

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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DAILY MORE PRECIOUS

The Light of the Word shines brighter and brighter,
As wider and wider God opens my eyes;
My trials and burdens seem lighter and lighter;
And fairer and fairer the Heavenly Prize—

The wealth of this world seems poorer and poorer,
As farther and farther it fades from my sight;
The prize of my calling seems surer and surer,
As straighter and straighter I walk in the Light.

My waiting on Jesus is dearer and dearer,
As longer and longer I lie on His breast;
Without Him I'm nothing, seems clearer and clearer;
And more and more sweetly in Jesus I rest.

My joy in my Saviour is growing and growing,
And stronger and stronger I trust in His Word;
My peace like a river is flowing and flowing;
And harder and harder I lean on my Lord.

My praise and thanksgiving is swelling and swelling,
As broader and broader the promises prove;
The wonderful story I'm telling and telling;
And more and more sweetly I rest in His love.

—Clara Bush

—oOo—

We Thank Thee, Father

"Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever." Psalms 106:1. Truly the Lord God is worthy of all our praises and thanksgiving for the goodness, mercy, and love that he has bestowed upon us, and the many blessings with which he is continually blessing us. It is a cold heart indeed that can find nothing for which to thank and praise God.

We all should be thankful for the blessings of life. Life is from God. He is the creator, author, and giver of life. He breathed into man the breath of life, and man became alive, he became a living soul with a will and power to act and to do. Life is a wonderful treasure, more valuable than all the stores of earth.

Jesus told his disciples on one occasion, "The life is more than meat." Life is far more valuable than the blessings of life; such as, food, raiment, shelter, and such things. Father, we thank thee for life,

we thank thee because thou hast preserved us through the shadows and darkness of another night and enabled us to come forth into the beautiful light of another day. Help us to use our lives this day in the way and to the purpose thou hast designed.

Oh, yes, the blessings of life are to be appreciated; for without them we could not well exist in this natural state. It was an all-wise God who provided the blessings and comforts of life for his creatures in this time world. He has provided for the sustenance of every living thing. No wonder the Psalmist has said, "Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord."

In Acts 14:17 we read, "Nevertheless he [God] left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." Also in Psalms 107:35-37, "He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into watersprings. And there he maketh the hungry to dwell, that they may prepare a city for habitation; and sow the fields, and plant vineyards, which may yield fruits of increase." And Isaiah speaks of his goodness, when he says, "For as the rain cometh down, and the snow, from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater." (Isaiah 55:10).

After considering these passages, and beholding the manifestation of the goodness of God in many other ways, one spoke out in a joyful tone and said, "This world is a wonderful place to live in. It is truly wonderful what the Lord has done!"

It is the appreciation in ones heart for these and other blessings that causes the mouth to overflow with thanksgiving and praise to the Giver of all good gifts. An unappreciative heart is an unthankful heart. From an unthankful heart issues an unhappy life: like a scorching desert or a waste and howling wilderness, full of murmuring and complaining. I believe it was the appreciation in the hearts of the Pilgrim Fathers for the blessings of harvest and grain and the fruitful season that God had given them after a period of hardship and struggling that caused them to set aside a day to assemble themselves together and offer thanksgiving and praise to the Almighty for remembering them in such a bountiful way.

But now, and above all, we thank God for his Son whom he hath sent into the world that we might have spiritual life, everlasting life, life from the dead. Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." In Eph. 2:1, we read, "And you hath he quickened [or made alive], who were dead in trespasses and sins," and the apostle expresses it in another way when he says, "We know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren."

We thank thee, Father, for the life of thy Son Jesus, which thou hast imparted unto us that we might be made partakers of thy joy, thy sufferings, and thy glory. We thank thee for that blessed hope that thou hast given us in our souls that dispels the darkness and gloom, "for we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands eternal in the heavens." Thou art our life and we shall dwell with thee. Amen. —Ulysses Phillips.

