall meet you in the morning
And praise our Saviour over there.

—Coral (Myers) Johnson

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Coy Stevenson, son of Albert and Julia Stevenson was born in Chester, S. C. July 3, 1872, passed away March 23, 1943 at 11:45 p. m. at the home of his daughter, Margaret Ford, Enid, Okla. after severe illness of

five months duration, at the age of 70 years, 8 months and 20 days.

He came to Stafford County, Kansas with his parents when only eight years of age. He professed a hope in Christ at an early age. He made the run during the opening of the Cherokee Strip, staking a claim near Cleo Springs, Major County, Okla. It was in this community that Bro. Stevenson heard and accepted the truth over twenty-five years ago, becoming identified with the Church of God. During the course of years he became isolated from the saints, and did not know where there were any congregations where the saints met to worship. He became somewhat careless and lost the sweet experience he once enjoyed, but during his illness God blessed him with the privilege of again coming in contact with the saints, at which time he expressed a great desire to get back in favor and fellowship with God. He prayed earnestly to God. God heard and answered his prayers and restored unto him the joys of salvation which he enjoyed until the Father called him home.

On April 13, 1897 he was united in wedlock to Minerva Neal, who was a loyal and dutiful wife to the end.

To this union were added eight children, five boys and three girls, two of which passed in infancy.

Survivors are four sons, William, Moses, Wesley of the home, Raymond of Enid; two daughters, Margaret of Enid, and Pearl of the home, a sister and brother and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral preached by Bro. Ulysses Phillips. Scripture reading Job 14:1-14. Topic, "The Church the Home of the Soul." Interment in Cemetery near Cleo Springs.

May the God of consolation comfort the sorrowing, is our prayer.

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Mrs. Winnie H. Taylor was born Dec. 31, 1855 at Tallossee, Ala., died at the Charity Hospital of Monroe, La., Jan. 17, 1943 at the age of 88. She was married to Floyd Taylor whom she left behind, along with their children, to mourn their loss which we feel confident was heaven's gain. She and her husband were living in a community out of Rayville, La. with one of their daughters, Mrs. W. D. Dobson when she fell and broke her hip on Dec. 18, at which time Bro. Ray Key was in the community holding a meeting. Hearing of her accident, he visited her and talked and prayed with her. She soon began praising the Lord saying the Lord had forgiven her sins. Her rejoicing lasted until her death, and we are sure she is still rejoicing and praising the Lord who so wonderfully forgave and blessed with such peace near her going out. She was one of the happiest people we've ever seen in this community.

Mrs. Clyde Towers.

CORRESPONDENCE

MY DREAM OF LIFE'S MACHINE

I dreamed I was sitting at my machine working. A girl friend stood by. She asked what kind of a machine it was and I replied that it was the machine of life. She asked what I was doing, and I replied that I was fixing the belt so it would run right on God's Highway to heaven. I was having a hard time getting the belt so it would work right. First, I had a piece of cloth—worldly goods—but it would not hold. Then I took a new piece called hope, added faith, charity, brotherly love, but still it would not hold. I prayed a moment and added God's love, pure heart, snaps of godliness, hooks of salvation, and joined it together by washing in Jesus' blood and the oil of God's word and it worked just fine. I said, "Leona, you see it works right over

the old band when you get the right things together. Praise God, for that belt leads to heaven." I truly thank God for showing me in a dream just what it takes to get to heaven. By the help and grace of God I intend to run the machine of my life on a heavenly belt, doing the will of God as far as I know how, trusting Him daily for all things. Praise his dear name, he has healed me a number of times, and is an ever ready help in the daily duties of this life. I just could not exist if it were not for my Lord in secret prayer, and He never fails me. Oh, for grace to keep me always in the Lord's highway, Amen. Praise God always.

Martha Winch

o-o-o-o-o-o

Okmulgee, Okla.—Dear saints, I wish to inform you that I am so much better today. I had a stroke in 1940 and a nervous break down July 9, 1942. I have been helpless, unconscious, speechless, and blind in both eyes. People sat up with me for two weeks. Many thought that I would have been gone into eternity a long time ago. I have suffered so much during the last nine months. I am past 76 years of age. The good Lord, my wife, the saints, and my sinner friends both far and near have taken good care of me. So much was said to me and about me, but I have never got discouraged. I thank the Lord I am keeping saved. We thank you very much for what you have done for me. Old Satan does not seem to want to turn me loose, but I believe that your faithful prayers can and will make him break his hold.

Yours in Him,

L. L. Jackson.

o-o-o-o-o-o

Lynwood, Calif.—Dear saints in Jesus' name, I can say I am still one of God's children, saved and sanctified and healed. I wrote last summer about the Lord healing me of the high blood pressure and opening up my ears when I was getting so hard of hearing, and praise the dear Lord, I am still healed and growing stronger in the Lord every day. Oh, I cannot find words to express that love and joy in my soul. I have been healed of awful stomach trouble. I can eat anything I want to without any bad effects. I do not know how many other things we have been healed of. When my three girls were little I trusted them in the hands of God with all their afflictions. The Lord never did fail us. They have been healed of serious things. Now they are married and still have faith in God, but they are not saved. Pray for them that they will be saved before it is too late. Also, my oldest son isn't saved. I just have one boy that is saved. Ruby is with us now. She has had some very bad heart attacks but God has always brought her through. I know God is going to make her well. We have a good time praying together, gaining the victory over the devil. The saints here are praying earnestly for her, also others are praying. God will not turn one of those prayers down. I certainly have confidence in all of God's children. I also have my little grandson with me and he is afflicted. So please remember him. He also has faith. I know some of God's children are going through some hard trials in these awful war times, but it has come to me many times that God will truly make a way for every one of his dear children who has trusted Him so faithfully, and that He is going to keep His publishing work going.

