

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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Christ's Commission

"Go ye therefore," and all nations teach,
Tell it to all—not just a few;
My pure saving gospel ever preach:
This my command is given you.

My charge was not to cavort and sing
And preach soft things to suit the crowd;
But I told you to observe each thing
That I showed you and avowed.

I told you their poor lost souls to save
By freely giving them my Word:
As in John three, three to eight I gave
And Luke thirteen, three you have heard.

A salaried preacher—college made—
I never hinted such a thing—
I use preachers of a better grade,
Commissioned only by the King.

Those who won't compromise in their youth
Nor age. And in the battle strife
Will stand invincible for the truth,
Prizing it more than earthly life.

Baptize the believers—every one—
Teach them about the Holy Ghost:
This is the course I would have you run;
Obedience is what I prize most.

Then, lo, I am with you unto the end,
As is the promise in my Word.
A blissful eternity you'll spend
High up in heaven with the Lord.

J. H. Pierson (Revised)

oOo

Gospel Giving

The gospel is the glad tidings of Christ the Savior coming to redeem sinful man. Prophecy concerning this gospel sets it forth as a free gospel to every one who thirsts or seeks for it. (Isa. 55:1) "Ho every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat;

yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

God's truth can only be given by the Spirit of God and is dropped into our hearts by His Spirit without any earthly power or price. For the gospel to have power it should be given freely as it is received. (Matt. 10:8) "Freely ye have received, freely give."

There is nothing man can give to purchase eternal life. (Mark 8:37) "Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

God's word says in Isa. 52:3, "Ye have sold yourselves for nought; and ye shall be redeemed without money." (John 3:16) "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (Romans 6:23) "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

The gospel is a free gift to us. In order for us to be saved we must freely accept the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one who receives it. Luke 4:32 tells us that they were astonished at his doctrine: "For his word was with power." Read also John 1:12: "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."

If the gospel is to be free, the way for it to reach the people has to be provided. Jesus says, "I am the way." It was love that prompted God to give His only begotten Son to redeem sinful man. "For God is love." A soul filled with this divine love will desire to give and give whether he has the wherewith to give, that the gospel might get to lost souls. Love will find a way. If we desire to give very strongly we can, for God has designed we need not come before Him empty. (Exodus 23:15) He has planned that the substance and possessions of His people should be used to carry on His work that all may be helpers with Him in all that He does. Some seem to think God is in need. Read Psalms 50:12: "If I were hungry, I would not tell thee, for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof."

Attend the
NATIONAL CAMPMEETING
July 21-30
Monark Springs, Mo.

God has a plan in permitting His people to offer to Him of their substance. It is for their own spiritual developing. Read Philippians 4:17: "Not because I desire a gift; but I desire fruit that may abound to your account." Also Acts 20:35: "I have shewed you all things how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, it is more blessed to give than to receive."

The word of God instructs us in 1 Cor. 16:2, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him." Does "every one" exempt any of God's people? No, none were to be exempted. Deut. 16:16, 17, "And they shall not appear before the Lord empty. Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which he hath given thee." Also read Prov. 11:24, 25: "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat, and he that watereth shall be watered also himself." Now turn and read the same in the New Testament. (Luke 6:38) "Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give unto your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

If we are to prosper in our souls and in this world's goods, we must obey God and honor the Lord instead of ourselves. We have to give to Him the firstfruits (a holy consecrated life). For they gave their own selves to the Lord. Read about it in 2 Cor. 8:5. Ah! that is the secret! When Christians learn to truly give themselves to the Lord they will honor God. Turn to Proverbs 3:9, 10 and read. After God is honored we will regulate our own needs according to what we have to spend on them. This is a very good way to check extravagances. Some people pay all their bills and buy everything they WANT, and if they have a nickel or dime left they will offer it to God.

Is it any wonder the harvest and increase are withheld from God's people? The harvest of souls and increase are also withheld. Oh, the lack of love. God is not pleased. Souls are perishing everywhere for the gospel.

The Bible teaches us that offerings to God must be prompted by the grace of God in the heart, as we read in 2 Cor. 9:7, 8, 9, 10, 11: "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give: not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth the cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall also reap bountifully. Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your own seed, and increase the fruits of your righteousness; Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. For the administration of this service not only

supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God."

The word of God is plain and simple. In His promises He has always provided that His people shall by His grace always have something to give. He therefore expects them to give cheerfully and bountifully. Paul exhorts all Christians to abound in this grace of giving to God. "As ye abound etc." (Col.2:7) "Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith as ye have been taught [Paul was confident he was teaching these brethren the truth] abounding therein with thanksgiving." Paul speaks of giving as a grace. Oh, dear people, let us not forget, then, that though we may abound in the graces of faith, knowledge, utterance, diligence, and love; yet these are not enough. God wants us to abound in this grace of giving also. The grace of LOVE in the hearts will ever work this way. It did in Jesus. He gave all. Jesus has said, "I am the way." 2 Cor. 8:9. "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." Jesus gave His life that we might be saved, and if we have the same love for lost souls truly it is a little thing to give of our means to send the gospel to others that they might be delivered from the bondage of sin. (Read the whole chapter of 2 Cor. 8.) Let the searchlight of God's eternal truth be turned on and locate us. Are we in His word? Verse five gives the secret: "But first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God."

The lack of money is not what hinders the true work of God (and it truly is lacking). It is because the hearts of God's people are withheld from Him and given over to the things of this world that the work of God languishes. "Seek first the kingdom of God—and all these things shall be added unto you," says Jesus.

I believe when the children of God learn to give their offerings to God first, they also will be taught of the Spirit where to place it that it might be used to the glory of God in the spreading of the gospel. Love "seeketh not her own". How true is this in the life of every one born of God. Many dear saints have sacrificed their very life that they might spread Scriptural holiness through the land.

Dear reader, has this propelling force come into your life? If you have Christ, it has; for this is the reason He descended to this sin-cursed world and died on Calvary that the love of the Father might be shed abroad in your hearts, preparing you for eternal fellowship with Him who is LOVE. —Gladys Weiss

— o o — Stop And Go Lights

Just now, early Monday morning, October 18, 1943, on arising from my bed and from an altar of secret prayer, the above title came distinctly to my mind. In this day of fast living and high pressure, there are comparatively few who are not familiar with the above title, as applied to the various colored winking and blinking traffic lights of our towns and

cities. In this day of supposed-to-be progress, these lights are intended warnings and instructions regarding physical safety. For our bodily safety we are to go when a certain light says go and stop when a certain light says stop. To disobey this may mean death or, for a less penalty, much discomfiture.

The holy Bible is a book of instruction, containing the stop and go lights for our spiritual safety. Some of us are painfully aware that there is a spirit of compromise and a spirit of fanaticism infesting the spiritual world. And it does not matter to the devil which one of these roads you take, except he would have you accept the one where you are best adapted to do the most destructive work to the kingdom of Christ. The pathway of God's eternal truth lies right in between these two side tracks. And it is the one and only safe and dependable route. (John 5:39; Acts 17:11.) The stop and go lights of God's eternal truth, found in their completion only on this highway (Isa. 35:8, Acts 20:28, Matt. 16:18) are the only stop and go lights that will steer a soul clear of both compromise and fanaticism. And thank the dear Lord, beloved, these stop and go lights of the Bible (its genuine doctrinal truths alone) when obeyed will of a truth keep souls from being stranded on these rocks of destruction. May the Lord help us to encourage one another and pray for one another and "go" only when this light says go (the word of God alone, not what some sect preacher says) and "stop" only when this light says stop (not when some false teacher says stop).

This is a sure remedy and the only one for the people of God.

—J. H. Pierson



First Pure, Then Valiant For The Truth

"Cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord deceitfully, and cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood." Jer. 48:10.

The using of the natural, metal sword brings forth war or battle and blood is shed. The using of the spiritual sword also brings forth a battle, but this battle is for the Lord, this sword pierces between soul and spirit, this sword discloses the secrets of the heart of man. When this sword is used we find out by experience just where our opponent stands, he discloses his true character when he fights the word of God. He may be professing as high as heaven, yet only deceiving the people by his evil scheming.

Remember what Christ said, that people would be gathered into bundles to be burned? Matt. 13:30. Well, this is going on today, and who cries out against it? Do we really think that it is necessary to cry out against wickedness in high places as it was in the time of D. S. Warner and in the time of Martin Luther? Are not people going to be judged by God any more because of what they fellowship? If we will not cry aloud and spare not, will we escape the wrath of God? If we know these things and do not BARK, what will be our end?