HOPE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

Rom. 5:1, 4. "Therefore being justified by faith [the salvation of our souls] we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand" (a second work of grace, purifying the heart by faith). "We glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience, and patience, experience; and experience, hope." Hope lifts the heart up because of the love of God. Another translation gives this, "We rejoice in suffering, for out of suffering comes endurance, the result being steadfastness, and steadfastness is the proof of soundness, and out of soundness arises hope." This truth is beautiful when given due consideration, for it gives the requisite for a soul hope. The righteous have a hope that the world cannot have, because the world does not believe the word of God. According to our text, hope comes only by believing and obeying the word of God. The more diligence given in obedience to the word of God, the brighter the hope. I am thinking now of what John saw coming down out of heaven from God (Rev. 21st chapter) the New Jerusalem, the holy city. For the pure heart just to think of it, brightens the soul hope. Every ray of light shined on our pathway, and walked in, makes our hope clearer and that which John saw becomes more real. Jesus said, "the kingdom of God is within you" Luke 17:21. "It is righteousness, joy, and peace in the Holy Ghost" Rom. 14:17. Who but the Christian is happy and free from a world of uncertainty? Who but them can live only in that which they see not? "For what a man seeth why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it." The kingdom within, the Spirit that bears witness with our Spirit that we are the children of God, the Spirit that cries "Father," the Spirit that helps our infirmities, the Spirit that leads us into all truth resulting in deliverance from error; that Spirit dwelling within, will and does

create in our heart an eternal hope of glory. Hope seen is not hope. "By grace are ye saved through faith; . . . it is the gift of God." Eph. 2:8. Paul said we are quickened or made alive. Now faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. When a man or woman repents toward God and turns away from all sin with all his heart, the Spirit of God creates faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ and the inner man is born again. John 3:3. He then naturally calls on his Creator. There is hope created within of an eternal life, the Spirit of grace enters the soul, removes the fear, and fills with love. Thus a man does not need to see it with the fleshly eyes, but the spiritual eyes see it by faith. He has heard and believed the word. The Lord has done the rest. "Now where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty," Jesus said, "If ye continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." The word of God believed and obeyed is a living, moving power in the soul. God said, "O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river." Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled: we believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. . . that where I am there ye may be also. Jesus Christ enthroned within the heart cannot help but create faith, hope, and charity. Jesus said he cannot deny himself. If He is within He won't deny himself. Faith must be an active substance in the soul. "But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Faith in God creates hope. To keep hope is to continue in His word. Paul said to hold fast the rejoicing of hope. A living hope has joy. The devil tries to dim that hope, and discourage but then faith works to brighten it up. Here is where glorying in tribulation worketh patience, experience, hope. It is to resist the devil and he will flee from you. The harder the trial, the darker the cloud, the deeper the gloom, the brighter the hope, the greater the joy as victory comes. Feelings are often mistaken for faith. Feelings are not ever Faith must go right through the darkness and trial. Jesus said, "I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not." It may take some earnest prayer to hold the line of faith up to its place. But it will keep our hope bright. "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three, but the greatest of these is charity. Where there is charity (love) there is hope. Amen.

"Beyond this world of toil and care,
Beyond this veil of gloom,
There is a land, a happy land,
A place we call our home.

"Oh, what a blessed home is this,
An anchor to the soul.
And if we do our Saviour's will,
We'll safely reach our goal."

THIS IS THE HOPE OF THE RIGHTEOUS
—A. E. Harm

WHAT WE ARE AND WHY

In the beginning, God created man like Himself, with all of his lovely characteristics, such as truthfulness, honesty, kindness, pureness of heart, full of love and The Holy Spirit. Why are we not all so today? If we follow God's plan, we may be. We all have the same privilege. We all came to this world in the same manner. We seek for true happiness and only find it when we have met God's commands, which are not grievous. God would not expect us to do a thing impossible. True success only is obtained by those who love God and do His precious will. We may be rich with influence, popularity, money, and friends, yet this is not really success, because we may possess all of these things and neglect to do God's will (the very thing He has created us for) and miss heaven. When we have missed that blessed place of abode, we have been a complete failure—having lived and lost. We must not lose; we dare not lose! So let us think very seriously and know for sure that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