May God bless everyone is my prayer day and night.
Your saved sister,

Mrs. A. Doolittle.

o-o-o-o-o-o

New York City, N. Y.—Dear Bro. Pruitt, Greetings to you and all the saints of God in Jesus' name. Today finds me still saved and pressing forward in Christ,

praise His matchless name! Despite trials and temptations, I am still on the winning side after twenty-five years and the tests have served to strengthen me. Truly the "Faith and Victory" paper is God's way of keeping His scattered children in touch with each other and comforted. He knows our every need and will supply it as He says in His word, whereof I am a witness as are all His children.

By His grace let us live so that when He comes to make up "His Jewels" we will be in that number. No longer scattered, but at home with Jesus, forever more. Precious thought!

Bible prophecy is being fulfilled before our very eyes today, by which we know time is short and we are living in the last day. Christ is coming soon!

Pray for me and my sons that we measure up to God's word and that He will find us faultless in that day.

I feel led to send a small donation for the free tract fund. I also need some more tracts for distribution to the unsaved. This city is very wicked and needs the gospel badly. I think the Lord would have the church of God open a meeting place here in New York. The need is appalling. Pray about the matter. I know God will open up a way.

Ella Hemphill

o-o-o-o-o-o

Huntington, W. Va.—Greetings in the name of Jesus, I take the "Faith and Victory" paper and surely enjoy reading every page of it.

I want you dear saints to pray for me and also my companion. My husband takes the Lord as his healer. He doesn't believe in doctors. The Lord healed him of a stomach trouble he had had for years. He has something wrong with one of his sides. After he eats, gas goes up in that side and smothers him. I really believe if you precious saints will pray with me and him that God will completely heal him. I want you all to really pray that God will bring him out of this. I am feeling lots better, but how I love to have God's people praying for me. God bless your work, I pray.

Your sister in Christ,

Mrs. L. C. Stewart

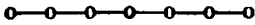
o-o-o-o-o-o

Farmland, Ind.—Bro. Fred Pruitt: In these trying days I enjoy your paper very much and am sending four names for subscriptions. I am living on extended time. Fourteen years ago the first of December, the doctor gave me up on Friday. All day Saturday and Saturday night I was nearer dead than alive. On Sunday the Lord showed me what to do and whom to send for to anoint me and pray for me. I obeyed the Lord. On Sunday evening they came and anointed me with oil and prayed for me. The Lord rebuked the death rattle in my throat and rebuked the fever and healed me quicker than you could bat your eye. I had the flu and bronchial pneumonia. Since then I have been healed other times. When I would go different places and tell what the Lord had done for me the old devil would fasten some other affliction upon me, but when I would pray and trust the Lord He would heal me. So I have been raised from a death-bed three times in seven years, twice when the death rattle was in my throat and had been for hours. I had been afflicted with hay fever and asthma for thirty years when I was healed the first time. When I had the next attack of asthma I was anointed and prayed for, and the Lord healed that dreadful affliction, Praise His dear name.

When the man who was born blind was healed by Jesus told how he had been healed, they cast him out of the synagogue, and didn't want to have anything to do with him. Well, I know how he felt and I am just like him. He would rather have his eyesight and know the

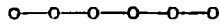
Lord than to have their church amity; and I would rather have good health and know my sins are forgiven and buried in the sea of forgetfulness and have the fellowship of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit than to have all of the church amity there is. I have been to a number of churches and testified to the glory of God and they just didn't like it. But Jesus said, "Ye are my witnesses." He healed the man born blind for a witness to the glory and power of God. When I write or testify about the power of the Lord His power comes upon me until I can hardly write. I am almost fifty-six years old and can see the prophecies of God being fulfilled every day. Brother, time is slipping away. The day of the Lord's coming is drawing closer and closer. Be true to the last and God bless you.

Your brother, Floy E. Woodring.



Doylestown, Pa.—My dear Sister Pruitt and all, Greetings in the ever blessed name of Jesus. Bro. James said, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." This is the scripture impressed on my mind this evening. I'm thankful for it and it is one full of meaning. How people snub at the thought of wanting to be so good, even claiming perfection, but it is not our own goodness, bless God, for we are only poor miserable worms of the dust until Jesus comes into our heart. For He is like a refiners fire and like a fullers' soap; a refiner and purifier of silver (Mal. 3:2, 3). Praise the Lord for Jesus. He is that purifier. The blood that cleanses from all sin will never lose its power. I am trusting in Him and mean by His help and grace to follow on all the way, only to know Him better and I have a longing to make my Saviour known to others.

Dear sister, I enjoyed your letter and may the dear Lord bless you and yours, and give grace and wisdom in your labors for Him. The joy of the Lord be your strength each day. Sister Julia Cramer.



Henderson, Ky.—Dear friends in Christ, Greetings in Jesus' dear name! I received the tracts and also the paper "Faith and Victory," which I thank you very much for. I have been wanting some good papers to read. I don't believe I could have found any that suited me better.

I am one of God's children. I desire the prayers of all of God's children that I might walk faithfully before him and be a light to lead many to Him.

I desire your prayers for my husband who is in the army. He has been for four months the first of April. He has been saved since he went to the army. I truly give God all the praise. I thank God because it is His mercy and not our works.

I too thank God that we can have close communion with him in our daily lives. I have a great determination to follow him, for I can see nothing in this sin-cursed world to go back to. Like Peter said to Jesus when some of his disciples were departing from him, in John 6:68, "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life." I find this very true in my life today. I have no other desire only to serve Him.