This reformation began because God found a man who would cry aloud against sectarianism and he had to face persecution at the hands of dead, sin-beghighted sects. Do you think that sectarianism is any better today? Think you that they will love us for telling them the truth—that God will condemn his children if they fellowship sinners? What we love, we fellowship, and what we love we will not cry out against and the Holy Spirit is grieved and quenched. Souls die in sectarianism for lack of the truth, they perish for soul food. God does not love or prosper sectarianism. One in Him must forsake sectarianism to be on God's side and "reward it double," tear it down with the truth, the word of God. One must take the persecution that follows the godly, and if this is done, one will find that sectarianism is not of God just as Brother Warner and Luther found it out, for they had to face its cruel cursings and hatred. The true Church of God is clear from sectarianism, for this reason God looks upon His saints with favor. His children are the only people whom He can trust to put His Holy Spirit into their hearts. God's Spirit truly cries out against Babylon, the great. Listen to this, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven saying, COME OUT OF HER, MY PEOPLE, that ye be not partakers of her sins and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double." Revelation 18:2-6.

God looks upon sectarianism just as His word reveals, and we know that if we are true to God and His word it will lead souls out of sectarianism so that we will not be destroyed with sinners and the disobedient to God's call, "Come ye out from among them and be ye separate saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean, and I will receive you." 2 Cor. 6:17. If we don't want to be unclean and forsaken by God, we had better clear ourselves and obey the voice of God lest we be found wanting and have the curse of God along with the wicked.

Did Bro. Warner find it pleasant to fight against Babylon? Did Luther find it easy to fight the battle against the beast? Can we expect it will be easy for us to fight against the image? Can we expect it will be easy to wield the sword of the Holy Spirit? Yes, it is easy if the HOLY SPIRIT does it through us. It is better to obey God rather than man. And the blessings will follow the faithful followers of God. But be sure that it is God's Holy Spirit that uses you and not some other spirit that would thrash the saints in light. "First pure, then valiant for the truth."

—I. E. Kriebel

"FAITH AND VICTORY"**16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY**

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

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

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

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way the Bible and the Holy Spirit teaches you to do or stirs your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Exodus 24:2; 1 Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

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

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma

Rayville, La.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt, workers, and all the saints,—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I am a stranger here but not to Jesus. Praise His holy name. I would like to meet every one of the Lord's children and have a face to face talk with each of them.

I feel that I will soon be called home where He has gone to prepare a place for the ones who love and obey His commands. I can hardly walk any more although I am not old, only 56 years of age. Regardless of all my burdens, I am happy in the Lord. I ask the prayers of all the Christian people that I may hold out faithful. The Lord has revealed some precious secrets to me.

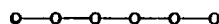
Your sister in Christ, Mrs. W. D. Dopson

Editorials

There will be no "Faith and Victory" paper printed and sent out for August as most of the workers will be out in meetings or gospel work. I am expecting to leave for the Hammond, La. campmeeting the last of June and some of the workers at the office will likely go there also. Then we expect to be in some meetings in Louisiana after the Hammond meeting is over. We want to get back in time to attend at least the last half of the National campmeeting at Monark Springs, Mo. Then on August 4, the state campmeeting here at Guthrie will begin so my time will be fully taken up for some time to come in these meetings unless the Lord changes things. It is all in his hands and we are subject to his will at a moment's notice.

Wife will take care of the office work while we are away and there will be at least one or two of the workers stay and help take care of the needed work in the office. We all need your prayers as we are living to make Christ known and are at his service day or night.

We will try and make arrangements to print the Bible lessons for August and will send the Sunday School rolls out to all who have subscribed for the same. If any of the readers who are not taking rolls want the Sunday School lessons you can let us know and we will send you one or more as you desire. My address while in La. will be in care of P. O. Box 370, Hammond, Louisiana.



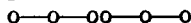
The little book just printed entitled "The New Testament Church and its Symbols, Metaphors, and Analogies" is proving a great blessing and encouragement to many souls. Many who have received and read the book have sent in for more books to give or loan to their friends. We feel assured that those who read this book and heed its instructions will never be moved any more by the many winds of doctrines that are blowing in these perilous days. It should be in the hands of every earnest and sincere Christian. Let every saint do all he can to get this book into the hands of every child of God. We are sending this book to any address in the United States for 25 cents or six books for one dollar, postage paid.



The office force has been reduced lately; two of the workers are in other places. Sister Geneva Ray has been visiting her husband at Denison, Iowa for two weeks. Brother Ray, her husband, is detained in the C. P. S. camp situated at Denison and it is not possible for him to be at home except for a few days out of the year. While there, Sister Geneva has not been idle as she does personal work in handing out tracts and talking to souls and has also prepared the Sunday School lessons for the July paper.

Sister Myrtle Grice felt the Lord calling her for personal and public work in his vineyard and at this writing she is with her parents in Shreveport, Louisiana where she is working for the Lord. She

will be going further south as the Lord directs and opens up ways. Sister Myrtle has been a faithful worker here in the office and will return to the work here should it please the Lord. She is consecrated to do whatever the Lord may will for her to do. Pray for her and all the others connected with the "Lord's Print Shop."



Jesus says, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life; and few there be that find it." Matt. 7:13, 14. In Luke 12:32 Jesus says again to his disciples, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

In these scriptures we clearly see that the saved are exceedingly few compared to the millions of souls who are in the world and on the broad way to destruction. This fact ought to stir every saved soul to do all he can to get the gospel to the souls of men. Even though many be saved, yet they will be few compared to the billions who are lost. •

I have been thinking of the great truth that Jesus uttered in such a few words. He says to enter in at the strait gate which means the way that is difficult to the natural man. It is contrary to earthly ambitions and self praise, honor, or glory here in this world and it takes much faith in God and the believing of the testimony of his word with the seeing of invisible things to hold and move on in His will and pleasure. This is the very reason it is difficult and the reason that so many just run well for a season and as time goes on they willingly allow the devil to switch them off the crucified way and they begin to love the praise of men, love money, and love the world. The enemy succeeds in putting out their spiritual eyes in analogy to Samson's literal eyes that were put out by the Philistines. Then he began to grind for them. So it is with many preachers today as they have weakened to the earthly elements and Satan has succeeded in putting out their eyes and they grind or labor for the enemies of Christ with a salary attached and earthly praise and honor of men. James says, "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world, is the enemy of God." James 4:4.

Then the Lord says, "Wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction and many there be which go in thereat." It seems today that most all people are choosing the broad way in spite of the positive declaration of the Lord that it, "leadeth to destruction." This is a sure sign that people as a rule do not believe the word of our Lord but just pretend to do so by making a profession of Christ while they travel on the broad way to destruction. This is the sad sight that meets the spiritually wise souls who are in the world today. Oh, that professors today would come to the knowledge and understanding of what Paul meant when he said, "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." Oh, that we could see men today proving their faith by acting like they believe God's words. Then would that light of heaven shine out in this dark world of sin and then would souls really be converted to God.

OBITUARIES

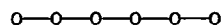
Mrs. Elizar Ligons (nee Murdock) was born in Columbus, Miss. and spent her childhood days in that city.

At a very early age she entered into holy wedlock with Andrew J. Ligons. They lived in Miss., then later moved to Oklahoma and reared their family near Hoffman. Their marriage developed into what God intended it to be. They were inseparable and seemingly in perfect accord at all times. Mrs. Ligons accepted this as a blessing and proved to be a devoted wife, worthy of the tender care and loyal devotion of her husband. Eleven children were entrusted to them. She was a worthy mother.

She professed a faith in Christ in her early life in Mississippi, but allowed her faith to grow cold. Still her life proved that she realized that there is a God. She renewed her trust in God's saving power during the month of May, 1944, taking her stand with the evening light saints of Hoffman, Okla. After a lingering illness of six months in which her newly developed faith was tested, she passed to her reward June 7, 1944.

The bereaved are: husband; father and mother; nine sons and two daughters; four sisters; two brothers; eighteen grandchildren; and a host of friends.

Funeral service was conducted by Bro. G. W. McMillan. Text: Eccl. 3:2.



Leona Kitchen was born Sept. 21, 1896 in Tallodege, Ala. She departed this life May 16, 1944 at the age of 47 years, 7 months, and 25 days. She gave her heart to the Lord at an early age and was a firm believer of the Holy Bible and its principles as applied to practical life. She was patient and kind in her sickness and a devoted wife and mother. She leaves to mourn her departure her husband, Lejie Kitchen; two daughters, Velma B. and Marjorie J.; two sons, James and Lester; her mother, Sister Martha Averitt of Akron, Ohio; two sisters, six brothers, a host of relatives, saints, and friends. Interment in Mount Peace Cemetery, Akron, Ohio. Funeral services conducted by Sister Cordelia Jones, assisted by Sister Nellie Wilson. Text: Rev. 14:13; 22:14.