Let us take account of ourselves and reason the thing out. Just why do I not always tell the truth? Why do I take the Lord's name in vain? Why do I not read and study the precious word of God more? Why am I not more interested in the good? Why do I seek to nourish and care more for this body of flesh than for the priceless soul? This body of flesh will surely die and return to dust, but my soul; what about it? Will it die also and be forgotten? No, my soul will live on and on forever somewhere; either in eternal damnation, or in that wonderful place of love and felicity, joy and rapture. Do we wonder why we are unable to love those who spitefully use us? This is why we are not just where God would have us yet. Let us only try the more, calling upon God with all our might. He knows our weakness. He only wants us to be in earnest. He promises to aid us when we seek him with our whole heart, and he is as good as his word. If we fail, it is our own fault; we have not done our best and God always requires only our best. He gave his very best to save us, and he will not accept less from us. Now let us really do our very best; if we do, we surely shall not fail. Then we shall be able through Christ to return good for evil when the opportunity comes. If our brother does us an injustice, we shall not want to do him evil in return, but just let the matter drop instead. We shall be much better off and God surely will bless our souls, but if we do evil in return, then we have lost; we are no better than our brother, and no happier than he. Let us show other people how to be a Christian, knowing that the eye is a better pupil than the ear, and does not easily forget. We may see a thing and perhaps never forget it, but on the other hand, we may hear about the same thing, and perhaps forget it over night. Let us live at peace with our brother as far as lieth in us, even if we must stay apart to do so, for God is the author of peace and truthfulness, and requires it at any cost. Peace is one of God's greatest gifts to man. Man would be unable to live in a

lion's den, until the lion has been tamed. Neither can a peace-loving individual live with another who is always contentious until he has first been tamed by God's Holy precepts and by-laws. If we have peace, we have love, and love worketh no ill to his neighbor. Let us think only on the good things about our brother; there is always some good, and if we do this we shall love our brother more. His faults will become smaller and perhaps we shall all be at peace to be forever friends together with the dear Lord, who gave his precious life that we might have peace.

—Geo. F. Colvin



Beautiful 1945 Scripture Text Calendars can now be obtained for 30 cents each, 4 for one dollar, or 9 for two dollars, postpaid. By ordering early, we were able to obtain a good supply. We have them ready to wrap and send to you the day your order arrives. Order early, so you will be sure to get your calendars.

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We have no mottoes for sale.

GREATEST

Get right and stay right,
Neither will do alone:
For white, and only white
Will stand before His throne.
—Erle Forbes

"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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Twelve copies to any address, one year	2.00

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

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

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

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

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE
920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma

Independence, La.—Greetings to all in Jesus' name,—This leaves me still encouraged in living for the Lord and trusting in Him. He heals me when I'm sick and helps me in every way. I cast all my burdens on Him for He careth for me. I am so glad I have my treasures laid up where moth and rust doth not corrupt them. My affections are on things above and not on any thing of this old sinful world that is full of strife. Please pray for me that I ever keep heaven in view and stay on the straight and narrow pathway, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat (Matt. 7:13). People don't take time enough off to pray or read God's word like they should. Most people who have a little spare time think too much of worldly things to pray or read God's book.

Your saved sister,

Mrs. L. J. Gates

Editorials

For many years the Faith Publishing House has been putting out a "Three Months Offer" on the "Faith and Victory" paper; but it seems needful this year to omit the offer on account of the government rationing the paper which we have for printing purposes, also our yearly book paper will be limited.

The printing of gospel tracts has increased so much that it takes much of the paper that we could formerly use for book and paper printing. We feel that these tracts should be printed and sent forth above any thing else, as these little "Silent Preachers" can and do carry the gospel to a host of souls who otherwise would never get the truth of the gospel. We want our readers to feel free to send in the yearly subscriptions as we believe that we shall have sufficient paper allowance to care for all the yearly subscriptions you may feel led to send in.