I very much enjoyed reading the testimonies in the paper "Faith and Victory." They encouraged me so much I read them all before I stopped.

I thank God because prayer changes things. Remember my unsaved Dad and brother when you pray.

Your sister in Jesus' name, Mrs. Della Emery

Los Angeles, Calif.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt, and workers and saints at that place, I send greetings in the name of Jesus. I am glad to report victory in my soul. By His grace and through His mercy, I am determined to run the race and win the prize and see my blessed Lord and Saviour face to face. We remember with love our brothers and sisters scattered through-out the land. Our needs and afflictions are many but God has promised to deliver us out of them all. His promises are true, His word immutable. We know our dependence is in God, but God also has a right to depend on us. He could depend on Job, and cited Satan to the fact that Job could be depended on; that he was true to God and loved Him. My highest thought in this life is to be true to God and to please his dear heart of love. I had a vision many years ago of coming into His presence. I was unsaved at the time and I could see the pained expression upon His dear face as He told me to pass on by to the left. Such anguish as filled my heart I cannot express in mere words, but I am so glad he helped me to find him and caused me to make the wise decision which I have never yet had cause to regret. So many people cling to their earthly loved ones and the pleasures of this time world, not realizing how fleeting they are. But not so with God's love; it is lasting and filled with joy, peace, and comfort. Earthly loved ones will disappoint us and fail us, but God never fails us. We may fail Him but He is eternally true. I would love to reach out and gather in precious souls for God. I have my face and heart set like a flint for the eternal prize in Christ Jesus. Let us not faint by the way or be weary in well doing. Let us not lose sight of how we can really minister unto Christ. Read Matt. 25:40. No doubt, most all the world would be glad to do something for Christ personally, but no time to do aught for their fellow man. People can easily be selfish, but it takes time and effort to live for God.

I want to ask all the saints to pray for our young people, not only our immediate group, but for those all over the land. We are putting forth every effort to gather together and hold our young people for God. The church here at Los Angeles has set aside Monday of each week to fast and pray, so will all who feel led enter into our agreement in prayer for the sick and needy and troubled, either in body or mind? There are so many serious cases to pray for and when we pray for our own, we always include you and yours. God says, "If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done." John 15:7. But, oh, we must abide in Him and His word abide in us (in obedience) then God must, to be true to Himself, hear and answer our prayers. A woman once prayed for God to bring her husband home sober. God answered her prayer but to do it he had to bring him home dead (killed in an accident). God always answers; sometimes he answers in a different way than we ask or are expecting, but he answers. Sometimes he has to say "no" but he answers just the same; sometimes his answer is delayed, but not denied. I do thank the dear Lord for his saints. They are the best people on earth. We are so glad we are blest with our eyesight so that we can look on their dear faces and mingle our prayers and testimonies together and encourage one another to press on and fight the good fight of faith. If it pleases the dear Lord, we plan to be out there in some of the camp meetings this summer, provided traveling is permitted at all. We will be so glad to see the dear saints gathering in from different points of the states.

With Christian love,

—Georgia V. Morton.

Young People's Section

BEHOLD THE LAMB

Behold the Lamb, the Son of God,
Hanging on the tree.
He became a curse in our stead,
And died for you and me.

The blood ran down his tender brow,
Flowed from his hands and feet;
He agonized upon the cross,
Our salvation to complete.

Father, forgive them; My God, my God!
Upon the cross he cried:
And while the Romans stood around,
He languished there, and died.

Ere long they pierced his holy side;
The blood flowed full and free:
The cleansing fount was opened wide
That we might ransomed be.

They took his body from the cross—
Israel's rejected King—
And placed it in a new-made tomb
Where never man had lain.

The third day I shall rise again,
The Jews had heard Him say.
The tomb was sealed, a watch was set
To guard it night and day.

In early morn, what do we see
About the break of day?
A shining one from heaven came
And rolled the stone away.

Triumphantly the Savior rose
And came forth from the grave.
The Resurrection and the Life—
His power alone can save!

—Ulysses Phillips

Editorials

"In God We Trust"—True or False

There are many special blessings attending those who have learned the secret of fully trusting the Lord. This is especially true in these trying times when economic and political conditions are rapidly changing the world over, and confidence and trust cannot be placed in man or any material thing. Even the spiritual powers are being shaken, but David declares, "I have trusted also in the Lord; therefore I shall not slide." Psa. 26:1,

There is every reason to trust God in everything. His promises are great, His Word is unfailing, He cannot lie and He is able to perform that which He has promised. The Apostle Peter says to "cast all your care upon Him, for he careth for you." 1 Pet. 5:7.

Those who trust the Lord enjoy perfect peace (Isa. 26:3) and receive the desires of their hearts (Psa. 37:3-6). They fear no evil though they walk through the valley of the shadow of death. Psa. 23. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Prov. 3:5, 6.

Anxiety, worry, and being fretful or hysterical when tribulations and hardships confront us show a distrust in God, and He must feel dishonored when, by our actions, we question His power and willingness to help us. Let us trust and not be afraid.

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Bro. Hyrum Ray has been recently transferred from the C. P. S. Camp at Downey, Idaho, to work in the state hospital at Ypsilanti, Michigan. Before taking up his new duties, he had a few days furlough. On March 30, he arrived here at Guthrie for a short visit with his wife, Sister Geneva Ray, and the saints, then went on to Tennessee to visit his folks, and from there to Ypsilanti, Michigan. Sister Ray has remained here in the office work.

