

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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The Triumphant King

To Pilate's hall they led our King,
The Savior of the World.
No stain of guilt upon him found,
Not e'en a sinful word.

But still the mob did onward press
For fear of his release.
Yes, "Crucify him," was their song,
They did not hold their peace.

And Pilate then delivered him
Unto the people there,
Away they led our blessed Lord,
No one his trials to share.

And up Golgotha's hill they went,
Yes, there to crucify
The One whose life was truly spent,
That sinful works might die.

Between two thieves the Savior hung,
Upon the cruel cross;
No one, a hymn of sorrow sung
For those who mourned their loss.

And when He there had cried aloud,
And given up the Ghost,
His spirit to his father went
As one of heaven's host.

Then Joseph did of Pilate beg,
The body of the Lord,
And in his own new tomb he laid
The Savior of the World.

The Pharisees were yet afraid
Lest far worse errors come,
Did beg for guards to watch the grave
Of God's beloved Son.

And Pilate at their bold request
Did give them this command,
"Yes, take your guards and go your way,
Make it sure as you can."

But, oh the power from above,
By man it doth surpass,
For when His time had fully come,
The grave held not him fast.

For lo, the angel of the Lord,
Descended, yes, from heav'n
And true according to the Word
Much pow'r to him was given.

For then, the stone he rolled away
And Jesus Christ arose
With power over all the world,
Yes, o'er his bitter foes. —Olive A. Phillips

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For What Are We Looking?

To all dear saints scattered over this war-torn world, greetings in Jesus. Do God's holy people realize what they are? Are we looking diligently seeing the things that are coming on the earth? The holy remnant is the salt of the earth. Their cries go up to God continually, knowing that eternity is looming in sight. The sleepy lethargy and spiritual laziness that the enemy is working in in many places is amazing. Oh saints, awake, stir yourselves! Heed the voice from heaven. Read Matt. 24:12, "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Surely there has never been so great a wave of iniquity sweeping over the entire earth as there is today. Only if we diligently obey God, walk in all the light of his Word, can we be kept from being swept away with it. Oh, keep our love burning for him above all things or we will fail. Read the 3rd chapter of 2 Peter. I will quote verses 11 and 12, "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness; looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens, being on fire, shall be dissolved and the elements shall melt with fervent heat." The holy people are the only ones who are seeing those things. The holy read the writing of their God; it is revealed to them by his Spirit. Then seeing those things, what manner of persons ought we be? The 14th verse tells us, "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace without spot and blameless." Every redeemed child of God is looking for these things, expecting them, and I am persuaded that God demands more diligence than ever before.

Saints, material things are drowning men in sin and perdition—no time to go to worship; I must see after my farm, my business, my job, even my chickens or rabbits, I'll go next time. Many come late with excuses such as, "I slept late," "I had a lot of chores," etc. Now read Jesus' words in

Mark 4:19, "And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful." The word of God will only bear fruit in us when it is unhindered; nothing else can come first, or we cannot bear fruit. If we fail to bear fruit, we are removed from the vine, hence-forth good for nothing, but to be gathered and burned. Read the first chapter of 2 Peter. Let us read it slowly and carefully, measuring ourselves to see if we have become entangled with any thing that keeps us from the abundant entrance, from the fulness of his love and power.

Dear saints, souls are at stake, my soul, your soul, the souls of our loved ones. Is our light shining? Can only Christ be seen in our life, our actions, our preaching in everything we do? Do we love him because he loved and saved us? Do we love not our lives unto death? Do we count ALL things as but dross that we may win Christ? That is exactly where we must be or we cannot be looking for these things that are surely coming on the earth. Also, there is where we must be in order to bear fruit for him and be used of him to bring souls to God.

My soul has been stirred for some time, seeing how the enemy is working to lead the few away. Do not forget that God's work comes first, or we are not his servants. Father nor mother, wife nor children, farm nor oxen, nor any other thing can come first. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." That means me, and that they SHALL be added to me. The Creator of all things, the owner and controller of all things has made us this promise, and it is backed up by all the powers of heaven and the world to come, the world for which we are looking, and we know it cannot fail.

Pray for me. I have no desire to do anything but to fulfill the calling whereunto He has called me, and shun not to declare the whole counsel of God. What if we suffer for Him? Our light afflictions are not to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed.

Your brother, redeemed by the blood and kept by the power of God, looking for those things, and pressing on by His grace, in His strength, to attain to his second resurrection, —Sam Wilson.

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Tea, Coffee, Tobacco, And Cola

My association with the saints goes back as far as I can remember. My father and mother were saved before I was born and naturally I had the teaching of the Evening Light Restoration from infancy. As the years went by it became my duty and privilege to look into things I had been taught and determine for myself what was right and what was wrong. I am glad to say that I found and still find that the saints who first began to preach "Come out of her, my people" had been given light on God's word that is still shining. There is no necessity of back-

ing up a teaching by saying that is tradition, or that the saints have always taught that way. What we teach today should be backed up by the Bible, by Truth, or sound logic.

I know the church of thirty-five years ago taught against the use of drugs of all kinds. It taught that God was to be our healer. It taught that we should not allow our bodies to become enslaved to any habit that would hurt or hinder us in our Christian life. "Whomsoever the Son maketh free is free indeed," was a truth that has not been eliminated from the Bible. It recognized the fact that alcohol, tea, coffee and tobacco contained drugs that had a binding influence on the users. They universally recognized the necessity of the saints being free from the use of them. The teaching against Coca-cola, while not so universal, was known. I remember hearing a minister tell of visiting brethren in their home locality and how surprised he was when he saw them open some Coca-cola. Many no longer see or teach against these things. Many who left them off for years have taken them up again. God gave this body appetite to cause it to reproduce itself, to feed itself, and to cause it to supply itself with the water it needs. These appetites are to be kept under the control of the Holy Spirit. Paul says, "I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection; lest that by any means when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." The devil desires to use the God-given appetites of the body to his ends, by perverting them. The appetite for alcohol is usually an acquired appetite. The appetite for tobacco is usually an acquired appetite. Coffee appeals to the sense of smell. Many learn to like tea or coffee or Coca-cola after the repeated trying of it. The first taste of beer is not pleasant to many people. The first use of tobacco is usually far from pleasant to the user. I personally remember with anguish my experience with a plug of "Star" tobacco. When these appetites are acquired they seem as real as any other appetite. But what does the Word say? "Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other." We are required to keep every appetite in subjection to the will of God. So we need to investigate and find whether an appetite is God-given or not. We are taught that our BODY is the present TEMPLE of the Holy Ghost. He that defileth his body then is to be destroyed. If this body has acquired an appetite for drugs it must be overcome to please God. The hunger that comes to this body from the lack of food may be supplied by one or more of many different foods. But the appetite for alcohol will only be satisfied by alcohol. The appetite for tobacco can only be supplied by nicotine for nicotine is the enslaving drug of tobacco. The confirmed coffee drinker wakes up wanting coffee, and that craving can not be satisfied by eating ham and eggs. No caffeine must be had. And the chances are you will have a headache all day or until you do get it. The confirmed cola drinker wants his drink many times a day. The caffeine in it calls for more caffeine.