We are also expecting this awful war with its cruel slaughter of life to be at an end soon and perhaps before another six months passes we can obtain all the paper we can use for the Lord's work. The Lord is making us feel led to get the Print Shop so well equipped that we can double our printing capacity ere the war closes and conditions become normal again.

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The devil hates this Faith Publishing House and the literature that is printed and sent forth, and in different ways and manners and at different periods he has turned all the forces of hell against the work to crush it out and ruin it if possible; but our faith has been in God and we do know that He has power and is able to finish the work that He has begun and cause it to accomplish that which He pleases.

Satan, not being able to crush it out entirely, has recently used some lying tactics to cripple if possible the printing work. Jesus said that Satan "was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." John 8:44.

The lie that Satan has started now against the Lord's printing work would be real amusing if it were not for the seriousness of the matter. A certain brother who is now living in California wrote us that it is told out there that we take the money that is sent in for the Lord's work and buy property with it, and that we now have property to the extent that our income from it amounts to two hundred dollars per month. We have received similar word from others. It amuses us somewhat to think that the devil would get such a big one started as that. God knows and the devil knows that we do not use the money sent in for the Lord's work and buy rental property with it; but the money sent in for the printing work is used in printing and sending forth the gospel and a large part of the tracts and books are sent and given away without any remuneration. We send hundreds of packages of tracts, books, and papers to the prisons and penal institutions all over this country, also to the C. P. S. camps and the U. S. Army camps and receive no pay for same.

We only have one small house that is ever rented, and we seldom get rent out of it. This house in question is one that we bought over twenty-five years ago with money from stock sold when we left the farm, and for eight years was used as an office for the printing work. During the depression a man lived in it with a large family of children, and we just let him live there and took no rent. Since that time whenever ministers want a place to live we never charge them any rent. When Brother Darius Gibson was here one winter and she had to have a place to stay and send their children to school we would not accept any rent from them, and when Brother Roy Jennings was compelled to leave his wife and baby and go to a C.P.S. camp we let her live there all the time free of any rent. So in reality it is being used for the Lord and when we do get any rent from it a large part has to go to keep the building in repair as it is old and much worn. This house is absolutely all the property we own outside of that which houses the printing machinery and living quarters for us and the workers.

I believe it is pleasing to God for us to make the above statement as many who are not living here and do not know for themselves might be persuaded to believe the devil's lies. Years ago we had money that we could have put into rental property, but we did not. We used it in the Lord's work, for we do not want to be encumbered with such things since the Lord has called us to preach and print the gospel, and we only want those things of earth that will promote the gospel of Christ, things that we can use in a practical way to further the cause of God.

The devil seems to be a very wise old fellow. He must have sensed that God was going to need money to build up the work here, so he has circulated this big lie at this particular time to hinder folks from sending in offerings to pay for the machinery needed to equip the "Lord's Print Shop" for post war work in order to flood the country with the pure gospel. It seems that he has succeeded in a temporal way as up to date, October 16th, we have only received three hundred dollars to pay on the Intertype machine which we have recently purchased at a cost of seventeen hundred and fifty dollars. We believe yet that God will take the devil in his own craftiness and supply the full amount. We are not shaky about this matter. Just let the devil lie and roar but God will have His work go on any way. Let us keep praying.

Just before going to press, Oct. 23, we are happy to tell our readers that the devil is being defeated in his plans to cripple the work as more than half the money needed in purchasing the machinery has been supplied. Let us keep on praying.

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I have been thinking lately of what the Apostle John said in his first epistle, 2nd chapter, fifteenth verse, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." How pointed and clear cut these words are, and this from that apostle who talked and taught so much about love to God and love to our fellowmen. This sacred truth is a rebuke

to all professors who are loving the world and manifesting it by catering to the world with earthly physicians and poison medicines, conforming to the world in their dress and seeking the praise of worldly-minded religious people rather than the honor and praise that cometh from God only. The majority of religious people seem to fear the devil more than they fear God and therefore they please the devil and make excuses for not pleasing God. Such will not stand in that "Great day of God Almighty." Rev. 6: 14-17.