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Bro. Paul Wyatt of the U. S. medical corp returned to Guthrie on a five-day furlough to visit his wife, Sister Ozell Wyatt, and the saints. He was thankful to meet with the congregation again after an absence of four months. He is stationed at Clinton, Iowa.

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Word received from Clifford Wilson and Roy Jennings of the Guthrie congregation who were sent to the C. P. S. Camp at Fort Collins, Colo., indicates that they are keeping the victory and the Lord is blessing them abundantly. Clifford Wilson has been assigned to work with a surveying crew near Burlington, Colo., which is quite a distance from the main camp.

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We pray the Lord to bless these young men who are called to leave their homes and families, and may it redound to the glory of God in the carrying of the light of the gospel to darkened corners of the earth. The Apostle Paul says, "And we know that ALL things work together for GOOD to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose," Rom, 8:28,

—L. D. P.

Loranger, La.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and Saints everywhere, Greetings in Jesus' name. I thank the Lord that I am saved. I have been living for the Lord almost all my life. I mean to go on till the crown is won. I am nine years old. I want all to pray for me that I will be true till the end of the way. Howell B. Joiner



A Testimony For God

During a week meeting of October 14th, 1942, the Lord witnessed to Mother and me that He had touched my body and healed me of epilepsy. Praise His dear name. He set this body free from a nervous disorder in which I suffered for over seven years, to live and serve Him. I cleansed out all nerve medicine which I had been taking for the past seven years and stood on the witness from heaven that the work was done. Praise the Lord for victory in my soul and body today, April 8, 1943. It is true I have had some tests from Satan the last few months, but it has all been good for me. It taught me many things concerning my spiritual growth of life. When God promises you something, dear ones, stand on His word and he will bring it to pass. He has never broken a single promise to one of His believing children. It is truly wonderful what God can do for us if we just let go and let God have his way in our life.

Dear ones, it takes one eternal YES to God's way, and a giving up of self and all we have to God, making an unconditional surrender to God for time and eternity. And nothing else will do for us to make heaven our home and to serve him in spirit and in truth.

This testing was for my good and for God's glory. It has paid abundantly in my life. First of all, I took God's word that the work was done and by faith in his promise I began to resist Satan in every way. He tried to destroy faith. By reading my Bible, going to God in prayer, bringing my life into harmony with its teachings and principles of Christ, living this Christian life in my home and doings, saying to Satan, "Get thee behind me," when he attacked, my faith was strengthened. It established my soul and heart in truth, rooted and grounded me in truth and God's love. I have learned to stand on God's word whatsoever the feelings may be. It is the word of God that will judge us at the last day and not feelings. I want my life to be in harmony with it. I have yielded myself, died out to the things of the world, to sin and self and have all on the altar for God. May the Holy Spirit of promise ever be sealed in my life to lead and rule me in everything so I can live and work for Jesus, is my prayer, that the world may see Jesus in my daily walk of life. That is the only way we can convince the world and ones we come in contact with of true Christianity. Let our life so tell the story for God's glory that the world may see and believe in Christ and be saved. Charles Miller.

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Church Organization And Government

Who is the organizer or builder of the church? Answer: Jesus. Matt. 16:18. Notice: Jesus said He would build his church, so that would make him the head of his church. Eph. 1:20-23, "Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come; and

hath put all things under his feet [notice, hath; not going to, but has done so already] and gave him to be the head over all things to the church. Members are the first essential of an organization. Does the church that Jesus built have members? Yes. Listen to what Paul says in 1 Cor. 12:27, "Now [present time] ye [his people] are the body of Christ, and members in particular."

Does His church have officers? Yes. Eph. 4:11. Notice "He" (Christ, not the presbyter, but Christ) "gave some apostles, and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers.

Who sets the members in the church? Christ. 1 Cor. 12:18, "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body as it hath pleased him." Man has nothing to do with placing the members in the body, the church, only God can do this.

Christ gave the officers their respective places. 1 Cor. 12:28, "God hath set some in the church, first apostles; secondarily, prophets; thirdly, teachers; after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments, diversities of tongues" (different languages). Acts 20:28, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers [not man but the Holy Ghost] to feed the church of God [not kill, but feed] which he hath purchased with his own blood."

What are some of the titles of the officers of the church? First, Elder, which means a minister of the word, 1 Pet. 5:1-3. Notice second verse, "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind." Third verse, "Neither as being Lords [bosses] over God's heritage but being ensamples to the flock."

Another officer of the church is called a Bishop, or a minister or elder. 1 Tim. 3:1-7, "This is a true saying if a man desire the office of a bishop he desireth a good work. A bishop must be blameless, the husband of one wife [not a polygamist] vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach, not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre [not giving up one congregation to take charge of another where he can get more money.] but patient, not a brawler [contentious], not covetous, one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity [one who properly presides over and governs his own house or family] For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?" Notice Titus 1:6 concerning elders: "He must be blameless the husband of one wife (not a polygamist) and he must have faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. He must not be self-willed (setting up his own self righteous judgment. Such an elder or preacher cannot do much good in the church of God, but much harm, which has been done by some.)

He must also be one who studies the word so that he can rightly divide it and apply it in the right place. 2 Tim. 2:15.

ALL of these qualifications are for the elder or preacher, and he is not to make a hobby of any one of these and ignore the rest or just pass them by lightly. Not one of them is more binding than the others, so let us be sure we are measuring up to all of them before we try to bind them on others.

1 Tim. 3:8-12 will apply to the minister as well as the deacon. "Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued [speaking one thing to one person and another thing to another person on the same subject] holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience, and let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon being found blameless. Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things." "Let the deacons be the husband of one wife ruling their children and their own houses well." Verse 7, "Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without, lest he fall in reproach, and the snare of the devil." He or she must have a good report or record with the unconverted as well as with the saints. What applies to the elder or preacher applies also to the deacon. May the Lord bless all who may read this and draw each one closer to Himself, is our prayer. —U. G. Nave.