The way to become a drunkard is to take a drink

All drunkards start with the first drink.' Abstinence is the way to keep free of habit forming drugs. Now, if this be true we should know if the things mentioned are habit forming. In other words do they contain appreciable amounts of drugs. Is their use injurious to the human body? Does God get glory out of us using them? "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." This injunction is still binding upon us today. There are very few who will uphold the use of alcohol for the Christian, but many will uphold the use of caffeine and nicotine. I am going to quote from the 14th edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, page 779, article "Purines"; Sub-head, Caffeine or Theine; "These two names are applied to a well known purine discovered in 1820 by Ferdinand Runge. Caffeine is found only in vegetable matter, occurring to the extent of 0.8-1.7% in coffee beans, 0.1-0.8% in cocoa beans, 1-2% in Kola nuts, 2-5% in tea leaves, . . . It is this purine, along with theobromine and theophylline, which gives the stimulating effects to drinks made from the above sources. Caffeine has the notable effect of stimulating the central nervous system. In addition it is a cardiac (heart) tonic, and, in common with nearly all purines, has a strong diuretic (In medicine: Exciting the secretion or discharge of urine, as a medicinal substance.) action. In the body it is oxidized to uric acid and excreted as such. There is a tendency among many practitioners to warn patients to do without tea and coffee. In certain cases there are undoubtedly very good reasons why caffeine is harmful. For example, in the case of a person suffering with gout, everything must be done to lower purine ingestion (purine taken into the system) and thus to lessen the load on the already overloaded kidneys." So says the Encyclopedia Britannica, world recognized authority. We find a trace in the cocoa bean, from one to eight times as much in coffee, still more in the kola nut and the most in tea. My hygiene class book in school taught me it was harmful to use tea, coffee, alcohol, nicotine, or other drugs. Some years back I wrote to one of the question and answer columns of the New Orleans Times Picayune asking for the formula of Coca-cola. It stated that in a law suit that company had been compelled to put their formula on record, and at that time the formula contained among other things: $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% alcohol, and 1 gr. caffeine. This year I wrote them at Atlanta, Ga. asking this question, "How does the caffeine content of a bottle of Coca-cola compare with the caffeine in a cup of coffee such as the average Southerner would make?" and this is their reply:

Dear Mr. Carver:

Replying to your letter of the 8th instant wish to say that a bottle or glass of Coca-Cola contains slightly more than one-half grain of caffeine which compares with an average of two grains in a cup of coffee.

Yours very truly, W. P. Heath.

In answer to the same question about R. C. Cola, the Nehi Corporation of Columbus, Ga., gives this answer:

Dear Mr. Carver:

Your letter of December 8, is appreciated and we al-

ways welcome inquiries with reference to any of our products.

Royal Crown Cola produced according to our standard for this beverage has a caffeine content which we would judge to be approximately one-half the quantity of caffeine which would be present in an average cup of coffee. Yours very truly, Nehi Corporation R. H. Kamm.

I believe these two companies are representative of the many colas on the market and I decided to leave all the cola drinks alone.

The syrup from which all the cola drinks are made has the kola nut as its base and the kola nut contains from 1 to 2% caffeine.

I would like to quote a noted authority of food and eating—Dr. R. L. Alsaker in his book, "Maintaining Health" from pages 222-223:

"Coffee is very hard on the nerves, causing irritation, which is always followed by premature physical degeneration. Coffee is not generally looked upon as one of the habit forming drugs, but it is. Tea drinking has much the same effect as coffee drinking, except that it is decidedly constipating. Perhaps this is because there is considerable of the astringent tannin in the tea leaves. Chocolate is a valuable food. Those who eat of other aliments in moderation may partake of chocolate without harm, but if chocolate is used to an excess of other food, the results are bad. The chocolate is so rich that it soon overburdens some of the organs of digestion, especially the liver." and on page 224: "A glass of beer or wine taken daily is no more harmful than a cup of coffee per day."

So while I believe in leaving off the beer or wine, I believe the earlier saints were right in teaching the leaving off of coffee, tea, and the like.

—C. C. Carver

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Greenfield, Mo.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt,—It has been a long time since I sent in my testimony. I can say this evening that I love the Lord with all my heart and my desire is to be what the Lord would have me to be, and to be a worker for him. Truly if the saints of God ever needed to pray and to get under the burden for lost souls and for our church and nation, it is now. I truly believe that the Lord is coming soon. The Bible is being fulfilled as fast as it can be. How sad it will be for so many people not to be ready when He comes. People are running here and there, not seeming to think about their souls and where they are going to spend eternity.

I have been receiving the "Faith and Victory" paper for a few months now, some one sent my name in.

Pray for me.

—Thelma Hail.

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Shawnee, Okla.—Dear Saints, one and all,—Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. This evening finds me still saved, sanctified, and encouraged to go all the way with my blessed Saviour. I feel like witnessing for the Lord by my testimony. He knocked at my heart's door two years ago this summer. I am so glad that I opened the door and bid Him "Come in." Praise the Lord. I have never regretted that night and am happy as I travel up this straight and narrow way. I am determined, by the help of the Lord to press on until I reach the other shore. May God bless you all is my prayer.

A sister in Christ,

—Bettye Jean Tait

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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

Editorials

We see Jesus as a tender, loving, compassionate Saviour, showing pity and much long-suffering to the bruised, and weak and faltering ones but giving out wholesome instruction with reproofs, admonitions, and rebukes to the self-righteous, religious spirits possessing men. Jesus was a perfect man with perfect knowledge and understanding and was able to clearly discern spirits and knew just what was in man and all his judgments were righteous judgments. Being pure in heart he could see things that were pure and also clearly see things that were impure. Many religious men today are so impure in heart that they seem to think that all others are like they are. They make me think of a crazy man we saw on a train at Mobile, Ala. He stuck his head out the window and yelled out at the people on the depot platform, "You are all crazy! You are all crazy!" A drunk man will think everybody else is drunk; a foolish man will think others are also foolish. If there is division, strife, and gossip in your soul you will think it is in others. The fowls that sit on the branches of the Kingdom of God are full of all manner of trouble and if one listens to them and believes them he will in time become like them and will fail to see clearly the divinely organized, pure, clean church of the living God which is the true body of Christ functioning in the world.

Satan is doing all he can to hide the beautiful Church of God from the view of honest seeking souls and is using many clever instruments to do his slimy work, but in spite of all he can do she is shining brighter and brighter and will shine more and more unto the perfect day.

"The meek will he guide in judgment, the meek will he teach his way, the humble shall hear thereof and be glad." If Satan by his agents can get a saint to believe that there is nothing but strife, confusion, and division, they will never be able to see the true Church shining in the world no matter how bright it shines. That which is in our soul will be reflected back into our mind and will darken our understanding and pervert our judgment and reasoning faculties. Paul said of some that they "had a zeal for God but not according to knowledge."

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The Devil does not care how much you profess Christ if he can keep you fearing him more than God. When you fear the Devil he will bring you under bondage to him and cause you to do evil and profess on and land your soul in the lake of fire. Oh, thou lying Devil, thou doest not cease to pervert the sacred word of God and decoy precious souls into the cages of men for destruction.

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The soul that is saved and will not exercise in a godly manner while in fiery trials and afflictions will soon become in analogy like a nut on a bolt with the threads worn out; a worthless thing for God to try to use.

Phoenix, Ariz.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt and saints scattered abroad:—Greetings to you in the holy name of Jesus. I feel led of the Lord to send in my testimony to the Faith and Victory. I am yet saved and trusting the good Lord for soul and body. I find Him a present help in every time of need.

I was very sick during the week of Feb. 6, but the Lord wonderfully touched my body and made me every whit whole, for which I give Him all the praise. Although the tests and trials are many, I mean by the help and grace of God to go all the way with Jesus.

Pray for me that I may grow stronger and be just what He would have me to be in these evil days.

Yours in Him,

—Bertha Slaughter

The doctrine of "once in grace, always in grace" is the best tool or shield in Satan's hands to preserve the self life in you and finally bring you to ruin and torment.

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You say that you have a bad neighbor for he lies, steals, curses, drinks, and gambles and therefore he is a bad man. I say, no, he is a good man but the thing that has a hold on him is bad; let him come to Jesus and receive conquering power over sin and all bad will disappear. Jesus reproved and rebuked the self righteous Pharisees, not because he hated them or that they were bad, it was the thing that had a hold on them that he hated and was against.

You see a car going up the road first to one side and then to the other and soon it weaves over on the wrong side and hits another car, has a wreck and injures or kills the occupants of that car. You do not blame the car for the trouble and murder. It is the life in the car that governs the car and is to blame. So it is with a man who does bad things, it's not the man but the thing that possesses him that is to be blamed. The only blame that rightly belongs to the man is because he rejects Christ who would set him free from such an evil power and then he would not have to do such things any more. Christ gives power, love, and soundness of mind.

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We have been receiving a large amount of manuscript in the way of articles for the little paper and it will be impossible for us to insert all of them. In fact there is so little room in the paper that we will only be able to use a very few of them and if yours is not used, do not think it is because it was not suitable, for this may not be so at all. We are doing the very best we can by the help of the Lord, so bear with us and pray for us. The Lord is greatly increasing the printing obligations as there is so much more demand for the clean pure gospel going forth by the printed page. The office force is very busy and the need for some more workers is very evident.