Lena Murry Suggs, born in Clarksville, Tenn., June 12, 1889, departed this life May 31, 1944 at her home in Irwin, Pa. at the age of 55 years, 11 months, and 19 days. Sister Suggs gave her heart to the Lord over 32 years ago and lived a faithful Christian life unto her death. She had a Bible reading class in this community and the Wednesday night before she died she went to her Bible class by the assistance of a friend. She had been in failing health since the first of the year but was patient and strictly trusted God unto the end. She leaves to mourn her departure a husband, J. H. Suggs; two daughters, Mrs. Delialih Brownlee of Sandusky, Ohio and Mrs. Charlie Authur Darden of Pittsburgh, Pa.; one son, Lazarus Suggs of Philadelphia, Pa.; one grandson, Phillip Darden, Jr., a host of relatives, saints, and friends. Interment in Union Cemetery. Funeral services were conducted by Sister Cordelia Jones. Texts: 2 Tim. 4:7, 8; Rev. 22:12; Eccl. 12:13, 14.

Pierre Decocq, 48, a well known farmer residing five miles southwest of Purdy, succumbed to a long illness at his home. He had been bedfast for six months. He lived his entire life in the Purdy community.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Hazel Decocq, two sons and a daughter, Olin, of the home, Lawrence D., serving somewhere in Africa in the U. S. Army, and Mrs. Irene Jenkins of Pittsburg, Kansas, three brothers, Lafayette Decocq, of Monett, Henry Decocq of Purdy, and Louis Decocq of Wheaton; four sisters, Mrs. John Whipple of Forest City, Mo., Mrs. Eunice Cole of Granby, Mrs. Faye Harrell and Mrs. Tressa Leonard of Purdy, and his step-mother, Mrs. Stella Decocq, of Purdy. His father, Paul Decocq died 16 years ago. Dr. Maude Decocq of Monett is a first cousin of the deceased.

Mr. Decocq lived a consecrated Christian life, and was fine and upright in all his dealings.

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Campmeeting Notices

1944 NATIONAL CAMPMEETING

The National Campmeeting of the Church of God will convene this year, the Lord willing, on July 21 and close the 30th, and to be held on the saints' campground at Monark Springs, Mo., which is five miles east of Neosho, Mo.

A cordial invitation to attend this national gathering of God's people is extended to all lovers of the truth. It is held for the saving of the sinner, sanctification of the believer, divine healing of the sick, and the edification of the church in general.

Those coming by bus or train will have to come to Neosho, and then take a taxicab to the campground at Monark Springs.

Very few rooms or cabins will be available to rent. Tents may be rented on the ground for \$3.00 each and cots 75 cents each. There may be a shortage of cots, so bring your own if possible. Your bedding and straw ties will be only what you bring, so come prepared for very cool nights which sometimes occur there. Straw will be furnished. If you want a tent and cot, please send your order, with money, direct to Bro. Sam Barton, R. 8, Box 119, Tulsa, Okla., by July 10th. Bro. Barton is business manager of the meeting, and Sister Barton is supervisor of the dining hall, etc.

Meals will be served at the dining hall and financed by free-will offerings and free-will contributions of fresh, dried, factory-packed and home-canned fruits and vegetables. Bring your sugar and point ration books. If possible, bring one granite plate, one small bowl, one knife, one fork, and one spoon to donate to the dining hall equipment.

Much work will need to be done at the campground and dining hall in preparation for the meeting. Several able-bodied, consecrated men are needed to come a few days before the meeting to assist Bro. Barton in these preparations. If you can come to help, write Bro. Barton beforehand so that he may know whom to expect. The Neosho congregation has always been faithful in helping to prepare for the meeting, and the usual cooperation can be expected this time. In the world's history there has never been a time when the gospel has been more needed to be preached and practised than at present, so let us be "workers together" in fulfilling our responsibilities to a lost world.

Each individual and congregation should have a special fund for the national campmeeting. Please send the offering to Bro. Sam Barton or to the undersigned by July 10th.

Come praying and expecting a glorious and profitable meeting.

—L. D. Pruitt, Secy-Treas.
1005 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla.

The Oklahoma State Camp meeting at Guthrie, Okla. will be held under the large tent just east of the saints' chapel at sixth and West Warner Sts. Meals will be served at the dining hall in the same block.

This State Campmeeting will begin August 4th and continue ten days. It will be run on the free-will offering plan as usual. Bring or send food supplies as the Lord may direct. Send means and supplies for the meeting to Fred Pruitt, 920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Okla.

The saints will do all they can to care for all who come, but please bring pillows and other bedding and cots to supply sleeping needs if possible. The saints here extend a hearty welcome to all to come and be with us in this campmeeting.

Ministers from this state and others will be here to preach the gospel of Christ in all its fulness. Those who desire to be saved, sanctified, or healed should come to this meeting. You are welcome.

The Southern California State campmeeting of the Church of God will be held in Pasadena, Calif., located on the corner of Washington and Mientone Aves. and it is to be from August 18th to 27th inclusive. All are cordially invited to attend. Ministers of God will be present from this state and other states to preach the old time truth which if believed will set men free from sin. Sanctification or baptism of the spirit, divine healing, and the one true church or body of believers will be set forth in a scriptural manner by the able body of ministers who gather at this assembly of saints.

Those planning to attend and want tents and cots will please communicate with Bro. P. K. Turner, 121 W. Bellevue Ave., Pasadena, Calif. and those desiring to send contributions to the campmeeting can send them to this brother. Bring ration books and pray for the meeting and for souls who need God.

Access to the camp grounds is available by street car, bus, or railroad. A hearty welcome is given to all lovers of truth.

—By request

The scattered saints in Oregon feel God wants a campmeeting this year, and have set August 5th to 13th for same. Meeting will be on Sister Busch's place 2½ miles from Stayton, Oregon. Her address is Scio, Ore. Meeting will be run on the free-will offering plan. All lovers of the old-time truth and pure gospel are invited. Let all who can come, and all pray God to send what holy ministers he wants here.

The saints in this part of the country are scattered, and conditions make it so it will take some sacrifice to attend. But God will bless all who will work and do for him. For information write to Emma or Carl Busch, R. 2, Box 175, Scio, Ore.; or Bro. Noah White, R. 1, Jefferson, Ore.

—Carl Busch.



CORRESPONDENCE

Livingston, Calif.—Dear Brethren in Christ Jesus: I never have met you but have received the "Faith and Victory" through a friend and I agree with the doctrine it teaches. Most churches now teach that there is no harm in this and no harm in that. If there is no harm in using tobacco, drinking and getting drunk, going to dances and picture shows and other worldly amusements, where is the line? The trouble with so-called Christians today

is that they want to crowd as closely as possible to the line. If I were walking on a sliding river bank, the farther away from the river I could walk the safer I'd be. I am taking no chances with sin the way some are taking chances. It will drag one down. We are taught to walk soberly, redeem the time, and do much praying. I want to live here in this world in such a way so that I can go to glory and be safe forever more. I need the saints' prayers.

Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Unruh

Brownsville, Ore.,—Dear Sister Pruitt,—Greetings. We are thankful this evening that all is well with our souls. Although we have trials and tests we also have a determination to be true to our Lord and Savior. As He is our mighty God we know that by his grace and help we will be able to stand.

Sister O. B. Wilson from California stayed with us over night a while back which was an encouragement to us as we have not been in any saints' meetings since we went to Calif. campmeeting last August. We used to sing a song, "Though all men should forsake thee, By thy grace I'll follow thee." That is still our determination, to walk the strait and narrow way and make heaven our home. May God bless you and help all as needed. Your sister in Christ,

E. Luehring.

Merrill, Mich.,—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I am glad this morning for salvation. We never can tell the wonderful love of God. He is so kind and good to us, fills our souls with his Spirit and makes us to rejoice and supplies all of our needs. We thank you for sending us the book. It is wonderful to read, so encouraging and inspiring. May the Lord's richest blessings ever be yours. I am trusting in God with both soul and body, casting all our cares on him, knowing that he will keep that which is committed to him. Remember us in your prayers. W. T. S. Maurer

Lake Charles, La.,—I was so glad to get a copy of your book, "The New Testament Church and its Symbols." I finished reading it this morning and I want you to know I got a big spiritual lift from it. Oh, how I wish every one of the saints would read it before they attend the campmeetings. I am sure all the ones who have perfectly honest hearts would enjoy the good preaching they will be privileged to hear much more because of the good message of your book. I enjoyed it so much and also enjoyed your article in the May issue of the "Faith and Victory" paper ("Are You of Earth or Heaven?"). I am so glad that I have a good appetite for things that are good. It is so good to feast at Father's table which he spreads for us through his faithful ministers. Oh, how good it is to be a real child of God. He is so good to us. I am in the one body, thank God.