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SECTARIANISM IS SIN

Many know full well what the scriptures say about divisions in the church; others will be glad to learn. Christ, before leaving this world, looked forward to the future welfare of all believers. He knew the fierce temptations that would beset them on every hand. Uppermost in his mind seemed to be the dangers of division. Consequently he prayed fervently that his followers might be "one." In his longest recorded prayer (John 17) he pleads over and over again that his people whom the Father has given him might be one in him even as he and the Father are one. This is the very closest union possible, —a oneness that does not now exist among Christians, nor has it existed for centuries. Many errors have crept into the Church in the past, but none more subtle and weakening than this of divisions. The church early left its first love (Rev. 2:4), and has suffered in consequence. Some say, "We are now one in spirit and nothing more is required of us." This statement is far from the truth. We are not one in spirit. Others say, "What difference does it make if we are divided, we are all headed for the same place." Yes! but what place? The place of judgment for sins? The church, or any part of it, cannot pursue a course of its own choosing, decidedly hostile to the expressed wish of Christ and in any sense of the term be loyal to him. It is utterly impossible to be one with him

and the Father while contentious factions remain. It is not a difficult matter to see that some great disaster has befallen the church. It has lost its pre-eminence, its royal magnificence, its princely power. It is not functioning properly. It is weak and sickly, whereas it should be strong and aggressive. It does not possess energy sufficiently robust to carry out its mission of world evangelization. It is no longer capable of mastering its own internal troubles, much less has it power to conquer when onsets come from without, as from state or nation. It should be overflowing with strength and efficiency, as in its virgin days.

Paul Speaks

Sectarianism made its appearance in the earliest church age. Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, fought it down as a thing of evil (see 1 Cor. 1:10-13; 3:1-7). Divisions were rapidly springing up among the Corinthian Christians. Paul knew the divine One could not sanction sectarianism. It must be given up at once. It was an innovation of evil that was playing havoc with the church. Under its baneful influence the followers of Christ were being made "worldly" and "unscriptural;" then, too, they remained "mere babes" in Christ, when they should have been growing into stalwart Christians. The standard of life to be attained was much higher and finer than these Corinthians had as yet comprehended. It could never be reached through contentious factions. Christ wanted all to see that the church, this new body of believers, was of divine origin, and that in and through it, the divine One was manifesting himself to the world. Only by united action, and the unique behaviour of Christians could this testimony be given. Divisions, then as now, not only destroyed this evidence, but made weaklings of its supporters. Under such conditions, the Church was destined to lose its power and glory —facts very evident today.

In summing up the "works of the flesh," Paul in Galatians 5:19-21 places divisions and sects in the midst of a list of shameful sins, and says that those who practice such sins cannot inherit the kingdom of God. The Greek text here makes the meaning of this passage so very plain that there is no need of mistakes or confusion; Paul means sectarianism as we have it today. One cannot help but wonder how God's people can be so wrapped up in sectarianism, when the Word presents it as sin. We seem to have always been slow to rightly value God's ways for us; Satan blinds us and defeats us if possible.

Its Nature

That sectarianism is the work of the Evil One, can readily be seen by the fruit of this tree has borne throughout its long history. Wherever sectarianism is stressed, it engenders malice, and envy, and hatred, and strife, and jealousy. This is plain-

ly the fruit of an evil tree. In God's sight, there is but one destiny for such a tree; it will be cut down and cast into the fire (Matt. 7:19). Consequently, it is worse than folly to cling to it, whitewash it over, prop it up in any way, or leave it alone to reproduce its kind. Since the most obstinate and difficult situations can be changed, why drift along in the face of defeat and utter failure? "The prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; the simple pass on, and are punished." Prov. 22:3.

Where Failure Begins

Whence then the disturbing cause? If the case of the Church is properly diagnosed, it will be discovered that the divine One is not dwelling in, nor is he leading man-made or man-controlled organizations. Consequently the glaring inefficiency of the church is ever manifest. Nothing ever has stood, nor can it stand in the way of a people divinely indwelt and led.

Many earnest Christians in the past, seeing the folly, failure and sin of sectarianism, have heard and heeded God's call to give it up.

Some of these from time to time have attempted to "restore," "rebuild" or "recreate" the original church, but to no avail. They usually proceed to establish this new organization by selecting an attractive name for the church. They also choose one or two doctrines, the interpretation of which they think needs special emphasis. In practically all of their assemblies and in their personal conversations they recite over and over again this new church name and the doctrines they have chosen. This kind of religious activity never produces loveable Christian character in its adherents, but does make of many of its advocates religious bigots. They know that a reform is necessary but they overlook the vital fact that the early church was an organism, not a man-made organization. Christ was its life, its power of growth, its sole defense.

No one but the Lord Jesus Christ can build His church. He said, "I will build my church." Then again it is written that He kept adding to the church daily those that were being saved. (See Acts 2:47—late translations). God's purpose in this world of sin was to make one harmonious body out of people from all nations and in this way show in the ages to come the amazing achievements of his grace to sinners in this age (Eph. 1st and 2nd chapters). Only the divine One can do this.

When God's people take it upon themselves to build up contentious factions and call them churches they are fighting against God and will fail; for all mere human efforts to build his church, however beautiful, emotional, or instructive the program may be, when weighed in the balance of divine efficiency, are sure to be found "wanting."