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Obituaries

Sevena Opal Grace, daughter of George and Josie Grace, was born March 4, 1897 and departed this life Feb. 27, 1944 at the age of 46 years, 11 months, 23 days. She was born near Cashion, Okla. where she spent her early childhood. Then in 1918 she moved to Guthrie where she was united in marriage to Arthur Taylor, July 20, 1920. To this union was born four children, Joe, Ralph, and Bernadine who survive her and Leroy who passed away in infancy. She was saved several years ago and accepted the truth of the church of God. She allowed earthly things to separate her from God for awhile, but renewed her covenant with the Lord a short time before her death.

She leaves to mourn their loss: her husband, Arthur Taylor; son, Joe and wife and two children, Merel Richard and Nancy Ann; son, Ralph and wife; daughter, Bernadine—all of Guthrie; step-daughter, Vera Cater and son Eugene of Pueblo, Colo.; her mother, Mrs. Josie Grace; six sisters; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral service was conducted by Fred Pruitt at the Nazarene Church building. Text: Psalms 103:11. The meeting house was filled with relatives and friends to

pay their last respects to this departed loved one. The body was laid to rest in the family cemetery five miles south-east of Guthrie.

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John Jacob Boebel was born near Stienhiem, Germany on Dec. 14, 1851, and departed this life at Guthrie, Okla. on Feb. 19, 1944 at the age of ninety-two years, two months, and seven days.

He married Katherine Pfeffer in 1876, and came to America in 1883 with his wife and father. They resided in Clay Center, Kansas where Bro. Boebel followed his occupation as stone mason. In 1896 his beloved wife passed away, leaving him very lonely, since his father had also died several years previous. A few years after his wife's death his brother-in-law, Fred Pfeffer came from Germany to make his home with "Uncle Jakie." In 1905 they came to Oklahoma to be near Uncle Jakie's two life-time friends, Gotlieb Koerner and August Zeller, who lived near Marshall, Okla. His brother-in-law and two friends passed away and he moved to Guthrie, Okla. where he was married to Sister Rebecca White, but she lived only about three years after their marriage.

Bro. Boebel was converted in 1871 and has given himself to God and His service continually through life. At first he was affiliated with the Methodist Church, but in later years, having received the light on the one Church, the Church of God, he began to fellowship and associate with the saints of God, and was happy in the Lord unto the last.

He was much loved by the saints and respected as a devout man of God, and one of great patience. He was very earnest in his worship to God, and faithful to testify to the saving and sanctifying grace of God both publicly and privately. One work for the Lord in which he was very faithful was passing out gospel tracts. He continued this work as long as he was able to get around—about one month before his death.

The Lord was good to him and blessed him with health and strength. He was a frail child, so he felt his unusual health was a gift from God, and he attributed his long life to the fact that he honored his father and mother when he was young.

He has often testified that he was not afraid to die, and said he was going to heaven. He rejoiced in the Lord to the end.

He will be much missed by all the saints, and we all feel that we have been strengthened in soul by having associated with him.

Funeral services were held at church of God chapel, Feb. 21, 1944, Bro. Willie Murphey officiating, assisted by Bro. Fred Pruitt.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."

Information for this obituary was furnished by Marie Koerner Vogel, and Martha Zeller Gordon, daughters of Bro. Boebel's two life-time friends.

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Jefferson Turner, son of Adam and Sarah Turner, was born May 6, 1863 at Lucasville, Ohio, and departed this life Jan. 12, 1944 at his late home in Ft. McKinley, Dayton, Ohio, at the age of eighty years, eight months, and six days.

Dec. 25, 1884 he was united in marriage to Miss Sarah E. Hinkley.

Bro. Turner gave his heart to the Lord a number of years ago and lived a devoted Christian life. He had been in failing health for some time, but bore it patiently. He always had a smile, and was an encouragement to those who came to visit him. He always enjoyed talking about the things of the Lord.

He leaves to mourn his departure a loving, devoted wife, three daughters, one son, seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and a host of relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Carlson of Dayton at the funeral home in Dayton. Grave-side services were conducted at Lucasville by Bro. Artrup.

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Mattie Pamela, daughter of Wm. H. and Catherine Carter was born at Charity, Mo. April 4, 1872 and departed this life January 29, 1944 at her home six miles southeast of Beaver, where she had lived since 1905.

In 1892 she was married to W. S. Walker and to this union four children were born, all of whom with their father preceded her in death. In 1907 she was married to John E. Dinger and five children were born to them. One child died in infancy and Mr. Dinger passed away in 1918.

The four children who remain to mourn her departure are Alta Jacobs of Lamar, Colorado; Inez Noble, Phoenix, Ariz.; Boyd E. Dinger, Stratton, Colorado; and Verda McAdams, Beaver, Okla. She also leaves fifteen grandchildren; one great-grandchild; one sister, Mrs. Alta Bonner, Petaluma, California; two brothers, Bill Carter, Boliver, Mo., and A. L. Carter, Healdsburg, Calif.; and many other relatives and friends.

I, Sister O. B. Wilson of Shawnee, Okla. wish to add to the foregoing obituary that I have known Sister Dinger more than forty years, all of which time she has been a consecrated saint of God. She lived the life daily. She lived in our home several years helping with our children that I might have more time to be out in the Lord's work with my husband. We often told her she would surely share in the reward of our labors. Her passing on would make us so sad, but her being over there with all the blessed makes us glad.

May God comfort the dear family left behind.

—Mrs. O. B. Wilson.

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Robert Andrew Hayes, born at Saint Charles, Ky., August 5, 1907, departed this life Feb. 26, 1944.

He was married to Beatrice Brown May 14, 1933, and to this union three children were born: Billie Jo, Bobby Junior, and Betty Irene.

Surviving relatives are: his mother, Sister Laura D. Hayes of Okla. City; a brother Claud Hayes of Gustine, Calif.; a sister, Mrs. Verda Flowers of Casa Grande, Ariz.; a brother, Renes Hayes of Apache, Okla.; and a sister, Mrs. Ella Brown of Okla. City; other relatives are nieces and nephews.

He has been much afflicted. Though very feeble in body he attended the Oklahoma State Campmeeting at Guthrie last summer (1943) and surrendered to the Lord.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Fred Pruitt. Text: Jeremiah 29:11. The body was laid to rest in Rose Hill Cemetery at Oklahoma City.

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Bro. Paul Jackson was born in the state of Louisiana in the year of 1866 and departed this life Jan. 26, 1944 or near that time. He was found dead in his room on the 27th.

At the age of twenty-four, he was united in matrimony to Angeline Thomas who preceded him in death about sixty days. To this couple was born six children, three boys and three girls. One preceded him in death and five still live.

He joined the Baptist church in early life somewhere in La. He moved to Oklahoma in the year 1908 and first lived at Hoffman. While there he heard the real gospel truth preached and accepted the same, was saved and sanctified in the Church of God by the Word and Spirit

of God, the Bible way.

He later moved with his family to Mexico and spent some time there, but returned to Okla. in 1932 and resided in Hitchita and from thence came to Okmulgee where he resided till death. He leaves to mourn his loss, two sons and three daughters, seventeen grandchildren and a host of friends. Funeral services were conducted by the writer.

—G. W. McMillan

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for Bro. Ashford Newell of North Carolina who is very badly afflicted and needs our earnest prayers.

Pray for Sister Bowen's mother at or near Boley, Okla. Sister Ank was there to see her, and says that her mother is helpless. Sister Bowen has to care for her and has no support and is in financial need. Address: Mrs. Annie Bowen, Box 251, Boley, Okla.

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NATIONAL CAMPGROUND INFORMATION

Bro. J. E. Kurtz is again living on the campground at Monark Springs, Mo. as caretaker. The Lord has blessed him in body but desires complete healing. Pray earnestly for him.

A small sum has been made available to him each month to help him with his living expenses. This spring he will be setting out trees on the grounds and on those lots where trees are desired.

At the business meeting of the campmeeting last summer a real need was expressed and a suggestion forcefully made that each family should send or bring to the campmeeting this summer one granite (?) plate, one small bowl, one knife, one fork, and one spoon to build up the dining hall equipment. Any additional supplies will be appreciated.

Make preparations now to attend the National campmeeting to be held July 21 to 30, inclusive, the Lord willing.