Your blood washed brother, George W. Stephenson

Spokane, Wash.,—Dear precious saints of God,—It is with the joy of salvation in my soul and a burden for the lost that I greet you. We received your book, "The New Testament Church and its Symbols." Dear ones, I have been reading on the church for the last 34 years and have read many truths on this subject, but never have I read anything to excel this. I am not saying this with a "flattering tongue" but dear ones, we are living in a time of times. I am sure God laid this on your hearts to write and I know it was written under inspiration. As Jesus told Peter that flesh and blood hath not revealed this unto him, but our Father which is in heaven. I have read this nearly through and husband is reading it as he has time.

My heart cries out to Him who knows our every

motive and desire. I am asking Him to lead us aright. I know He knows His own wherever they are. They are scattered all over the world. How serious and necessary it is for everyone to be found in his proper place doing God's holy will. Pray for us that our strength and faith fail not. We will be sending for more books later.

Your sister in the one faith, —Jessie Holloman

Duarte, Calif.,—Dear Bro. Pruitt and Workers,—Greetings in the name of our Lord. We are praying God's richest blessings on his work and workers. I received the books and have partly read one. I found the name, "New Testament Church and Its Symbols" correct. The contents are more precious than gold and its instructions are timely and needed. I gave those three you sent me to others to read. I am not selling them but I intend to urge saints to buy them. I am enclosing money for twelve more books. I have been invited to a holiness revival and I want to pass these books out among some friends I have there. I think it will be good for ministers and gospel workers to advertise this booklet. Yours in Him,

L. E. Davy

Bellflower, Calif.,—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—Greetings in the name of Jesus, and may His abounding grace ever be thy portion, amen.

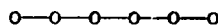
I just received the books on the church and poems. That book on the church is the best and clearest I have ever read. They surely cover all the ground in a manner that can be easily understood. We never had anything on the church with symbolic analogy before.

Bro. Pruitt, you have all reason to be encouraged, for I know God is blessing you there in the print shop. You could not write such good books and papers if it were not for God's help. One may judge the spirituality of a publishing house by its writings. I am not trying to flatter you either, God forbid; but merely giving you credit as an instrument in God's hands.

I am thankful to God for His great salvation, and the way God is leading his humble people heavenward. We are surely gaining ground, so let us move on to higher ground. The evening shall be as the morning, and her light clear as a crystal with no darkness in her at all.

My afflictions are better and I thank all of you for your prayers, but continue to pray until complete healing comes.

E. M. Zinn.



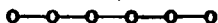
We have inserted these few testimonies from some who have received and read the new book entitled, "The New Testament Church and its Symbols, Metaphors, and Analogies" so our readers can see and know what others say about its contents. We would like very much for every born again person to read this book and feast on the good truth given of the Lord. You should also get this book into the hands of everyone you can, that their life might be preserved in Jesus Christ.

We are sending these books out with postage paid to any address in the United States for the small sum of 25 cents each or six books for one dollar. If you do not have the 25 cents to spare, just drop us a card with your name and address and we will send you a book free of any cost to you.

—Editor

Webb City, Mo.,—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—Greetings in the name of our dear Savior. I am sending you \$2.00 and I wish you would send me several of those booklets, "The New Testament Church and its Symbols" for distribution. I believe I can place a few of them where they will do good. I received the two you sent and it makes things so plain that it could not be misunderstood.

Wife is sick with another attack of gall stones like she had last August. Please have special prayer for her. She hasn't had any trouble with them since God so wonderfully healed her of them last August. Pray for her. Your Brother in Christ, —E. M. Wood



Quakertown, Pa.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—Greeting you and yours in the blessed name of Jesus. I am thankful tonight and always that "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." It is ever so true. It was through the fervent prayers of the saints that I received the divine touch on my body. The sciatic rheumatism is gone out of my body without the aid of medicine, praise God. As I prayed the Lord strengthened my faith and I became more confident the work was done even while suffering yet with it. God's precious dealings are marvelous in our eyes and His ways are past finding out. I want to thank each one of the saints who prayed and helped me bear this burden. God bless them and keep them in victory, is my prayer.

I want to thank you for your latest books on the "New Testament Church and its Symbols." I received them last week. I haven't read it all yet, but rejoice in this precious light and truth. I shall try to put them into hands to prove a blessing, as they are sent forth with prayer.

Trust you are prospering in soul and body; also the family and workers who are helping to bear the burden. "He that goeth forth and weepeth bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Psa. 126:6. This world is a great harvest field. Wherever we go there is much need for the word of truth to be sent forth.

Pray for us that we press on to greater victories.

Yours in Christ, Julia Cramer



Boley, Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt, Greetings in Jesus' name to you and all the Lord's family. —I thank our heavenly Father that I am still saved and all on the altar for my blessed Saviour. Praise His name forever.

We were glad to receive the books. I have enjoyed reading this new book very much. It is food for the mind and also for the soul.

We are getting along with the work here very well. The Lord is blessing the work, and the saints are getting more settled and determined to stay with the truth and live for the Lord and work together than we have been for a long time. To God be all the thanks and praise and glory forever and ever, Amen. Also, we are going on with the dining hall building. We sold the old building for \$80.00, moved it off the ground, and are getting ready to lay the foundation.

May the Lord continue to bless all of you, is my prayer. Pray much for us. Your brother in Christ for the whole truth of the gospel, M. J. Phillips.



Chicago, Ill.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt, —Greetings to you and all the saints in the name of Jesus.

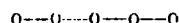
You remember I told you about my son's hands and toes peeling off—his toes not so bad as his hands. Praise the Lord, they are practically well again. He had rheumatism last week and the Lord touched him again. He is fine and is going to school this week.

He had fever on Sunday and Tuesday morning he couldn't walk. One foot was worse than the other and his toes pained so he could hardly move them. The saints here prayed for him. One foot got better and the other, worse. We had to carry him from one room to another. Thursday morning he could walk very little, but by Sun-

day he was fine. He lost almost ten pounds. His appetite was very poor, but he took plenty of fruit juice, etc. His knees also were affected, but the Lord surely did raise him up quickly. Glory to His name.

I need the earnest prayers of all the saints.

Sister June Badal



Yale, Okla.—Dear people of God,—For some time I have been impressed to write how God had to deal with me while I was in sin. From my childhood I always feared and loved God. But I didn't surrender to him until after I had married and had four children. My husband and I were stricken with that dread disease, typhoid fever. After a month he passed away. One week later the baby who was three and one-half months old passed on with hives. I was so very low I could hear the music in the other world. I wanted to go so badly but it seemed there was a small cord holding me and oh, I wanted it to break so badly. But I was not prepared to go and God in his great wisdom kept me. He showed me my loved one in a resting place. As I grew better I missed them from the home.

When my other three children were brought home, I didn't know them at first. The youngest one would sit and cry for her father to come sleep with her. I could not raise my head from my pillow. But little by little I recovered after about three months. When I began to get out around the crib and barns and see my husband's work just as he left it, it seemed time after time that I could never get back to the house. I needed God and God was trying to get me to come to him but I did not know what to do. At last He showed me I was lost. It seemed that hell opened before me right in my home. I began to try to pray. My children were crying but my soul was aill I could think of. How I did call on God and kept calling from day to day and he began to lift my load. I would pray in the corn crib, in the barn, and any place where I could get away from the children as they didn't understand and would cry so hard. Glory to God, victory come one morning while I was milking. Such a beautiful light flashed all around me and such a change! I was so happy, the sorrow from the sickness and death of my dear ones was all gone. There was such a change.

Now I write this hoping people will not put off God and suffer as I did. I fully believe if I had obeyed God and sought his kingdom my husband would not have been taken from me. God warned me that he was going to take him but I didn't get saved and I had to pay for it dearly.

This was in Virginia. Later I came to Oklahoma and married again. I had four sons by my second companion. I found the church for which I had sought most all my life.