The manifold divisions among God's people, the

lack of friendly cooperation of these various parts, the hostile, contentious, bigoted spirit on the part of many of the leaders in these sects, the riding of religious hobbies by others and the pronounced worldliness of many professed Christians; all combine to confuse the hearts and minds of those to whom the gospel is preached, both at home and abroad, and thus make tremendous barriers over which the River of Salvation scarcely flows.

Self Centered

Many devout Christians today are as busy as were the religious people in Christ's time. Then they compassed land and sea to make converts to their faith and practice. Their zeal was commendable, but the purpose for which they did the work was not right, and did not meet with Heaven's approval. Their outward show of devotion to God appeared perfect, but Christ called them "hypocrites," "whitened sepulchres," "blind leaders of the blind" (Matt. 23). The real object of their work was to gain adherents to their sect. The same can be said of many workers now. The welfare of their denomination has their chief consideration. It must be hurried to first place, made popular if it is not a leader, or kept in first place if it is leader. Missionaries must be sent into new fields in order to occupy them before their competitors arrive. Many plans are made and much money expended to outstrip their rivals—"enemies" might be the word to use here.

Their treasures—time, work, money,—are all laid up in their denomination. Their hearts are where their treasures are. Many really think more of their pet denomination than they do of Christ. They do not seek Christ as Lord and Master of their lives, but as a mere assistant to further their denominational interests.

It does not seem strange that new converts, having given but little attention to religious matters, can be decoyed by their leaders into giving their lives to man-made churches; but it does seem very strange indeed, that religious leaders who, knowing Christ's revealed will for a united church, can be perfectly content to play their denominational fiddles while Rome burns,—I mean while countless thousands perish for want of harmonious Christian testimony to the one gospel message that can be used of God to regenerate human lives and qualify them for divine companionship.

Sectarianism not only dishonors God and His Word, but robs its adherents of many eternal rewards.

Sectarianism is the work of Satan to defeat God's purpose for his people.

Sectarianism is sin and should be given up by Christians, never cherished, supported, palliated or condoned.

—George W. Gibbens

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— NOTICE CHANGE —

At the beginning of the next quarter, July, August, and September, 1943 Sister Dorothy Byers will order your Sunday School supplies instead of Geneva Ray.

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 Dorothy Byers, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla.

CHRIST'S CHARGE TO PETER

Sunday, May 2, 1943

Daily Readings and Meditations

April 26 to May 1.

- M. Love in action John 21:15-24.
 T. The Good Shepherd Psalm 80:1-3.
 W. Jesus and the children Mark 10:13-16.
 T. "Give ye them to eat." Luke 9:12-17.
 F. The child and the kingdom Matt. 18:1-6.
 S. Feeding the church Acts 20:28-35.
 Printed Portion John 21:15-24.

John 21:15. So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto Him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

16. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

17. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

18. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.

19. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

20. Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?

21. Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?

22. Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.

23. Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?

24. This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true.

Golden Text: "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13.

Practical Truth: Love is the master motive which prompts men to self-sacrificing deeds.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

It was an uncertain time for the disciples. Jesus had risen and appeared to them, but he no longer continually walked with them to guide and instruct them.

What were they to do? Peter probably felt more restless and uncertain than the others, because of his recent denial. His faith in the Lord had not failed, but probably his mind was filled with uncertainties about how the Lord regarded him. Was he still a disciple or a cast-away? The old fishing boat and net served to relieve the tension, and when he suggested it for himself, the others followed. It was a night of fruitless toil, but the Lord was watching. Can you understand why He permitted them to toil all night without coming to their rescue? I'm sure you can. Then does this help you to understand why He'll sometimes wait a long time before He comes to your rescue in troublesome times? Then followed the miracle, "the draught of fishes," and the discovery that the Lord was there. After they ate breakfast, the Lord addressed Peter:

"Simon, son of Jonas" was the name Peter was known by in his common fisher days, not the name that the Lord had given him. Can you see an appeal or any significance in the Lord addressing him in such a manner? Peter had thrice denied that he was a disciple of the Lord at his trial before his crucifixion and now he had returned to his fishing. Now a choice must be made: Either fall back into his old method of living with the old name and old occupation, or give them up and be willing to suffer shame for the Lord and become Peter (Cephas, a rock) in the Master's occupation.

The once bold Peter who had declared that he would stand by the Lord though all others should fail him, now realized his frailty and meekly invited the Lord to read his heart: "Thou knowest that I love thee." It had been a sad experience which caused the knowledge to be stamped on his heart that the Lord knew all things in his heart.

Peter's three-fold confession that he loved the Lord was required because he had denied Him that many times, and was followed by the three-fold charge to work for Him—"Feed my lambs," "Feed my sheep," meaning that Peter should care for God's children as a shepherd cares for his sheep. Feed them on the word of God, and watch over them to keep wolves (false teachers) from scattering and devouring them. This commission remained stamped in Peter's mind for in his epistle written in later years we find such expressions as: "Ye were as sheep" "Feed the flock of God . . . being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory which fadeth not away." Peter proved his love by years of toil and even went to prison and death for Him. True love causes action. The test of our love is faithfulness in performing the duties that the Lord lays upon us. Many, like Peter, look at others and wonder what the Lord wants them to do, and wait for them to move first. In so doing they fail the Lord themselves. "Lord what wilt thou have ME to do?"

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PETER AND JOHN LEADERS
IN THE EARLY CHURCH

Sunday, May 9, 1943

Daily Readings and Meditations

May 3 to 8

- M. Peter wins converts Acts 2:37-41.
 T. At the beautiful gate Acts 3:1-10.
 W. Boldness before officials Acts 4:13-21.
 T. Peter's healing ministry Acts 5:12-16.
 F. Peter and John praying Acts 8:14-17.
 S. Peter and Dorcas Acts 9:32-41.
 Printed Portion Acts 2:37-41; 3:1-8; 4:13, 18-21.
 Acts 2:37. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the

rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?
38. Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

40. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, save yourselves from this untoward generation.