Kindly send your contributions for the support of the caretaker and the coming campmeeting to the undersigned.

—L. D. Pruitt, Secy.-Treas.

1005 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla.

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EASTER SUNDAY MEETING

In harmony with our former custom, the saints at Guthrie, Okla. will have an all day meeting on Easter Sunday, April 9, and we extend a hearty welcome to all saints and others far and near to meet with us on that day and enjoy our fellowship in Christ and the good things He may give for the edification of the whole body.

The saints will bring their dinners and we will make a spread of food together in the dining hall just across the alley from the saints' chapel and after the noon day meal is over we will have services in the after-noon and will observe the Ordinances that Jesus instituted for the true believers. Come and spend the day at Guthrie with the saints on Easter Sunday.

"Though Christ a thousand times

In Bethlehem be born;

If He's not born in thee,

Thy soul is still forlorn."

BOOKS FOR SALE

The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life, cloth bound, 50 pages, each \$1.00.

Availing Prayer, paper bound, 112 pages, 50 cents.

How to Live a Holy Life by C. E. Orr, paper bound, 0 cents each or seven books for \$1.00.

New Testament with references, clear print, overlapping cover, size 4 x 6½. Just the Testament for ministers and gospel workers. Price \$1.25.

New Testament called the "Pilgrim Bible," with scriptures pointing the way to heaven underlined with blue and those indicating danger, with red. Overlapping cover. Size 4 x 6½. Price \$1.75.

New Testament and Psalms with large print for old people. Price \$1.50.

Old Folks' Bible, large print with center references, gold title on flexible limp binding, durable, Holman, superior edition, size 9½ x 6½. Just the Bible for Father or Mother. Price \$3.50.

All prepaid

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CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Saints and "Faith and Victory" readers, greeting,—I have been thinking for some time of writing a testimony for the paper.

I am at this time still praising God for the grace of God that brought Salvation to me.

"Salvation is the sweetest thing that mortal ever knew"—His love in giving His dear Son to die, that we through His death and suffering might have life, (spiritual Life) and have it more abundantly.

What a comfort in times of need to know His promises are true. Phil. 4:19 says, "My God shall supply all your need, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Then in Deut. 33:25, "As thy days, so shall thy strength be." What a comfort and strength these two promises have been and are to me, especially in these days of the affliction and weakness of Husband's body.

Last June we had in mind to go East to be in several campmeetings, but were denied gas by the Gas Ration Board for the trip. We had it all committed to the will of God, knowing He knew best. We soon found our disappointment was God's appointment. Husband took a serious attack of kidney and bladder trouble, had hemorrhages for seventeen hours. Our great Physician came to our aid, praise His dear name. The blood stopped, yet Husband has failed in health, lost flesh and strength. In January he took the flu and he is very frail and weak.

God is still our all in all and keeps us encouraged through His word and the prayers of the dear saints. On Feb. 7th his 87th birthday, he was remembered by fifty or more birthday cards and many helpful and encouraging messages. On March 12th, my 83rd birthday, there came another shower of birthday cards, 36 in number, with many gifts, for which I want in this writing to thank all for their kind remembrance of us, and to acknowledge God's goodness to His aged children. And as we remind these dear ones (who have remembered us so kindly) that Jesus said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matt. 52:40, we receive all these kind things as from our loving heavenly Father and pray God to reward each one four fold.

Lovingly yours all on the altar for sacrifice or loving service in the sweet will of God.

Mrs. Sadie E. Harmon

Lawton, Michigan—Dear Brother and Sister Pruitt: Greetings to you and family in the name of our blessed Lord. Some time has passed since we said farewell to you and left Guthrie. We are still serving the Lord, with real praise and victory in our soul. I am busy building a memorial, not one of stone but a LIVING MEMORIAL, to live on in the hearts and lives of men and women long after I am gone if Jesus tarries. The past year has been the best year by far in spite of many battles and tests. Surely the Lord has been precious and real to our hearts. During the past year we have sent out 482 Bibles, 3047 Testaments, and 850,000 tracts. Many of these went to foreign fields.

Let us all be true to Christ and hold up the old standard of Holiness. Let us all do our best to spread the gospel. We do not know how long we will be permitted to send the gospel to other countries.

Your brother in Christ,

E. A. Austin.

—o—o—o—o—o—

Gary, Ind.—Dear saints,—I received a copy of your wonderful Christian paper, and, oh, how glad I am to read it. I must say it is the first one of its kind I have read. I have been reading other Christian papers, but I have not read one that is so plain as this one. It is so plain a little child could understand it. Bless His holy name!

I want all the saints to please pray for me that the Lord will touch my feeble body and heal me. I have been down sick since March 22, 1939. I am now an invalid. I have not been able to walk a step since Oct., 1941. My legs pain me all the time, also my back and stomach. I suffer all the time day in and day out. I know if it is the Lord's will He can heal me.

Thomas Williams

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Hillsboro, Ore.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt and all the dear saints—Greetings in Jesus' name. I want to add my testimony to the many others who are witnessing for the Lord. I am truly praising God for full salvation, for His blessed Word and keeping power over all the tests and trials of this life. How sweet to know there is nothing between me and my Saviour. I can call on Him and He will answer.

I do not get to go to meeting or see any of the saints only once in a great while but I have learned to lean on the Lord and He never fails. Often He touches my body when I need it so much and is a comfort at all times.

Just recently I was permitted to be in the home of Bro. and Sis. R. L. Glasgow at Salem, Ore. for a very short visit and there learned of prayer answered of many years standing. Be encouraged, dear ones, and "hold fast" for His word is true and heaven and earth shall pass away but the Word shall remain.

May God keep this work clean and true as it is till Jesus comes. Your saved sister,

—Hazel E. Creson.

—o—o—o—o—o—

Tulsa, Okla.—Greetings to all the dear saints scattered abroad. This morning finds me still in the army of the Lord. I truly do praise the Lord for his goodness to me. Oh, how He has been a comfort to me in my dark hours of sadness. I lost my dear father on Feb. 25, 1944. He had been a constant care since September. It seemed his sickness was more than he could bear at times, but God would hear prayer in his behalf. It seemed my strength would give out but Jesus would always come with help just at the right time. How I do thank my blessed Lord for all His goodness to me. As I laid my dear father beside my dear mother, I turned away from them in this life.

I have made my decision to do more for my Lord than ever I have in the past. It seemed in the constant care of my Father I had neglected my Lord's cause, but I had this consolation that I had obeyed the one commandment in giving honor to my parents. Now that I've finished my course on that line, I pray the Lord to give me a mind to do all that he has for me to do. Truly workers are few and the fields are so white. There is no time to tarry for time is moving swiftly toward the time our labors will be ended. Let us pray as never before for the devil is so busy with all his devices. If we don't watch and pray we will fail to know some of them, for he is a great inventor and is bringing out new devices all the time. We need more discerning power. God has it for us. Prayer unlocks God's storehouse to us.

Let us begin praying for the Campmeetings now and lay by in store for them. Let's raise food, can and cure all the food for God's cause needs food as well as means. We could all raise a coop of chickens for the different meetings. They are ration-free. God will bless our efforts for him. Let's not be weary in well-doing. May God bless all is my prayer. —Sister Sam Barton

Orland, Calif.—Dear Saints,—I feel it would be to the glory of God for me to write my testimony to the little paper as I am not able to be in meeting. This finds me saved and satisfied with the ways of the Lord. I can never thank the Lord enough for what He has done for me. I have found him a present help in time of need. When I am sick he heals me. Sometimes we have a test of faith but I think that is all for the best. If we always got what we asked for the very first time we might get puffed up. If the answer doesn't come the first time you pray, just keep on praying and the answer will come and then how good you will feel in your soul. Oh, it means much to live to please the Lord in these evil days. But we can live the life by the Lord's help. So many times my heart is made to ache when I see some who have known the way for years but they are failing to live the life the Lord would have them to live. But we have no excuse for we can read the Bible even if we can't go to meeting. Oh, we don't want to be weighed and found wanting. I sure want my life to tell for Jesus. I often think about the good meetings the saints are having in different places and wish to be there. All I can do is to pray for all. I am praying for the Lord to send us a real man of God if it be His will. Pray for me. I want to be all the Lord wants me to be.