I will give one cause of my neglect to get right with God. My husband and I would often wonder about what to do. My folks belonged to one church and his to another. They both had people in their church who we could see were not saved. I got so hungry in my soul for the church but I didn't know there was such as the church of God. I began to beg people to come together but they would not. On day I said to a good Nazarine lady, "I wish there was just one church and it was called the church of God." She said there was one in Yale. Not very long afterwards I heard them preach, and praise God, the fire surely fell. I was so happy and am still satisfied with the beautiful church. Oh, that people could only see. Pray for me.

Your sister in the Lord,

Tabitha Parker

Young People's Section

If You Have A Message

If you have a message for the lost today,
Do not be discouraged on your pilgrim way;
God will surely help you as you press along,
Put the message over with a prayer and song.

Souls today are groping in the shades of night,
Bound in sin and folly, what an awful plight;
There's power in the message now to set them free
Give them joy and gladness and perfect liberty.

God will surely listen to your faintest cry,
As your prayers ascending to his throne on high
Help to sound the warning to souls lost in sin;
Just declare the message in his precious name.

Faithful in His service as the days go by,
A crown of life is waiting in that home on high
For the faithful toilers, in the fields so white,
Turning souls from darkness to the land of light.

Let's continue working till the day is done
Pointing weary pilgrims to the heavenly home;
Then with labor ended and our sheaves laid down
We, with all his reapers, shall receive a crown.
—Ulysses Phillips

—oOo—

Editorials

The season for campmeetings has come again, and we are praying that they will be very beneficial to all those who are permitted to attend. Due to wartime transportation difficulties, the attendance at these meetings may not be as large as in past years, but we urge everyone who possibly can, especially young people, to meet with the saints in the various campmeetings in order to become spiritually fortified to stand the tests of life that lie ahead. A number of our young men are in Civilian Public Service camps, and some others are in non-combatant service in the army. Remember them to the Lord in prayer.

America may be winning on the battle fronts, but it is just as true that the nation is losing spiritually and morally on the home front. Many mothers have and are neglecting their homes and children to work in war plants, and as a result many homes are broken up and juvenile delinquency has increased at an alarming rate. Even among the saints (?) the lure for material gain has caused some mothers to disregard their God-appointed place as "keepers at home." We trust that such will recover themselves from the "snare" that has entrapped so many in the world.

—oOo—

On June 2, I received a notice from the director of the Civilian Public Service camp at Hill

City, South Dakota, that I was to report to that camp on June 22. However, the official orders for my going are to come through the local draft board, and up to this date (June 12) I have not received any. I learned that the orders are being held up in Washington. The saints have been praying and I am confident that the Lord has his hand on the whole matter. Whatever He permits to come I know that is His will for me, and am willing to take His way. Thank the Lord.

Recently I have received several letters of comfort and encouragement, and I wish to take this means of acknowledging them and to say that I truly appreciate the prayers and interest that the saints have shown in my behalf. In God's family the burdens of one are the burdens of all. He has a glorious church, and there is none like it.

Our geographical location does not mean so much if we can only know that we are the Lord's and are in His divine order. A stanza of a song says:

"When I am safe at home
Or in a foreign land,
When on an ice-bound shore,
Or on a sunlit strand;
When on the mountain height,
Or in the valley low,
Still doth He care for me—
I am the Lord's, I know."

—L. D. Pruitt.

—oOo—

Duarte, Calif.—To the dear Saints everywhere,—Greetings in Jesus' name. I feel it is the Lord's will for me to testify to what he has done for and has been to me. I may be a stranger to most of you but not to God nor to Bro. and Sister Davy and the church of God at Los Angeles. I do thank God for this wonderful way and am happy to know that we can take our burdens to him who really cares for us. Praise his holy name.

About three years ago I was afflicted with female trouble and at least three doctors told me that I needed an operation. The last one told me if I did not have it then I would have to at least a year from then. I told him I would talk it over with my husband. I did and of course did nothing about it for at least one year. In the meantime I suffered and prayed. I had professed to be a Christian for years but I really learned during this time that I had been far from it. I thank God for this affliction for it drew me nearer to him. I went to prayer meeting every day at Bro. and Sister Davy's and I gained much strength to press on. I finally asked God if it was his will to send me a baby as I thought maybe this would help. I felt he knew what was best. This however seemed impossible but I knew everything was possible with God. I was already the mother of a daughter sixteen and a boy fourteen. After about six months however I became quite ill and was anointed and prayed for and then finally had a doctor diagnose my case. He told me I would give birth to a baby. How I did praise God and rejoiced and I am still rejoicing for he not only gave her to me but delivered her too, before

even a doctor or a nurse got to me. I feel so much better now. The doctor still contends however that I may eventually have to have an operation. I feel fine and I do believe that God, who started this healing will truly finish it. I ask all of the saints to pray for me that God will completely heal me. Your sister in Christ, Ruby McDaniel

OO—OO—OO—OO—OO

Monett, Mo.—Dear Ones at the Office,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. May the Lord bless you all and keep you encouraged is my earnest prayer.

Deception is abounding; one of the proofs that we are in the last days. Just how long it will be before the precious Savior will come and put an end to all this deception and blood shed and hatred and strife, we do not know. But we do know that while we can, we should redeem the time and do all we can to help souls to find our Lord and know how to serve him with reverence and godly fear. This world is full of deception and nominal christianity and that is why so many have turned their backs on God, measuring him by his professed followers. Oh the pity of it all. Knowing these conditions should but stir us all to greater diligence in living the life and shining for our Lord in every possible way. Whether we see the fruits of our labor or not, it is our business to sow the gospel seed and trust the Lord to cause it to grow. I want to be found faithful when he calls for me. Pray for me, I don't feel well.

Yours in Jesus,

Mrs. Artie Bowers

Orland, Calif.—Dear Brother and Sister Pruitt,—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. Today finds me saved and trusting in the dear Lord. I intend to go all the way with my Lord. We are all well and trust the saints are all in good health and pressing onward in the Lord's work. In this awful time one surely must be careful for if ever one needed to live close to God it is now.

Well, it will soon be campmeeting time. I would so much love to be where I could go.

Since I wrote you last my boy has been sent to the South Pacific somewhere. He can't tell us just where. But God knows where he is. I got a letter from him today. It makes my heart feel so sad when I know he is sad and blue. Dear ones, do pray for my boy that God will protect him from all harm and bring him back to me. If I could not depend on God to bring him back, I don't know what I would do. But I truly believe He is going to do just that. The Bible tells us that if two or three agree on earth as touching any one thing, it shall be done. It didn't say it might be done, but praise God, it said it will be. Oh, that God would bring this cruel war to an end so all the poor boys can come home again.

I want you to still remember my little girl. My neck is much better and I thank God for it. Pray for it to be completely healed. May God bless you all and keep you saved.

Ada Leach

Birmingham, Ala.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—Greetings in the name of Jesus. I am here among many who profess to be Christians, yet I feel isolated. I believe all the precious word of God. It is my only hope. I love the Lord because He first loved me. He has saved me from sin because I sought him with all my heart and found him. "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." Jer. 29:13. Truly he has become my salvation. He called me out of darkness into his marvelous light and my soul finds peace and sweet rest. But oh, how my heart longs to be in the midst of the true people of God. I long to

look into their bright faces as they glow with the brightness of his love. Oh, how I long to join in worship with those who have fought and wrestled like Jacob and have prevailed and thus obtained an experience of real Bible salvation. They are dead to the world, crucified and risen with Christ and separated from the unfruitful works of darkness to serve God in righteousness and true holiness. I've been waiting and looking. I have read your papers and found more consolation in them than in any other. I read in some of your literature that New Jerusalem was the church of God that is here in the world now. How I long to see that body. New Jerusalem has been written upon my heart, and I see it the glorious church without spot or wrinkle, a body washed and cleansed by the blood, walking in the light as he is in the light. There shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth. Rev. 21:27.

May God bless His people and save all who desire to come.

Sister Viola Lowla

Merced, Calif.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt,—Greetings. I have just received the "Faith and Victory" paper and want to say I have never read anything so good. I rejoiced with tears for so many good testimonies and helpful writings. I want to say I am more determined than ever to go on with the Lord. I need your prayers that God will keep me true to him and that I'll be all he wants me to be. I want you to join me in prayer for a dear soul living in the apartment here with me. I have been working with her some but she clings to her father's belief. I can see God is working with her and she says she wants to be saved, but won't give up. Please pray God to give me wisdom to do and say just the thing to help her.