41. Then they that gladly received His word were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

3:1. Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

2. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

3. Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

4. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

5. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

6. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

7. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ancle bones received strength.

8. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

4:13. Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

18. And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

19. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

20. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

21. So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.

Golden Text: "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." Acts 4:13

Practical Truth: The help of the Holy Spirit is necessary to effective witnessing.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

On the day of Pentecost after they had received the Holy Ghost, Peter and John took their places as leaders in Christ's church. The Holy Ghost was the real leader, but He worked through the apostles. Under the anointing of the Holy Ghost, Peter preached the sermon which brought great conviction to the listeners.

When one comes to the knowledge that he is a sinner and has wronged God, if he is honest and cares for his soul, he will begin to enquire, "What shall I do?"

Repent. What does this mean? Think of some examples of people who have repented. What actions proved that it was genuine repentance?

Be baptized. This means water baptism. If it had meant the baptism of the Holy Ghost, the last part of the verse would not have been added. Water baptism symbolizes a death burial and resurrection. The one who is baptized testifies to the world that he is dead to sin and has risen to walk in newness of life.

Receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. This is God's most precious gift to obedient believers. Do not reject Him. We usually value a gift because of the love we have for the giver, and because of the benefits we derive from the gift. Surely we ought to love the Giver enough to value His gift very highly. Limited space will not permit the enumeration of benefits derived from this gift. Perhaps you would enjoy making a list of them. This gift was not for the early church alone. Read verse thirty-nine carefully.

Peter and John went about doing the Master's business. This included going to the place of prayer. If they had let the cares of life crowd in and neglected prayer that day the Lord could not have used them in performing this miracle. Could this be the reason more miracles are not performed today? God has greater blessings for needy mankind than silver and gold.

Peter and John had not received rabbinical training; their authority to teach did not come from man. The rulers of the Jews had been confounded and put to silence by the bold teachings of Jesus, and now they could recognize the same kind of teaching coming from these unlearned and ignorant men. It is our privilege today to live in touch with the Lord so others will know that we have been with Him.

Christians should have the boldness to say no to man and yes to God when it is needful to keep their integrity with God.

The Pharisees disagreed with the Sadducees about the resurrection of the dead, but the arguments of the Pharisees did not seem to disturb them much. But when the disciples "preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead"—that which they had seen and heard—the Sadducees were troubled. Religious arguments avail nothing, but when one gives a definite testimony concerning that which God through His mercy and power has done for him, it will have weight.

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PETER AND JOHN PREACH TO SAMARITANS

Sunday, May 16, 1943

Daily Readings and Meditations

May 10 to 15

M. Preaching to the Samaritans Acts 8:4-13.

T. The gift of God Acts 8:14-25.

W. One flock, one shepherd John 10:7-18.

T. Philip interprets Scripture Acts 8:26-38.

F. Lord of all Romans 10:11-18.

S. The Good Samaritan Luke 10:30-37.

Printed Portion Acts 8:14-25.

Acts 8:14. Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

15. Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

16. (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

17. Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

18. And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

19. Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost;

20. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

21. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

22. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

23. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

24. Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of those things which ye have spoken come upon me.

25. And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

Golden Text: "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." John 4:35.

Practical Truth: The gospel is of equal worth to people of every race.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Philip, a deacon, but not one of the twelve apostles, went to Samaria and preached when the persecution at Jerusalem scattered the church. The Samaritans practiced the Law to some extent and were looking for the Messiah to come as well as the Jews, but the Jews regarded them as an inferior race of people because they had mixed with the Gentiles, and they had no dealings with them. The love of God will break down race prejudice. Philip had a large audience of people who listened attentively because God worked many miracles through him. They had been deceived by a false teacher, but Philip did not take the time to expose Simon who had so long bewitched them. He had a greater message. He "preached Christ," and soon the sorcerer with his works was exposed without any hostile action on the part of Philip.

The apostles at Jerusalem heard about the revival at Samaria and sent Peter and John to help Philip. There were no "rulers" among the apostles, but they under the direction of the Holy Spirit, chose these two men for the mission. Peter and John were both leaders, or pillars in the church, but Peter was no Pope or dictator.

Those who had received forgiveness of sins were ready for the gift of the Holy Ghost. This they received when the apostles lay hands on them. Often the Holy Ghost has been given in this manner, but this is not a rule.

Simon the sorcerer had lost his influence among the people because what they received from the Lord was far superior to what he had to offer. Doubtless he felt if he could have this power, he could regain his popularity. He seemed to regard Peter and John as supermagicians who were able to bestow supernatural gifts at will. Heaven's gifts can never be purchased with money. Many times babes in Christ (and older ones too) make mistakes because of their lack of understanding; but Simon's sin could not be attributed to lack of understanding alone. His heart was not right for it was set on earthly things rather than heavenly; it thirsted for temporal power and his own fame rather than eternal life and God's glory. His sin could have been forgiven or Peter would not have advised him to repent. It would have been all right for Peter to pray for him if he had repented and met proper conditions of faith, but we have no record that he did. There is a price for each one to pay to obtain salvation. Ministers cannot pray anyone into heaven if he holds to his corrupt heart. They can pray for a soul to be convicted and awakened to his need, but they cannot repent for one.