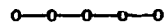
Your sister in Christ, —Alpha Daniels

St. James, Mo.—Dear Brother and Sister Pruitt and all the workers,—May God bless you all. I feel like writing my testimony. I am saved and living for the dear Lord. I love to read the good testimonies of all the dear saints, it is food for my soul. I think the "Faith and Victory" paper is just fine. I love to read it and obey it.

This evening finds me with a greater determination to follow my Saviour. I know if we put our trust in him, he will bring us through with victory. My desire is to always live for him and do his blessed will. I am so glad that God has a few people who will print and preach and live for him and obey the holy Word of God. I know it takes the whole Word if we ever get to heaven. I love to obey God's word. I want my life to tell the gospel story. I was born into the Church of God, the only real church there is. I thank God that he showed me the true way. No man can put one out of God's church, for sin is the only way out. I mean by his help to spend my days for him. He has done so much for me, Pray

for me that I will always let my light shine that others may see my good works and glorify my God.

—Mrs. Roy Pruett

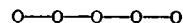


Denham Springs, La.—Dear Saints and Readers of Faith and Victory,—Greetings to you all. I am thanking God today for salvation and for the wonderful care that He has for His children. I have learned to trust God for everything and know that His promises are true.

He will heal us of all our diseases if we will trust and obey. I have made some mistakes since I've been saved but they are all under the blood. I know I am closer to Jesus than I have been and I thank God for it.

I was anointed and prayed for at the little chapel near Albany Sunday, Feb. 20, obeying the command in James 5 and the Lord healed me of catarrh and I am really happy in Him today. I am encouraged as never before to keep living for God and trust body and soul to Him. I know that He heals today the same as He did when He was upon the earth. He says, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matt. 28:20. As He abides within, He keeps us from sin, and He can surely heal us when we are sick. I do thank and praise Him for all He has done for me.

I am much happier living for Him than I was when living in sin. I no longer desire the ungodly things of this world. I have never found half as much joy in the entertainments of this world as I have in the house of God. Dear sinner friends, God can make you happy if you will open your heart's door and let Him in. He will keep you happy in His service if you will take everything to Him in prayer. A sister in Christ, Mrs. Rennie Stewart



Fairbury, Nebr.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt,—I greet you and all the dear saints everywhere. I am praising the dear Lord for salvation from sin. I have a real desire in my heart to please Him.

I still love the old time truth. I want to give the dear Lord all the praise for healing me of the flu near Christmas time. I wrote to Bro. Pruitt and all for prayer and I was wonderfully healed. Jesus is my Physician, and He never fails me. He also healed my sore lip. I do not know what the nature of the soreness was, but the Lord knew.

I love to read the testimonies in the paper. The dear Lord knows every one of His children. If we hold to His hand we shall never fall.

Poor souls lost in sin and even those professing to be saved and sanctified are going after the world. May the Lord have mercy on this lost world and professors. How pitiful to see women going around with bare arms and legs, shoes with the toes out, the hair cut as a man's, wearing men's clothes. When the bird dies, the feathers fall off. The truth that Bro. Warner preached is still truth today. Jesus said if we are ashamed of Him and His words now He will be ashamed of us before Father and the holy angels. Where are the women who could still wipe the feet of Jesus with the hairs of their head? They are sadly in the minority.

I believe when we are saved we have a real desire to please the Lord. Our lives will prove that we have been with Jesus and learned of Him. I mean to go all the way with the Lord. I am living alone and have some joyful times with the Lord. I pray for all the isolated saints. Will you all pray that the Lord get glory to Himself from my life? I love to give out the good tracts, not many refuse to take them.

Your blood-washed sister, —Mrs. D. M. Hardman

Young People's Section

He Is Calling

Oh, come to the Saviour, why will ye delay?
Your time is fast passing by;
Will you turn from the world and its folly today
And walk in the beautiful way?

The Saviour is longing and pleading today
His mercy and love are so great;
Why turn Him away while He's calling for you
And meet with that terrible fate?

His voice is calling so gentle and kind,
Make haste e'er it be too late;
How sad it will be when you stand before God,
And be turned from the pearly white gate.

Be lost into darkness—sad, but 'tis true—
Forever in misery and woe;
Be banished for aye from the presence of God,
While the ceaseless ages shall roll.

While life is so fleeting and yet you delay,
Not knowing the day or the hour;
When death shall appear and take you away,
For life's only reckoned as the life of a flower.

Oh, will you be ready when Jesus returns
To meet His Bride in the air?
And enter that beautiful haven of rest,
With all of its glories to share.
—Mrs. R. M. Porter.

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The Great Love of God

In St. John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." And God is love, so we must love all the Word to love God. Love is the foundation of our very existence. But for the great love of our God there would be no kindness, no mercy, no charity, or any good thing. We cannot be too full of the love of God for He is love and we cannot have too much of God in our hearts and lives. Jesus tells us to love one another but to do this one must first love him.

Love worketh no ill and if our hearts are FULL of love toward God there can be no ill feelings toward anyone because love is of God and anything contrary to love is not of God. In Amos 5:15 "Hate the evil and love the good." If we love the good (or God) with ALL our hearts, ALL our souls, ALL our strength, and ALL our minds, we will have nothing left with which to love the evil.

There are some people whom I didn't love before the Lord saved me. They are still the same and do the same things. Yet, I don't have the ill feelings toward them that I used to have. Love erases ill

feelings and instead gives a feeling of pity and compassion in the heart toward them for I realize it is the spirit of evil causing them to do the things they do. With love we can pray for them that they might be delivered from the enemy of their souls.

I've been thinking of the sponge. People are like sponges. Usually whatever environment they are in or live in is just what they soak up. If a sponge is placed in ink it soaks up ink and when pressed, ink comes out. If placed in water, it soaks up water and when pressed, water comes out. Whatever is in the sponge is what comes out. If it's ink and we press it with our hand the ink comes out and leaves a mark on our hand. If it's water it leaves a mark of cleanliness.

I want to be as a sponge to God's love so that, at all times, contacting others, a mark of His love will be left. Or if in pressing circumstances, it will be only love that flows out. If we are as a sponge filled with evil, we cannot release love when pressed any more than a sponge filled with ink can release water.

We ought all to be sponges of God's love. It is great enough for whosoever will. Let us place ourselves humbly at the feet of Jesus where God can pour out his love upon us and THEN keep ourselves there where we can just soak up love. If we get to wandering around we will soak up something else. I am thankful for the privilege of "keeping ourselves in His great love." If we keep ourselves in His love then He will keep us from falling. (Jude 21:24).

The 5th chapter of Gal. is a good place to read of the fruits of the Spirit. Love is a fruit of the Spirit. Whatever is in our hearts is manifested in our actions and lives. If it's the works of the flesh those things pertaining to the flesh are made manifest. But "if we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." And the Spirit of God is love.

—Virginia Elwell

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Reflection of Holiness

Paul, a faithful follower of the Lord, one who in his last days could tell his Master, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith," was desirous to see and to help others to fight a good fight. He knew that it would take the finest qualities one possessed and the grace of God to triumph at the end, therefore his advice to Timothy, a young worker for the Lord, was "Thou, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." 2 Tim. 2:1.

These words should be ringing in the hearts of God's young saints today. Young people, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Endure hardness as a good soldier. "Stand, therefore having your loins girt about with truth and having on the

breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" Eph. 6:14-17.

In the world of today there seems to be a spirit of lightness, frivolity, and gayety. These things ought not to be, and surely they should have no place in the heart of God's young saints. In writing to Titus, Paul's advice to the young women was to be sober, discreet, keepers at home, good and obedient to their own husbands. To the young men he exhorted them to be sober minded, to show themselves a pattern of good works in all things, and to speak words which could not be condemned.

Christian youth, there is a responsibility for you to assume. You are to show yourself as a pattern of good works. Can others follow you as an example and still walk in Jesus' foot steps? Are you living that close to God? Others may not know Him, but by following you they will soon know Him. Can others see Christ in you or does the atmosphere of "fun and gayety" surround you? If so, could Jesus be seen in you then? I think not.

In a loud, noisy river there is no reflection of beauty, no quietness nor peace, just a continual roaring and rushing of muddy water. Even the thirsty animals care not to drink of its waters. But, oh the difference in the calm stream which ripples quietly along reflecting all the beauty of God's creation. The sun beams play upon its tranquil waves and the most timid animals find its water sweet and refreshing.