Another statement that the loving Apostle John made is on record in 1 John 3:8, "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." He that committeth sin is of the devil, is a rebuke to those professing Christ who sin more or less all the time. In the tenth verse our beloved apostle tells us plainly that, "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil." In other words, the children of God do not sin and the children of the devil do sin. These are the two families in the world today. Folks who profess Christ and say that they sin are acknowledging that they belong to the devil's family. People who profess holiness and say that they do not sin, and yet sin, belong to the devil's family. Those who are born from above and retain the Spirit of Christ in the soul do not sin and they are the family of God, for John says in the 9th verse, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin."

The Apostle John, who was so full of love, is manifesting his true love for our souls when he makes these strong, clear, and positive statements; and we shall do well to take heed thereto.

The Lord is greatly blessing in the meetings at the saint's chapel here at Guthrie and the saints are living in one accord, happy and praising God.

Last Wednesday night at prayer meeting 35 were present, and the Wednesday night before there were 40 present, and the fellowship was sweet and heavenly.

Usually at the general meeting services many more are present, but one can tell the spirituality of a congregation by the number that attends prayer meetings. The saints here at Guthrie are living in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace and the Lord is doing some precious healing of bodies as well as giving soul help to those that come to the altar of prayer.

The preaching of the word is with much heavenly anointing and the saints are receiving soul food that strengthens and builds them up in God.

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Assembly Meeting Notice

The Church of God in Hammond, Louisiana will have the winter assembly meeting, beginning November 29 and will continue over the two following Sundays if the Lord leads. All saints and lovers of the truth are welcome. There will be forenoon and night services. We are looking to the Lord for ministers whom he can use in

this meeting. For further information write to Ray Key, P. O. Box 370, Hammond, or to Max Williamson, in care of the post office, Hammond.

Minneapolis, Minn. Dear saints— I felt a definite call from the good Shepherd to come and take the oversight of the work here. This faithful little flock deserves a pastor to feed them with knowledge and understanding (Jeremiah 3:15). While I am not a pastor in the full sense of the word, I feel sure that the Lord can and will use me to feed this little hungry flock.

The year I spent at Lake Charles, La. has been one of the very best years of all my life and I am expecting this year to be just as good or better than the year that is past. Will all the dear saints please pray that I may keep in the perfect order of the Lord and that God will send hungry souls out to hear the truth? I shall be glad to hear from any of the saints and I will do my best to answer all letters.

Your blood-washed brother in the one body, Geo. W. Stephenson, 2123 Chicago Ave., Minneapolis 4, Minn.

Obituaries

George E. Harmon was born at Wakeegan, Illinois, Feb. 7, 1857, and went to be with Jesus September 17, 1944, at the age of 87 years, 7 months and 10 days.

On July 4, 1873, he was united in marriage to Vienna Frost. To this union six children were born: 3 sons and 3 daughters.

Together this couple pursued their course of life in all its varying aspects for 60 years until God in his tender providence saw fit to take the dear wife home to be with Him on July 3, 1936.

Brother Harmon's life was very lonely after the passing of his wife but God's tender providence was still over him and after two years He provided him another dear companion to bring cheer and comfort to his life. In July, 1938, he was united in marriage to Sadie Orr who provided cheer for his home and comfort for his life until God took him home.

Bro. Harmon was converted to Christ some 60 years ago and was a minister in the Church of God for 48 years. God gave him health and strength to vigorously and energetically carry on his ministry year after year to old age and gave him the power of the Holy Spirit in his life to make his ministry very fruitful in souls won to Christ and to bring much comfort and strength to the saints.

His home for the last 24 years of his life was in Glendale, California, but his ministry was far extended and his work and faith and labor of love is familiar to all the saints in all parts.