Also please remember my lost loved ones. I am praying for all the saints and the publishing work that God will keep it going for the good of all the saints and sinners alike. I do love the truth and want to see it going out by the printed page. May the dear Lord encourage you all there and give you wisdom and faith and keep each one true to himself until he comes. It truly seems the end can't be far away.

Your sister in the Lord,

Mrs. Alice Brewer

Philadelphia, Pa.—Kind Friends,—I pray that your work will be blessed by the Lord and, thank Him, the truth is still winning its way. He is still on his throne, ruling and over ruling. I want to thank him for his saving and keeping and healing power. I was feeling very bad a few weeks ago. It seemed like I was afflicted with muscular rheumatism and I was tempted sorely. I put my case before the Lord and He healed me as he has done many times in thirty-five years. What a wonderful Savior we do serve.

I am praying for all of God's people wherever they are. We are surely passing through deep waters but he has promised greater grace for the greater trials. Pray for my three sons that they may accept the Lord as their Savior. I have the promise of their conversion. He says if we know we have been heard we have the petition which we ask. I praise Him for that. We are surely living in a troublesome world. How we need to pray and confess our sins that God may heal our land. Please pray for me and my family.

Mrs. George Kelley.

Lord Willing, the Dover Okla. Campmeeting, will be held this year from Aug. 27th to Sept. 3rd on the chapel grounds 1 mi. north, 2½ mi. east of Dover, Okla.—Ulysses Phillips and Henry Caldwell, Dover, Okla.

Is Adultery Allowed?

In the commandments given on Mt. Sinai, written on the literal tables of stone for the children of Israel, God commanded, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." But Jesus says, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so." Matthew 19:8.

When Jesus came, he said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill." Matt. 5:17. When Jesus came as our Saviour and Redeemer he restored the Eden purity to man. Those who committed adultery under the law of Moses were stoned to death but they had to be guilty of the act. The law of Christ says, "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her, hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." Matt. 5:28. In this it is easy to see how that Christ fulfilled the law by making the heart pure so the lust will not even be there. Thus he restores his believing children back to the purity of Eden. In the beginning God only made the man one woman and she became bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh and in this he set an example for his created race of mortals.

When a man and woman goes before the Judge or a minister and are united in holy matrimony, they vow and covenant before God to be true to one another until death parts them. In this way it is like God joining them together and Jesus says plainly "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Matt. 19:6.

There are some today who marry a second companion and justify themselves in so doing by the verse of scripture found in Matt. 19:9 which reads as follows, "And I say unto you, whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery and whoso marieth her which is put away committeth adultery." They seem to think that this scripture gives them a right to marry again if their companion has committed fornication. It gives them a right to put her away for that cause but the question is, do they have a right to marry again? In the light of all other sacred scriptures we deem this a very flimsy excuse for in all the writings of the Apostle Paul, who was called especially to preach the gospel to the Gentiles, he gives no hint of one having a right to marry again. In fact he says if one is married to another companion they shall be called an adulteress. Read the first few verses of the 7th chapter of Romans. Then in 2 Cor. 7:11 he says, "But, and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband, and let not the husband put away his wife."

The law of Christ which is the teaching of the New Testament or Covenant, is far superior to the Old Testament law and teachings. When Christ, the power of God, comes into the heart of man, he is circumcised in heart by the Spirit and is made tender in heart to obey the Lord in all things. This gives the children of God not only the power to re-

frain from committing adultery, but also power not to even allow the lust of adultery in the heart. Christ truly fulfils the law and the prophets to a Christ-filled soul. Under the law they had to literally kill a man to commit murder, but under grace he is counted a murderer in the eyes of God if he retains hatred in his heart even toward his enemies. Under the law they were commanded to give a tenth, but under the law of Christ we give all and just become stewards over what he allows us to possess and we take of his and give as he leads by his spirit. Under the law they were commanded to keep the sabbath day holy as a rest for the body. Now we keep every day holy and the Jewish Sabbath is fulfilled in us who are under the law of Christ; we have a soul rest all the time and do not pollute the sabbath of rest in the soul by sin. Under the law and teaching of Moses, because of the hardness of the heart, he allowed them to put away their wife or husband for most any cause but under the law of Christ he purifies the heart and makes it tender and places his converts back in the state of Eden where they just have one companion living and do not even lust after another.

In observing the magnitude of the great army of those who profess Christ and are separating for most any cause and committing adultery by marrying another we come to the conclusion that nearly all peoples' hearts are hard even as in Moses' time and do not possess the heart that is circumcised by the Spirit. Rom. 2:29. It is a dangerous thing to presume upon the mercies of God and do contrary to his word for we will all have to stand before God in judgment. Jesus says, "The word that I have spoken shall judge you in the last day." John 12:48. The New Testament teachings are the law of Christ and we had better keep our hearts tender toward its instructions or they will be hardened and we will be weighed in the balance and found wanting in that great day of God Almighty.

Today the world is steeped in lustful adultery as women are baring their bodies and by so doing are creating untold lust in the opposite sex. And not only that, but the mothers are putting very little clothing on their little girls and thus killing the God-given modesty and starting them out on the broad road to destruction, making them a prey to vulgar and lustful men. Under the law of Christ if a man looks after a woman to lust after her, he is committing adultery in his heart with her already. Stop for a moment on the street corners where carnal and lustful men congregate and when a woman passes along with her suggestive and abbreviated clothing on, one can see the eyes of those lustful men follow her and begin to know just a little of the awful lust of adultery which fills the hearts of both men and women. The partly dressed women are as guilty as the men and the streets of our cities are thronged with such.

Recently while riding on a train I noticed a soldier and all supposed the girl with him was his wife judging by their actions. After he was gone she was asked if he were her husband and her reply was,

"Oh no, just a soldier boy." She seemed to be so unconcerned about her actions with him and thought that no one should think it strange. When the mothers rear their little girls and dress them in such a way as to kill the modesty and shame that God has created them with, one cannot expect them to be modest when grown. In some cases God is able to get a hold upon the heart and tenders and restores the modesty, purity and sacredness that was given to woman in Eden.

Let the saints of God keep far from such sins and set a pattern of Eden purity before professors and other worldly minded people so they can see Christ and be convicted of sins and be saved. When we show the purity of heaven to people we are lifting up Christ. Jesus says, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth will draw all men unto me." John 12:32. Those vulgar styles are of the earth and are earthy and create the lust of adultery in men's hearts.

—Fred Pruitt

— oOo —

Peace on Earth, Good Will to Man

I've found the goal my soul has sought,
The peace and joy that Jesus brought.
'Tis His redeeming love for me
That cleansed my heart and set me free.

He lives and reigns within my soul;
As he abides and takes control
The things of earth don't satisfy,
But all I need, God will supply.

Oh, who could doubt his love and care?
Who sees and hears my feeble prayer?
He's touched with my infirmity,
And bled for my iniquity.

O, wondrous grace, no tongue can tell
But angels with their voices swell
The praise of God's great gift to man,
Who found for us redemption's plan.

As shepherds watched their flocks at night,
The angels came with glory bright,
With tidings of great joy and grace,
For Christ is come, the Prince of Peace.

Though wars may rage on land and sea;
Christ speaks the Word and comforts me,
The winds and waves obey His voice;
Then trust in God, make him your choice.

—Arthur L. Johnson

My Unseen Friend

I have a Friend so dear to me,
And yet He is unseen;
Almighty, yet invisible,
The Arm on which I lean.

He never fails me, never leaves,
Is always by my side,
And in that wondrous Presence He
Has taught me to abide.

His love is past all human thought—
He gave His life for me,
That He might win me for His own,
His little friend to be.

When sorrows on my spirit press,
And eyes with tears are dim,
He draws me closer to His breast,
And bids me rest' in Him.

I turn to Him with all my need,
He shares both joy and pain,
And for His help and sympathy
I never look in vain.

This blessed comradeship divine
Is so surpassingly sweet
E'en here below—what will it be
When face to face we meet?

—E. May Crawford.

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BIBLE STUDY

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

ENTERING THE PROMISED LAND

Sunday, July 2, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations

June 26 to July 1.

- M. Israel's new leader Josh. 1:1-9.
- T. Joshua's consecration Num. 27:15-23.
- W. Joshua's commission Deut. 31:1-8.
- T. Joshua warns Israel Josh. 1:12-18.
- F. Joshua's farewell address Josh. 23:1-8.
- S. A land of opportunity Num. 13:25-33.

Printed PortionJoshua 1:1-9; 23:1-5.

Joshua 1:1. Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister saying,

2. Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.

3. Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.

4. From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.

5. There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

6. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them.

7. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to

the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

8. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

9. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong, and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Joshua 23:1. And it came to pass a long time after that the Lord had given rest unto Israel from all their enemies round about, that Joshua waxed old and stricken in age.

2. And Joshua called for all Israel, and for their elders, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers, and said unto them, I am old and stricken in age:

3. And ye have seen all that the Lord your God hath done unto all these nations because of you; for the Lord your God is he that hath fought for you.

4. Behold, I have divided unto you by lot these nations that remain, to be an inheritance for your tribes, from Jordan, with all the nations that I have cut off, even unto the great sea westward.

5. And the Lord your God, he shall expel them from before you, and drive them from out of your sight: and ye shall possess their land, as the Lord your God hath promised you.

Golden Text: "Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Josh. 1:9.

Practical Truth: The help of God is our best guarantee of success.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In preparation for today's lesson the class should review some of the lessons which we had concerning God's dealings with Israel about a year ago. This lesson begins where we left off last September. Name the most outstanding dealings which God had with them in the wilderness. How long were they in the wilderness? What part of this time was spent there because of unbelief? God's dealings with them are typical of His dealings with us in a spiritual sense. The fearful and unbelieving then were not permitted to enter literal Canaan land. The fearful and unbelieving in this dispensation of grace are not only forfeiting their privilege of entering spiritual Canaan (sanctification, that land of a fruitful spiritual life and rest) but are choosing as their eternal destiny, the lake of fire. (Rev. 21:8). Read Heb. 3:9-19.

Tell about the death of Moses and why he was not permitted to enter Canaan. Who was his successor?

When God commanded Joshua to lead the children of Israel over Jordan into Canaan, they had the same difficulties to face that they had over thirty-eight years before when the spies had returned from spying out the land with the report that there were walled cities and giants there. In your spiritual travels, have you ever met difficulties from which you shrank and perhaps failed to obey God's will for you, then (after a time of wandering and remorse because of your cowardice, you still desired to serve God) found that you finally had to face again the very thing that had so frightened you? Most of God's people have learned that it does not pay to shrink from hard things that they meet in the narrow way.

God's commands are accompanied by promises which make it easy to obey them. Notice the good promises given to Joshua after the command to go over Jordan: "every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given you." (Saints, don't let the enemy of your soul cause you to back up.) "There shall not any man be able to stand before thee." (This includes the giants.) "I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." Is not that a promise to strengthen hearts that may be tempted to be faint? These promises are extended to God's people today, also the exhortations. Notice verses 7 and 8. God's assistance depends upon our whole-heartedness in obeying Him.

Joshua did obey the Lord, who verified all of His promises. Victories achieved included crossing Jordan, destruction of Jericho, triumph over five kings at Beth-horon, and many others too numerous to mention here. Read the part of the book of Joshua between the two sections of our printed portion.

The burden of Joshua's last message was to encourage the Israelites to follow the Lord for the good of the nation. He had tested, tried, and proved the Lord and could recommend Him to others. Have you ever known of an old person who has faithfully served the Lord all of his life regret it, and advise others to take another course? Never!



TAKING POSSESSION OF CANAAN
Sunday, July 9, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations

July 3 to 8.

- M. The fall of Jericho Josh. 6:12-21.
- T. The land is divided Josh. 14:1-5.
- W. Caleb's faithfulness rewarded Josh. 14:6-14.
- T. The tabernacle set up Josh. 18:1-7.
- F. The cities of refuge Josh. 20:1-9.
- S. The righteous man's reward Psa. 15:1-5.

Printed PortionJoshua 14:6-14; Judges 1:20, 21.

Joshua 14:6. Then the children of Judah came unto Joshua in Gilgal: and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite said unto him, Thou knowest the thing that the Lord said unto Moses the man of God concerning me and thee in Kadeshbarnea.

7. Forty years old was I when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadeshbarnea to espie out the land; and I brought him word again as it was in mine heart.

8. Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the Lord my God.

9. And Moses sware on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the Lord my God.

10. And now, behold the Lord hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years even since the Lord spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old.

11. As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in.

12. Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the Lord spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said.

13. And Joshua blessed him, and gave unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh Hebron for an inheritance.

14. Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite unto this day, because that he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel.

Judges 1:20. And they gave Hebron unto Caleb, as Moses said: and he expelled thence the three sons of Anak.

21. And the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites that inhabited Jerusalem, but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem unto this day.

Golden Text: "Thou hast wholly followed the Lord." Josh. 14:9.

Practical Truth: God will assist those who wholly follow him.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

When, under the leadership of Moses, Israel came near Canaan, they sent a man from each tribe to spy out the land. They all brought reports which showed lack of faith in God except Joshua and Caleb. In last Sunday's lesson we learned how the Lord blessed Joshua because of his faith. In this lesson we learn how He rewarded Caleb.

Read again the account of the spies, their reports, the effects their reports had upon the people, how God promised to reward the faithful and punish the unbelieving in Numbers 13 and 14.

Caleb had said, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." In this statement he was counting the Lord's strength, and not alone that of Israel. He remembered all the Lord had done for them since they left Egypt; he knew the Lord had promised to give them the land, so he brought back a report which corresponded with the faith he had in the Lord. In this lesson he said he brought the report "as it was in mine heart." We read in God's word, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." The others had brought evil reports because it was in their hearts—or rather it was not in their hearts to believe God. When one's heart is right with God he will speak words of encouragement to God's people, and never will he hinder faith in the promises of the living God. So many today are spying out the land and returning to melt the hearts of the people with their reports of unbelief! In God's word they read that God's will for His people includes a holy life, but they see great giants (such as self, lusts of the flesh) which must be put to death, and they return with the report, "We are not able . . . they are stronger than we." This is only one example. There are many more. If a few faithful ones did not look stedfastly to God and refuse to be moved by such reports, there would be no faith left and all would die in the wilderness of unbelief. Caleb "wholly followed the Lord." One cannot wholly follow the Lord unless he counts Him faithful to perform all that He has promised. Notice his reward for faithfulness.

Caleb's request shows that his faith in God had increased. He was eighty-five years old, an age when most men would have felt they had done their share of work, therefore had earned the right to settle down and take things easy. But Caleb was asking for the right to take Hebron and subdue giants such as had frightened all Israel a few years previous. Notice the latter part of verse 12. Does this not show great faith?

Those who wholly follow the Lord should never settle down to a life of ease just because they have entered Canaan. Caleb had been in Canaan about forty years and had as much strength to fight giants as when he first entered. Do you have as much spiritual strength

now as when you were first sanctified? Faith increases with age if it is kept active.

—oOo—

SUCSESSES AND FAILURES OF ISRAEL

Sunday, July 16, 1944.

Daily Readings and Meditations

July 10 to 15

M. Failure through disobedience Judges 2:1-5.

T. Failure through idolatry Judges 2:11-15.

W. Israel tested Judges 2:16-23.

T. Conditions of blessedness Psalms 33:12-22.

F. National wickedness punished Ezekiel 5:1-9.

S. A prayer for mercy and peace Psalm 85.

Printed PortionJudges 2:6-16.

Joshua 2:6. And when Joshua had let the people go, the children of Israel went every man unto his inheritance to possess the land.

7. And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the Lord, that he did for Israel.

8. And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, being an hundred and ten years old.

9. And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnathheres, in the mount of Ephraim, on the north side of the hill Gaash.

10. And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.

11. And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim:

12. And they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them and provoked the Lord to anger.

13. And they forsook the Lord, and served Baal and Ashtaroth.

14. And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.

15. Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the Lord was against them for evil, as the Lord had said and as the Lord had sworn unto them; and they were greatly distressed.

16. Nevertheless the Lord raised up judges which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them

Golden Text: "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." Proverbs 14:34.

Practical Truth: The conduct of any nation should be a matter of vital concern to its citizens.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

When Joshua became old, he called the leaders of Israel together to urge them to remember the blessing of the Lord and serve Him. (See the latter portion of the lesson for July 2, and read the whole account in Joshua 23 and 24.) At that time they entered into covenant that they would serve the Lord, which covenant they kept during the life time of those who had seen the mighty works of God. What does this teach us concerning the influence of those who have personal experiences with the Lord?