Friend, are you a loud, noisy river or just a small quiet stream? Remember we are here to reflect Christ in all his purity and beauty.

"Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me
All his wonderful passion and purity.
Oh the Spirit divine, all my nature refine
Till the beauty of Jesus be seen in me."

As a mirror reflects the object before it, so should we, the saints of God, manifest Christ. God help us to realize that no souls can be won to Him by that carefree person whose mind is stayed on the foolishness of this world rather than upon God and upon those poor souls who are perishing daily without the hope of eternal glory. —Myrtle Grice.

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Bangor, Mich.—Dear Saints abroad,—Greetings in Jesus' name. You've never heard of me before, but I am now a sister in Christ. Glory be to God. Thank God there are people who will stand for the truth and serve him even if it means losing their own lives for His sake.

I had my sins forgiven seven years ago this month when I was seventeen years old. I have tried to walk in what light I had, but lately found myself wandering far away because I had my eyes on man and gradually getting them on the world.

I was professing sanctification but I found that I had never known the cost of it, and that I had not paid for it yet.

Well thank the dear Lord, in the last two months he

has opened my eyes, through prayer and through his word, to what the cost is. I found that my pride was what was getting the best of me. Thank God, he has taken it away. Praise His holy name. I am determined by God's grace to go through to the end.

Agree in prayer that God will use me in praying for the sick. He has healed me many times. Praise his name. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. A sister in Christ, Margaret Brant

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Cleveland, Ohio—Dear Christian Friends—This morning I praise and thank the dear Lord for what he has done for me up to this time. He has given me victory in my soul, although trials, tests, and temptations have come, but with the help of our Lord and Savior he has helped me through so far. Praise the name of Jesus. And my prayer is that he may keep me and give me victory in my soul as long as I live here on earth.

And to all his children: I enjoy reading your little paper very much. I find so many good testimonies which I especially like to read. For some time I have felt it would be to the glory of God to testify through this little paper, "Faith and Victory." I don't know what I would do, especially at this time, if I couldn't go on my knees and ask God to help me, for the past year certainly has been a worry for me. Yes, I know there are many boys out in this war, and many have been killed. Many mothers and fathers hearts are broken and sad, and every mother feels for her own child. As I am a mother with a son in this war, it has brought me much worry and sadness but I trust God will protect him and bring him back home.

May the dear Lord be with you all there at His little print shop and give you strength and courage to go on with his work is my prayer. —Mrs. E. Ewald.

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Fortescue, Mo.—To the dear saints everywhere,—Greetings in Jesus' name, the One who knows every heartache, every trial, and every affliction, the One who will be with us to the end if we only will trust Him.

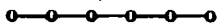
I feel it is the Lord's will for me to tell how the Lord has healed me. Last April I was so afflicted some of my children wanted me to have a doctor to examine me so I did. The doctor said I had high blood pressure, a bad heart, and bad kidneys and was on the verge of a nervous break down. I had a nervous break down in June. I couldn't eat nor sleep and lost weight until I was so weak I could hardly stay up. My eyes got bad, so I went to an Eye Specialist to have my eyes fitted with new glasses, but he told me he could not fit my eyes and unless I did something for them I would be blind in a short time. I went to another doctor and he told me the same thing, and said my eyes showed I had diabetes, and for me to go to some good doctor and take treatments. But instead, I went to Jesus, the One who never fails. When I arrived home I told the Lord if He wanted me to take me before I went blind. While I was praying He spoke to me and said that He was not through with me yet and He was going to heal me. I told Him I was His, and that He could do whatever he wanted to with me. So I was healed in my home all alone.

I told my children that I was well, but some of them wanted me to go to the doctor and see, so I did just about three weeks ago. I went to the same doctor who told me about my afflictions. He gave me a thorough check-up and said there was nothing the matter with me. He was very much surprised. He wanted me to take treatments the first time I went to him but

I told him that I trusted the Lord. He couldn't understand how I got well without taking medicine.

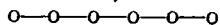
I now can see well with my old glasses. Praise the Lord for what He has done for me. I am going all the way with Him. Pray for me that I do His will.

Your sister in the Lord, —Mrs. Cordia Stroud.



Londonderry, Ohio,—Dear Saints of God,—I have been reading "Faith and Victory" paper for a short time as some dear friend sent it to me. I love to read the pages and to know that I have so many brothers and sisters, young and old.

I am praising God this afternoon for full salvation saved and sanctified. I've been saved 39 years and don't see any place to let down and compromise with the world and it's fashions. I am 70 years old and have always trusted God for the healing of my body. The enemy of my soul has been trying me for some time. My body is afflicted but I am ready to go if it should be the Lord's will. But if not, I ask all who may read this to pray for my healing. It can be done. The Lord has healed me many times in the past. My husband is a minister. There is so much to be done. The Lord needs workers. I am earnestly asking the saints to pray for my healing. In 1 John 4:17, "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world." 18th verse, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that feareth, is not made perfect in love." A sister in Christ, Mrs. Lovinnia Arganbright



Fairfax, Mo.—Dear ones,—Greetings in Jesus' name. The Lord wonderfully touched my body. I haven't had me spell since I requested prayer. Two different times felt as though I was going to be sick but I rebuked the devil in the name of the Lord and took a firm stand against him, and I didn't get sick at all. Praise the Lord. The devil tried me every way possible. I made up my mind I was going to trust the Lord and if He didn't see fit to let me live I would die trusting Him, and I have been getting better ever since. I'm glad we have a friend who never fails us. Praise His name. I want to thank you for the tracts and copies of the songs. They were a great help to me.

Pray for us that God will keep us where He wants us and keep us obedient to His will. Sister Cecil Jennings



Angleton, Tex.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt,—Greeting you with much holy, Christian love. This leaves me saved and sanctified through the truth, for His word is true. I am writing to the dear saints of God in behalf of the "Faith and Victory" paper. I cannot express how much I enjoy reading it. When I read it, it seems I have been to a good meeting.

I wrote you a few years ago and told you how wonderfully Jesus was working with me. I prayed until I saw Him three times: first, in the Garden; second, on the cross; and last, with a lamb in His arms and a staff in His hand. Praise His holy name. When I was dipping and smoking He healed me of those habits. I am now living for Jesus.

I have some relatives overseas for whom I ask your special prayers. Also pray that I may grow stronger and stronger for I am looking for the Saviour to come at any time. As I read the song, "I Am Living on the Alleluiah Side," I began to sing and rejoice. I would like for Bro. Geo. Stephenson to send me the ballad.

Pray for my sick daughters that they may accept God as their Saviour. Your sister, Joana Hodges

Hammond, La.—Dear Saints, one and all,—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I feel that it would be to God's glory for me to write my testimony for the "Faith and Victory." I enjoy reading the testimonies of the saints. They are so encouraging and the articles and testimonies are real food to my soul.

I surely thank the dear Lord for what he is to me. He is my all and in all for both soul and body. He supplies our needs in many ways. Oh, what a mighty God we serve. He keeps me sweetly saved and in the narrow way and I find that the way grows brighter and sweeter each day. I'm glad that I have no desire to turn back to the weak and beggarly elements of this old world but my desire is to get closer to him each day and be among the faithful few who will endure unto the end.

I thank the Lord for the many times that He has manifested his healing power in my behalf in answer to prayer. I'm so glad we can trust him and not be afraid. I have been suffering with rheumatism for some time but am much better. I desire the prayers of the saints for my complete healing.

I ask the prayers of the saints that God will keep me true and faithful and help me to do all I can to help others to see the one true way.

Your saved sister, —Audrey Baumgartner



GOD SEARCHES

The Psalmist David prayed in Psalms 139:23, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

The heart of David was certainly searched out by the Almighty God, for the Lord allowed him to get into some very severe trials and difficult places until he was thoroughly tried. In most of the hard trials and tests that God allowed him to be in, no evil or wickedness came to the surface; but a few brought out some evil. The trial and temptation of seeing Uriah's wife brought evil and wrong to the surface. (Read 2 Sam. 11:2). God permitted this temptation and trial to come to David, for He was in this way searching him out.

When David tried to cover up one wrong, more evil was committed. The presence of Uriah seemed to vex him, for it probably caused his conscience to be pricked, so he ordered his General Joab to put Uriah in a place in the battle so he would be slain. And it was so.