He is survived by his wife; two daughters, Mrs. Nettie Loraine of Grants Pass, Oregon, and Mrs. Iva King of Glendale, Calif.; and two sons, John and Eugene both of Glendale, Calif.

Funeral service was held on Wednesday afternoon, Sept. 20, in the saints' chapel on Perlita Ave. in Los Angeles. The building was filled to capacity and a public address system was used so that quite a number of people who could not get into the building could hear the service from the outside. Service was conducted by O. B. Wilson, Jr., Ira D. Stover, and E. M. Zinn. Interment was in Grandview Cemetery in Burbank, California. Sermon text was 1 Peter 1:3-9 together with Rom. 8: 16-23, Rom. 8:35-39, 2 Cor. 4:15-18, and first part of 5th chapter of 2 Cor.

The following statement was read by Bro. E. M. Zinn at the service in behalf of the entire ministry of the Church of God:

"In behalf of the ministry of the Church of God

both here and there. I wish to say that Bro. Harmon has been one among us for 48 years and has conducted himself and his ministry in a way that has brought honor to our cause. The Spirit of God in the soul and his broad experience both as a pastor and evangelist has developed him in wisdom and sound judgment insomuch that he has been looked to for counsel and advice from ministers of east, west, north, and south. His loss is keenly felt by us all. He was faithful to death and now seems to say: "Take up our quarrel with the foe, to you from failing hands we throw the torch; be yours to hold it high". And we pray that God may impart to each of us the necessary courage and grace to continue to vigorously prosecute this holy war against Satan and sin and to keep this faith."

We have lost a friend, a brother,—
Yea a FATHER; a godly man;
Let us honor his life, his council,
And greet him in a better land.

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In Memory of Brother G. E. Harmon

A father in Israel for many long years,
A pillar in the Church of our God,
A Holy Ghost preacher of the gospel of truth—
How beautiful the path he has trod.

For more than a half of a century on earth
He has preached the glad tidings of love,
And pled with mankind wherever he went
To prepare for the mansions above.

His labor of love has not been in vain,
Many souls he has brought to the fold.
They will shine as stars in the crown he has won
While ages eternally roll.

Precious in the sight of the all-seeing eye
Is the death of his saints here below,
As he gathers them home to their mansion on high
Where no pain or no sorrow they'll know.

His life has been faithful to the high calling of God,
He has walked with the pure and the blest,
He has preached his last sermon, has met his last foe,
Has conquered, and now is at rest.

—Sam Wilson

Dedicated to Brother G. E. Harmon

Bro. Harmon has gone from his labours on earth
That began when he first received heavenly birth.
His passion was souls that were clean, to unite
In the body of Christ, dressed in garments of light
One body, one head, and one spirit divine
Comprising one church, that is known as the vine,
With its roots in the earth and its top in the sky
Gathers strength from both sources to help men try
To escape this world's doom, fire that surely destroys
Soul and body cremated by him that employs
In His kingdom on earth every one who will hear
The word of His counsel and in godly fear
Persuade all who will listen to the still small voice
To flee for their lives to make heaven their choice.

Bro. Harmon lived so he with safety could say,
"Follow me as I followed Christ in the way;"
Even washing the feet of inferior men
Including opposers who tested him when

Opportunity offered a chance to thus prove
His words false and get others to think of his love
As selfish and vain but it proved him the same
To friend and foe, black or white, all in the name
Of Jesus, all things to all men, great or small
Rich or poor, learned or ignorant, high or low, all
Come in by the door and obey the whole word
In humility all, bowing low in the Lord
To follow his footsteps who made no mistake
In his effort to help all men, get them to make

A start for their betterment if they believe
His message as earnest, and ask to receive
The same spirit as gave the word, common to those
Who were honest at heart, to both friend and foes
Who obey in sincerity, always afford
What is right for right's sake looking for the reward
Up in heaven, when life with it's labours are done
Hear the welcome from Father, the crown is then won;
Enter into the joy of the Lord, where His praise
Is resounding forever throughout heaven's days
The blood-washed of all ages and angels to sing
Of Moses who died, and the lamb that was king
But slain to redeem us to God and arose
From the dead to empower us to conquer our foes
With our feet on their necks, and to evermore reign
With our dear Bro. Harmon till we meet him again.