BIBLE TEACHINGS ON WINE'S DECEITFULNESS

Sunday, May 23, 1943

Daily Readings and Meditations

May 17 to 22

- M. Wine is a mocker Prov. 20:1.
- T. Moral and physical perversion Prov. 23:29-35.
- W. Drink and destruction Matt. 24:45-51.
- T. Woes of the drinker Isa. 5:18-23.
- F. Drink and disaster Isa. 28:1-8.
- S. A total abstainer Luke 1:13-17.

Printed PortionProv. 20:1; 23:29-35; Matt. 24:45-51.

Prov. 20:1. Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

23:29. Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?

30. They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

31. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.

32. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

33. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

34. Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.

35. They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.

Matt. 24:45-51. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

43. Blessed is that servant whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

47. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

48. But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;

49. And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

50. The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of.

51. And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Golden Text: "At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder." Proverbs 23:32.

Practical Truth: Both the Bible and modern science teach that alcohol is a deceiver.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The two words, "strong drink" here mean any intoxicating drink. The title of our lesson leads us to comment on its deceptiveness. Its deceptive nature makes it a good tool in the hands of deceitful brewers greedy of filthy lucre. It sparkles in the cup, it has a pleasant taste (to many), and is a temporary stimulant, causing many to think they have a great increase of strength when under its influence. Those who now are slaves to it had no intentions of following it to the dirty saloon, the ditch, the prison, the insane asylum and the grave: but they were trapped by its deceitfulness as a mouse is caught in a baited trap. A few years ago this little fable appeared in text books. Notice how fittingly it can be changed.

"Once a trap was baited with a piece of cheese. It tickled so a little mouse it almost made him sneeze. The old rat said, "There's danger. Be careful where you go."

"Nonsense," said the other, "I don't think you know." So stepping boldly, nobody in sight, First he took a nibble then he took a bite. Close the trap together, snap as quick as wink, Holding mousey fast there because he didn't think."

Once a drink was baited with some alcohol. It tempted so a foolish man it did his brain enthral. All wise men said, "There's danger. Touch not! 'Twill bring you woe!"

"Nonsense," said the other, "I don't think you know." So reaching boldly at leewards' delight, First he took a taste of it, then drank it every night. In vain he tried to quit it—"A mocker" then was drink. And he filled a drunkard's grave because he didn't think.

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PETER'S COUNSEL TO SCATTERED CHRISTIANS

Sunday, May 30, 1943

Daily Readings and Meditations

May 24 to 29.

M. Exhorting to good works 1 Peter 2:11-25.

T. The Christian's hope 1 Peter 1:3-9.

W. A changed life 1 Peter 1:13-23.

T. A greeting of love 2 Cor. 2:1-4.

F. James encourages Christians James 1:1-12.

S. Paul autographs a letter Gal. 6:1-11.

Printed Portion1 Peter 1:1; 2:11-25.

1 Pet. 1:1. Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.

1 Peter 2:11. Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

12. Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

13. Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

14. Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

15. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

16. As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

17. Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

18. Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.

19. For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

20. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently, but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

21. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

22. Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

23. Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

24. Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live un-

to righteousness, by whose stripes ye were healed.

25. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

Golden Text: "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king." 1 Pet. 2:17.

Practical Truth: It is a duty of every Christian to be a good citizen.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Peter wrote this epistle to scattered Christians. Though one lives in a place all of his life and is well acquainted with the people of the community, yet when he gets saved he becomes a stranger there. The world knows us not because it knew Christ not—a pilgrim and a stranger, in the world but not of the world. He is well known and a spectacle unto the world because he no longer follows along with the crowd; but unknown because of the spirit which he possesses. The instructions which Peter wrote to them under the anointing of the Holy Spirit are of untold value to Christians today who are surrounded with sin and who meet many perplexing problems of the day. As we comment on the lesson, let us apply it to ourselves. Gentiles in this dispensation are unsaved people.

"Abstain from fleshly lusts." The Christian's greatest difficulty is with himself, for the flesh clamours for attention. We know that it must have some attention in order to exist here, but the question is, where is the line to be drawn which shows the difference between fleshly needs and fleshly lusts. Fleshly lusts are listed in Gal. 5:19-21. "And such like" would include the fleshly lusts indulged in today that the people in Peter's day knew nothing about. And fleshly desire which when indulged in tends to weaken one spiritually and is not to the glory of God or in harmony with the natural laws of God would be a fleshly lust.

"Conversation" as used in verse 12 would include all conduct. It is in this respect that a Christian is well known by the Gentiles, for they are constantly watched, to see if they live up to their profession. The carnal mind is enmity against God and those who possess carnal minds are continually looking for flaws in God's people. Though they don't realize it, this is the enemy working through his children to kill the Christ child which has been born in a heart. If slandered Christians will keep their integrity with God and man, their slanderers will be put to silence. Notice the last part of our lesson how Christ set us an example along this line. He never did anything wrong and yet He was continually slandered. They called him a deceiver, said he cast out devils by the prince of devils, and many other hard things, but He took it patiently. If you suffer patiently for well-doing, it is acceptable or pleasing to God.

The early Christians lived under non-Christian governments, and there were no laws in favor of Christianity as there are today, and yet they were instructed to be subject to the existing government. Peter's answer when commanded not to teach in the name of Jesus proves that they were not required to submit to those in authority when their demands conflicted with God's will. God has ordained that there should be human governments for the punishment of evil-doers and His people are law-abiding citizens.

Honor all men as creatures of God with souls that need to be saved. People can never be won for Christ by those who hold them in contempt. All men would include all races of men. "Love the brotherhood"—the church or household of faith. Spiritual ties are stronger than fleshly ties. "Fear God." Fear to displease Him or wrong Him. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.