In the 27th verse we find these words written, "But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord." God had brought some things to the surface by searching him in allowing these temptations. Now, what will David do with all this evil that is in evidence? We shall read in the next chapter to find out.

God sent Nathan the Prophet unto David, who said unto him, "There were two men in one city; the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: but the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up; and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay

in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. And there came a traveler unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him. And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the Lord liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die. And he shall restore the lamb four fold, because he did this thing, because he had no pity. And Nathan said unto David, Thou art the man." After Nathan had told David of how good the Lord had been to him in exalting him and giving him rule and authority, he also told him of his evil and how that God would cause this evil to be seen of all, for David had done his wrong secretly, but God would show his wrath openly against him and before all the people. David humbled his heart and acknowledged his sin and said, "I have sinned against the Lord."

Oh, what a lesson there is in this for the saints of today. Brethren and sisters, when you do your neighbor wrong, or any person, even if it be your enemy, you have sinned against the Lord. When the Lord permits you to get into a hard place and the pressure is on and evil is showing up on the surface, do you go about to try to cover it up, blame some one else or excuse yourself or perhaps tell some lies to hide your sin from others rather than confess it and get rid of the thing from the heart? What do you do? When the Lord allows the pressure to come, do you get all out of sorts and think evil of the instrument He may be using? Do you blame the instrument, rather than see the evil that is coming to the surface and acknowledge it and confess your wrong and thereby get rid of the thing in your own heart? How do you do? Tell me, my dear traveler to the judgment, are you willing for God to search you out in trials, yea, in fiery trials, and when wrong comes to the surface, are you willing, by confessing and acknowledging it, to let God skim off the dirt of selfishness, pride, self-conceit, and self-righteousness rather than cover it up with excuses, lies, and self justification and thereby retain the evil stuff in your soul? What do you do? Be honest with yourself, be honest with God and be honest with your fellow man for this is the only way you will ever get into God's heaven.

The Scriptures say, "The just shall walk by faith, but if any man draw back my soul shall have no pleasure in him." Do you draw back from following the Lord when the way seems hard? Do you complain and murmur and pity yourself, and in that way grieve the Lord and fail to get the good out of the trial? If so, your experience will be worse when through than it was before.

Listen, dear pilgrim, John says of Jesus, "Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, [our hearts] and gather his wheat into his garner; [heaven] but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." Matt. 3:12. The chaff represents those who draw back, murmur, and com-

plain and pity themselves, perhaps lie and excuse themselves, or accuse and blame others and never acknowledge the things that God through the trial is trying to bring to the surface that they may get rid of the element or thing that will cause them to miss heaven in the end.

God has revealed to me that one who will not hold steady under pressure but will draw back and will not let the Holy Spirit, which is the fan of God, burn out these wrong things, will soon become in analogy like a nut on a bolt with the threads worn out. He will become worthless to the Lord, will be no witness at all in this sinful world for the Lord, but will just go along with a profession like the five foolish virgins, "Lamps without oil."

Many are called but few will be chosen. When we get saved we are then called to follow the Lord through this world and witness for him. If we prove faithful through all the fiery trials of life, He will choose us to dwell with him in eternity. Let us be wise and allow Him to try us, purify us, and make us white, ready for the celestial heavens, being without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. —Fred Pruitt

Procrastination

Unto a youth the gospel came,
Exhorting him in Jesus' name;
To turn from sin, embrace the truth
And serve the Lord in days of youth.

The youth replied, "I know that's right,
But I won't turn from sin tonight,
A few more pleasures I will seek,
And then I'll turn perhaps next week."

But next week came, and still his heart
Was not inclined from sin to part;
"A few more days in sin I'll live,
And then my heart to God I'll give."

Days passed by, and months rolled on
And still he sang the same old song,
"Not now; but after while I'll pray
For God to wash my sins away."

The months and years went by so fast,
From youth to middle age he passed,
And yet his sins were not forgiven;
Nor was his name enrolled in heaven.

From middle age to old he went;
His body 'neath the years was bent;
"His conscience once so keen to feel,
No more was stirred at God's appeal."

Procrastination in its stealth,
Had robbed his soul of heaven's wealth
And so at last to sin a slave;
He died to fill a Christless grave.

Oh souls behold, God says today,
Turn now from all your sins away:
Lest you should reach your doleful fate
And cry at last, "Too late, too late."

—Ulysses Phillip

BIBLE STUDY

SAUL BECOMES A NEW MAN

Sunday, April 2, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations

March 27 to April 1.

- M. The conversion of Saul Acts 9:1-9.
 T. A chosen vessel Acts 9:13-19.
 W. A jailor converted Acts 16:25-34.
 T. A new birth John 3:1-8.
 F. A new creation 2 Cor. 5:14-19.
 S. A new life Col. 3:1-11.

Printed PortionActs 9:1-9, 13-19a.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13. Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:

14. And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

15. But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

16. For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

17. And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

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

19. And when he had received meat, he was strengthened.

Golden Text: "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." 2 Cor. 5:17.

Practical Truth: Conversion causes one to become a new man in Christ Jesus.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

This lesson presents a very good illustration of what conversion does for one.

1. Saul was doing what he thought was right and pleasing to God, but was wrong. This is typical of all who choose their own way without being born again of the Spirit of God. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Prov. 14:12); "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord."

2. He got a glimpse of heaven's light and heard the Saviour's voice, which awakened him to the fact that he had been mistaken.

3. Saul had met Jesus many times before this in His followers and especially in Stephen whose clothes were laid at Saul's feet when he was stoned. It is likely his conscience had often been pricked as he was made to realize that the faithful martyrs possessed a spirit more than human.

It is when one's soul begins to see Christ that Satan works his hardest to hold a subject. Conviction pricks. If the person is a drunkard Satan will get him to drink more to "kick against the pricks" (fight conviction); if he is a lover of worldly dress, Satan will get him to go to the extreme in that; or a lover of pleasure will follow it in mad pursuit. Thus it was that Saul became "exceedingly mad" against the Christians to "kick against the pricks."

4. When he yielded to Jesus old things passed away and all things became new. He immediately wanted to get acquainted with Him, the One whom he had hated.

5. Before his conversion he was a willing worker for his master, Satan; after it, he became a willing worker for his master, Jesus, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

In this experience he became a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ and passed from death unto life. Then he was ready for the baptism of the Holy Ghost which he received when Ananias put his hands on him (verse 17). Then he was baptized in water.

There is no rule in the Word of God as to which should come first, baptism of the Holy Ghost or water baptism. Some received the Holy Ghost before they were baptized and some afterward.

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CHRIST'S VICTORY OVER DEATH

(Easter Lesson)

Sunday, April 9, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations

April 3 to 8.

- M. The glory of the resurrection 1 Cor. 15:41-49.
 T. Triumph through resurrection 1 Cor. 15:50-58.
 W. Eternal life with God 2 Cor. 5:1-10.
 T. The mind of the Spirit Rom. 8:1-11.
 F. Alive from the dead Rom. 6:12-23.
 S. No more death Rev. 21:1-5.

Printed Portion1 Corinthians 15:41-58.

1 Cor. 15:41. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.

42. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption.

43. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

44. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

45. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

46. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but

that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

47. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

48. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

49. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Practical Truth: Through his own victory over death and the grave Christ brings to those who trust in him an assurance of a like victory.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

This is called the resurrection chapter of the Bible. Some did not believe in a literal resurrection because they could not understand how bodies could be raised after they had decayed and returned to dust. Paul reasoned with them, telling them that if there will be no resurrection then Christians were false witnesses for they taught that Christ had risen. Their whole faith would be in vain for it was based on the fact that Christ had risen and had become the firstfruits of them that slept. If their faith was vain, then there was no profit in giving up everything of an earthly nature to live for Christ; they might as well do things for the comfort, and pleasure of their bodies in this present world.

There are many infallible proofs that Christ arose, and we know that the dead will come forth from the grave at the last trump, according to His Word, just as Paul describes it in this lesson.

There are two resurrections. The second brings hope and rejoicing to our souls only after we have experienced the first, the experience of the New Birth. New eternal life begins at conversion. We rise out of our state of being "dead in trespasses and sins" to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.