—C. Z. Stonecypher

Lorenzo Dow Foster, born at Myrtle, Mo. March 7, 1883, departed this life at Hutchinson, Kansas, Sept. 6, 1944.

Bro. Foster's death was caused by an accident. When he was crossing the railroad tracks early in the morning, he was run over and both legs were cut off. He was dead when picked up.

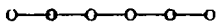
I have known him for thirty-five years. He was always steady and settled in the Lord.

Funeral service was conducted by Bro. J. R. Herrington. Interment: Memorial Park Cemetery, Hutchinson, Kansas.

—J. W. Sell

Mrs. Lizzie Frances Bennett, wife of Isaac Bennett, departed this life at their home at Shedd, Oregon, Sept. 25, 1944. Sister Bennett was 65 years old. She was born in Dekalb County, Ala., Nov. 26, 1878 and came to Oregon about 30 years ago. She and Isaac Bennett were married at Shelburn, Oregon, April 14, 1914. She has been a member of the Baptist church for years. About five years ago, she and her husband began meeting with the saints at Stayton, Ore. and loved the preaching of the truth and the songs of Zion. The writer talked with her after she was too afflicted to go to meeting, and she testified that she felt the saving power and grace of God, and was ready to go at His bidding. She leaves to mourn their loss her husband, two sisters, and a host of friends. Yet all feel that their loss is her eternal gain, that she now rests with Jesus. Funeral services were conducted by the writer at Shelburn, Oregon, Sept. 30, 1944. The body was laid to rest in the Shelburn cemetery. Texts used: Rev. 14:13 and 1 Thes. 4:13-18.

—Sam Wilson



To the dear saints everywhere, greetings in Jesus' name:—We are saved and living for God, and praise Him for salvation and keeping power.

We desire to tell you a little about the many good meetings which we have been privileged to attend this summer:

In the meeting which wife and I held at Springfield,

Missouri, beginning July 9th, six souls were saved, including one old man 93 and a half years old. I baptized him and his wife and one of his grandsons.

From Springfield, we went to the Monark Springs campmeeting. We got there on Monday so we could help Bro. and Sister Barton clean up and get ready for campmeeting; but meeting started Monday night before campmeeting started on Friday. Every service from start to finish was good. Our God was in it with us. The old devil tried to hinder and keep us from having the campmeeting, but he was defeated, and the dear Lord gave us a wonderful campmeeting. Many said it was the best meeting we ever had there. Some were saved, sanctified, and baptized, and many were healed.

After that we spent part of a day with Bro. and Sister Albert Eck, who live near Bartlett, Kansas, then we went on to Dewey, Oklahoma, where Brother and Sister Charles Smith live. After a three night's meeting there, we went to visit Brother and Sister Elmore at Ripley, Oklahoma. They are isolated saints. We enjoyed our visit with them.

Our next meeting was the Guthrie, Oklahoma campmeeting, which was one of the best we have ever attended. There we met many dear saints whom we had never met before. Truly, it was wonderful.

Then we went to Shawnee, Oklahoma, to spend a little time in the home of our daughter, Sister Floy Woolery, and other saints, and hold a meeting. We found the saints encouraged. O. B. and Mattie Wilson have lived there many years and have taken care of the work of the Lord there. Brother Allen and other saints there were not well in body, but all had the victory of God in their souls.

Then we went back to Guthrie, and had meeting two nights before time for the Dover, Oklahoma, campmeeting to begin, which we expected to attend, and did attend. Brother Ulysses Phillips cares for the work of the Lord at Dover. The devil tried to make it a failure by bringing in bad spirits, but right at the last of the meeting God gave the victory.