The time came when Israel forsook the Lord to serve other gods. God had every right to their service for He

had rescued them from the bondage of slavery and made of them a great nation; He had given them all they possessed; and had been true to them in every way. Why were they so ungrateful as to forsake Him? Any people, who forsake God, do so because their affections are set on things of earth and not on heavenly things. They are drawn away of their own lusts. The worship of God is pure and self-denying. When man loses his personal contact with God, he chooses to be self-indulgent and lewd. His soul, which is not satisfied away from God, causes him to desire to worship something; so if he can find a religion which allows sensuousness, he accepts it as a substitute for the real, true worship of God to ease his conscience. Idolatry exists in his heart when in heart and thought he loves something else more than God, though he still may profess to know God and cling to Him in creed.

The Lord's anger was "hot against Israel." He had warned them often of the consequences of forsaking Him.

God's anger is pure, and is necessary for the vindication of His own laws. If nations or individuals never had to suffer for their sins, can you imagine the awful condition in which this world would soon be? Men often emphasize the love and mercy of God until they lull themselves into a sense of false security. God is exceedingly merciful; but rejected mercy calls for punishment from a just God. He is as faithful to fulfil His threats as His promises. People of today need to awaken to the fact that the woes which God has pronounced upon them as a punishment for their great sin of rejecting (in heart) the Saviour (This is a sin against greater mercy than Israel rejected.) will come to pass "as the Lord hath said." Apostasy, if not repented of, whether in nations or individuals, is followed by ruin. Can you think of examples which prove this statement to be true?

When Israel realized their weakness and in distress returned to God, He came to their rescue. This was great mercy, but we read that God's Spirit will not always strive with man. When Israel continued to forsake the Lord, one time He answered them when they cried unto Him for help, "I will deliver you no more. Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of tribulation."

"Soon the day of offered mercy will be past forevermore!" to those who now choose to serve the gods of this world.

—oOo—
WOMAN'S PART IN NATIONAL LIFE
Sunday, July 23, 1944.

Daily Readings and Meditations
July 17 to 22.

- M. Deborah counsels Barak Judges 4:1-9.
- T. Deborah and Barak deliver Israel Judges 4:10-16.
- W. A mother of nations Gen. 17:15-19.
- T. A woman's gift to the nation 1 Sam. 1:21-28.
- F. A faithful daughter Ruth 2:8-13.
- S. The mother of a great son Luke 1:8-17.

Printed PortionJudges 4:1-9, 13-16.

Judges 4:1. And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, when Ehud was dead.

2. And the Lord sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, that reigned in Hazor; the captain of whose host was Sisera, which dwelt in Harosheth of the Gentiles.

3. And the children of Israel cried unto the Lord: for he had nine hundred chariots of iron; and twenty years he mightily oppressed the children of Israel,

4. And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time.

5. And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim: and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.

6. And she sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedeshnaphtali, and said unto him, Hath not the Lord God of Israel commanded, saying, Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun?

7. And I will draw unto thee to the river Kishon Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into thine hand.

8. And Barak said unto her, If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, then I will not go.

9. And she said, I will surely go with thee: notwithstanding the journey that thou takest shall not be for thine honor; for the Lord shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh.

Judges 4:13. And Sisera gathered together all his chariots, even nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people that were with him, from Harosheth of the Gentiles unto the river of Kishon.

14. And Deborah said unto Barak, Up; for this is the day in which the Lord hath delivered Sisera into thine hand: is not the Lord gone out before thee? So Barak went down from mount Tabor, and ten thousand men after him.

15. And the Lord discomfited Sisera, and all his chariots, and all his host, with the edge of the sword before Barak; so that Sisera lighted down off his chariot, and fled away on his feet.

16. But Barak pursued after the chariots, and after the host, unto Harosheth of the Gentiles: and all the host of Sisera fell upon the edge of the sword; and there was not a man left.

Golden Text: "Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Esther 4:14.

Practical Truth: Courageous women are needed both in times of war and peace.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

It seems that it has always been so easy for God's creatures to forget and forsake Him when they are prospering and they can realize no special need of Him; but how willing and eager they are to flee to Him for refuge when they are in trouble.

After all the ways in which God had dealt with the Israelites to prove to them that they needed Him, they continued to forsake Him again and again. Last Sunday we learned that God raised up judges to deliver them from the hand of the spoilers. The Israelites regarded other people who were oppressing them as their spoilers, but in reality sin was the spoiler which caused their grief. So the real task of the Judges was to turn the people from their sinful ways. When this was accomplished God would defeat their literal enemies.

The expression, "the Lord sold them into the hand of Jabin," indicates that they were under Jabin's control to dispose of as he chose. When the apostle Paul said he was sold under sin, he described himself as being so under its control that he couldn't do what he would do that was right. We are told that the Canaanitish oppression was so severe that they overrun the country, carrying off anything they chose, including crops.

In this crisis, the Lord raised up a woman to deliver them. She did not take her place at the head of the nation that she might become famous, but the burden of her heart was Israel's deliverance. It was God who moved her to action, and she became a spokesman for God, taking no glory or credit to herself. She called herself "a mother in Israel."

Thank God for women whom God can fill with His Spirit and use to help lift souls out of the pit into which she caused them to fall. God will use any vessel that He can trust.

At the present time women are offering their services to the nation and are performing tasks which heretofore have been performed by men. Some do it for fame, some for adventure, some for patriotism, and some for money. The Lord is calling for women who will volunteer to work in His "defense work" because of a love for souls. Women are needed who have the courage to stand out against sin which is ruining womanhood. The fall of womanhood means the fall of the nation. Oh, for more Deborahs who are willing to be used as a mouthpiece for God to tell the people what His word says concerning the popular sins of the day, who will wield their influence for the right and help deliver souls from the hands of the spoiler, and to be real examples—Mothers in Israel!



GIDEON'S FAITHFUL FEW

Sunday, July 30, 1944.

Daily Readings and Meditations

July 24 to 29

- M. A faithful leader Judges 6:25-32.
- T. Faithful followers Judges 7:4-8.
- W. Victory through faith Judges 7:15-23.
- T. Jehovah with us 1 Sam. 14:6-15.
- F. One man and God 1 Sam 17:41-49.
- S. The fearlessness of faith Ps. 27:1-6.

Printed PortionJudges 7:4-7, 15-21.

Judges 7:4. And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go.

5. So he brought down the people unto the water; and the Lord said unto Gideon, Every one that lapped of the water with his tongue, as a dog lapped, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise everyone that boweth down upon his knees to drink.

6. And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.

7. And the Lord said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place.

Judges 7:15. And it was so, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped, and returned into the host of Israel, and said, Arise; for the Lord hath delivered into your hands the host of Midian.

16. And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers.

17. And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold when I come to the outside of the camp,

it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do.

18. When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.

19. So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands.

20. And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.

21. And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled.

Golden Text: "There is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few." 1 Sam. 14:6.

Practical Truth: A few people who are utterly devoted to God may be able to achieve important results.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

At the time of this lesson the Israelites had long suffered under the oppression of the Midianites who were as grasshoppers for multitude and had greatly impoverished the land. The cause for the bondage was the same old story, "Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord." It was so much easier to get into trouble than to get out of it. Repeated sin brings heavier chastisement. They cried to the Lord for help. The Lord reminded them of His goodness to them and their oft repeated sins against Him, but he had compassion again and chose Gideon to deliver them. Gideon destroyed their idols as the Lord commanded, and the people wanted to kill him for it. Often people desire the help of the Lord but are not willing to pay the price of giving up their idols.

This time the Lord chose to deliver them in a way "that ye may know I am the Lord." If He had used a large army the people would have thought the battle was won by their own strength, but by using a small number He could show Himself strong in their behalf. God uses the weak things of the world, to confound the mighty; and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are; "That no flesh should glory in his presence." The reduction of his army was likely a trial of faith to Gideon, but God gave him a sign to strengthen him. He had already given him signs to prove to him that He had chosen him for this special work. God has ways of comforting and encouraging His own and assuring them of victory.

Gideon is a type of Christ. God heard the groaning of souls which were sold under sin. Many desired to be freed from the tyrant Satan who constantly oppressed them and destroyed their increase (righteousness); but they were unable to free themselves from his bondage. They had long looked to God for deliverance, but when He sent Jesus to deliver them many would not accept Him and desired to kill Him because He destroyed their idols. But in spite of opposition, His call for volunteers to enlist in the battle against sin was (and still is) heeded by many. This army is culled out and reduced as Gideon's was. Many start to follow Jesus but because of fearful hearts of unbelief they return to their old ways of living when they encounter hard things. Many drop out because they are not watchful and alert. But the faithful few march on to victory. Among which number are you?

Notice verse 17. Jesus, our Commander, also instructs: "Look on me, and do likewise." If we follow this instruction, the victory is ours over the flesh, the world, and the devil.