Paul said he had suffered the loss of all that he had valued in an earthly sense that he might know Christ and the power of his resurrection, that is, the power which His resurrection has to bring assurance of sins blotted out and forgiven. When we surrender to Christ, we experience the power of His resurrection. So long as we keep the faith and this new resurrected life of Christ

is in us, death has no sting, for we know that "if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." So we need not worry about the time or manner of the resurrection, but only see to it that the Spirit which raised Jesus from the dead dwell in us. Since these things are true, the knowledge of sins forgiven takes the sting out of death, but death has an awful sting for sinners, for "the wages of sin is death" (eternal death).

Besides historical proofs that Christ arose from the dead, do you have a definite witness in your own soul that he arose because He lives in you?

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SAUL'S EARLY PREACHING

Sunday, April 16, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations

April 10 to 15.

M. Preaching with power Acts 9:19b-30.

T. Lives Transformed Acts 11:25-30.

W. Jesus begins his ministry Matt. 4:12-17.

T. The importance of preaching Rom. 10:14-15.

F. The substance of preaching 1 Cor. 1:18-25.

S. The gospel of Christ Gal. 1:11-17.

Printed Portion..... Acts 9:19b-30; 11:25, 26.

Acts 9:19b. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.

20. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

21. But all that heard him were amazed, and said, Is not this he that destroyed them which called in this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests?

22. But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.

23. And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him:

24. But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him.

25. Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket.

26. And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple.

27. But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

28. And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem.

29. And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him.

30. Which when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him forth to Tarsus.

11:25. Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to see Saul:

26. And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year the assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Golden Text: "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Romans 1:16.

Practical Truth: Every Christian should share Saul's zeal to make Christ known.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

When Paul was first converted the Lord told Ananias that he, Paul, was a chosen vessel to bear His name before Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel. He also said Paul must suffer great things for His sake. This all came to pass.

Paul was obedient to the heavenly vision and immediately began to work for the Lord and had to suffer for Christ even from the beginning of his ministry.

Paul went to Arabia soon after his conversion and returned to Damascus before he went to Jerusalem (Read his own account, Gal. 1:13-24), so this lesson covers a period of time of about three years. Luke (who wrote Acts) does not mention his trip to Arabia where he was "In the desert with God," studying the Hebrew scriptures in the light of his new experience, and being taught of the Lord.

The Jews thought of Christ as an imposter. To accept him as being the long-looked-for Messiah would mean they would have to admit they had been wrong in all their opposition of Him and they would have to yield themselves to Him and the way He taught. So great was the cost of accepting him, they willingly allowed themselves to be blinded by Satan.

For the Jews to become convicted, they must be persuaded to believe that Christ was the Son of God. Paul was convinced and sought by sound reasoning to convince others. So forceable was his reasoning that many of the Jews were confounded, but instead of admitting their error and yielding to the truth, they sought to get rid of the one who taught it so they could believe their lies without being disturbed.

That is Satan's method every time. When God in His mercy sends out a messenger to tell lost souls the way to be saved, Satan will endeavor in some way to get rid of that messenger. If he cannot literally kill him he will start lies on him to kill his influence.

Such a mighty transformation as Christ wrought in the life of Paul should have convinced all who knew him that there was a reality in salvation. Satan knew he was a powerful tool in the hands of God so he put forth every possible effort to get rid of him. But Satan could do no more than God allowed.

The people at Antioch called the Lord's followers Christians because they were Christ-like. True Christians are always Christ-like.

PAUL BECOMES A MISSIONARY

Sunday, April 23, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations

April 17 to 22.

- M. Paul chosen and sent Acts 13:1-7.
- T. Paul's healing ministry Acts 14:8-18.
- W. The open door of faith Acts 14:23-28.
- T. A minister of Christ 2 Cor. 11:23-31.
- F. For the gospel's sake 1 Cor. 9:19-27.
- S. A faithful preacher 1 Thess. 2:1-9.

Printed Portion Acts 13:1-4; 14:8-20.

Acts 13:1. Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

2. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

3. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

4. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

14:8. And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:

9. The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,

10. Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet, And he leaped and walked.

11. And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men.

12. And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker.

13. Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people.

14. Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out,

15. And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

16. Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways.

17. Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

18. And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them.

19. And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

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

Golden Text: "The Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them." Acts 13:2.

Practical Truth: Christian missionaries have been needed and still are needed to make known the true God and the way of salvation to those who are in darkness.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

All who are saved from sin by the blood of Christ are His "workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works." Remember in a recent lesson Christ, before he went away, told his followers that He was like a man going into a far country, who left his servants each a duty to perform while he was gone.

There are preachers, teachers, missionaries, singers workers of miracles, cooks, helpers, etc. (You name others). One duty is as important as another so long as it is your God-given duty and not one which you have bound on yourself to advance your selfish gains. If you are performing your God-given duty, others of God's Spirit-filled church will know it besides you. However, if you know God has called you to a certain work, do not allow others to discourage you. If they are God's children they will eventually recognize the calling though they may not at first,

When the Holy Spirit called Paul and Barnabas for their special work, He revealed it to three others who were praying and fasting with them. A church that is Spirit-filled is willing to give up its best workers to work in distant needy places.

It is often a temptation for a human to become exalted when God performs a miracle through him. This is a very dangerous temptation which all saints should guard against. Notice how earnest Paul and Barnabas were in trying to keep the people from worshipping them because of the great miracle. When you testify about God working a miracle through your prayers be sure to search your heart. Are you telling it to the glory of God or the glory of self?

Some may think that people are not so ignorant now as they were then and would not try to worship a man whom God used to perform a miracle. Man worship is very common today. Is this not the reason there are so many sects in existence, many of which are named in honor of some great (?) man? God's people must neither worship man nor receive his worship.

In a modern school text book we read that Christianity spread in the days of the apostles because people were tired of their systems and were just ready to accept something like it, and that if Christ had never been born the doctrines of Christianity would have come into existence and been accepted because of the efforts of Paul. Do you not think Paul would rent his clothes in greater distress if he could read that textbook than he did when those ignorant people wanted to give him credit for the miracle?

How fickle and easily influenced man is! Notice how quickly these people changed from one extreme to the other.

Trace Paul's journey on a map.

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PAUL WINS RECOGNITION FOR GENTILE CHRISTIANS

Sunday, April 30, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations

April 24 to 29

- M. When Christians confer Acts 15:1-6.
- T. A Christian compromise Acts 15:22-29.
- W. Justification by faith Gal. 2:11-21.
- T. The law and the gospel Gal. 3:19-29.
- F. Freedom in Christ Gal. 5:1, 13-18.
- S. Salvation for all Acts 13:44-49.

Printed PortionActs 15:23b-29; Gal. 2:1, 2, 9, 10, 20, 21.

Acts 23b. The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

21. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Golden Text: "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1.

Practical Truth: The ceremonial law is no longer binding, but the moral law is.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Judiazing teachers had been agitating the Gentile converts at Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia by telling them they could not be saved unless they were circumcised and kept the Mosaic law. Paul and Barnabas stood against this teaching, but could not clear it up, so they with others went to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders with the question. After testimonies from different ones about how God had accepted the Gentiles, purifying their hearts by faith when they had not been keeping the law, who were the apostles that they should require that which God had not required when He accepted them? If they had bound the ceremonial law on the Gentiles, Christianity would have been checked among them for they were not likely to submit to the numerous ceremonies which were a grievous yoke even to the Jews. God had only given the ceremonial law as a type of the heart experiences one would receive in the Holy Ghost dispensation.

The first part of our lesson is the apostles' answer to the question.

Consider the four laws which they required the Gentiles to keep. Paul discusses the first in 1 Cor. 8:1-13.

Fornication seemed to be quite a common sin among the Gentiles. Sometimes when a sin has become so common among a people it is necessary for those who know God's moral law to teach them just what sin is, lest after they are saved they commit it and fall into condemnation. The use of tobacco and outward adorning are such common sins among people today that it often takes teaching along that line to get some to lay them aside even after they are saved.

If the Jewish law had made people righteous and acceptable to God, there would have been no need for Christ to come to this world to suffer. If we go back to the Mosaic law and trust in it to make us righteous by observing it in our own strength, then we frustrate or make void the grace of God. Let us give up our old lives and live anew by faith in the power of Christ's atoning blood.