Two more nights were spent in a meeting at Guthrie, then we returned to Shawnee. The meeting there ended Sept 10th, on which day the saints brought their dinners so we could have an all-day meeting. In the afternoon we had baptismal services and Bro. Charles Smith and Sister Bettye Tait were united in marriage. These young people both feel called to the ministry, and Bro. Charles has been faithfully obeying the call for some time. We feel that they are both consecrated and will work together in the Lord's vineyard. Saints, pray for them, that God will continually guide them.

From Shawnee we went to help in a tent meeting at Dewey, Okla. but before it ended we left and came to Glendale, Calif. God gave us a safe journey and blessed after we arrived by giving us a good little meeting at Glendale where we met many dear saints.

At this writing, we are in Fresno, Calif. in meeting. Other ministers here are Bro. Williams from Hennessey, Okla., Bro. Chandler from Bakersfield, Calif., Sister McCoy from Pasadena, and Bro. Herfurth who resides here.

We find the saints here in Calif. just like the Okla. saints. We are in the home of Bro. and Sister Andrew Pruitt and family. They are so nice to us.

I want to say to all the dear saints: Be true; be faithful; give no place for the devil; do not take in bad spirits. If bad spirits come among you, do not receive them; if you do, you will be as they are. Do not bid them God's speed. Read 2 John, verses 9, 10, and 11. May God bless all the dear saints.

To the ministers, I want to say: Be careful; be true to God; be true to people; be true to your own heart; be true to each other. We shall meet with the Word of God at the Judgment; hold it right.

May God help all for Christ's sake.

Yours in Him, —John and Essie Wilson
1114 Melrose Ave., Glendale, 2, Calif.

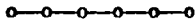


Anthony, Kansas.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt and all—We send you greetings in Jesus' precious name. We are rejoicing to know that our dear Redeemer still loves us. What a wonderful Saviour he is to me this morning. My heart is overflowing with thanks and praise to God for what He has done for me. I am glad the God whom we serve still hears and answers prayer. I'm also glad for the great family of God who bears one another's burdens.

This morning I can truthfully testify to the healing power of God. Yesterday, Oct. 10, about 2:30 p. m., I started having pains of indigestion. It felt like about a four inch strip around my body was a complete strip of pain and misery. We had prayer but it seemed the Lord didn't see fit to remove it just yet. The pain kept getting worse and worse. We continued praying and requesting prayer. It seemed the pain had gotten so bad it would just take my life in spite of all. But we continued looking to our God. Praise his holy name! Several of the dear saints here came in to pray with us and to minister unto us, for which we thank God. The pain had eased some but yet I was in misery and so awfully sore. Then a few minutes after our call to you dear saints, the dear Lord wonderfully touched and healed my body. Praises be to God! That was about 9:30 p. m. The Lord so wonderfully touched me that I'm not even sore this morning. I'm a little weak and worn out; but thank God, I am able to be up and about my work, being able to get up at the usual time and get our little girls off to school. After suffering such untold misery as I did, one can of a truth praise and thank God for his wonderful love and mercy to us.

I am so thankful that he ever saw fit to save me and to help me to put my trust in him for all things pertaining to soul and body. Truly it was his great love and mercy he saw fit to spare my life and leave me awhile longer with my little family he has given me. May God help me to enjoy them more and to always be the mother and companion to them that God would have me be. I don't want to ever be found doing any thing that would displease the dear Lord. By his help and grace I mean to do his will and live for him.

Pray for us, dear ones, that we will ever be found faithful to our Master. Your sister in Christ, Natalie Allen



Tebbetts, Mo.—Dear Brothers and Sisters,—I wish to tell what Jesus has done for me. Praise His name, He has answered my prayers many times. I have two sons in the army. One is in Arkansas and one is across seas. After hearing a sermon one night at meeting, there was a heavy burden on my heart to pray to the heavenly Father to save my boys. I know God will answer prayer. I also pray that God will keep His powerful hand over all the boys in the war. I know if we fast and pray and ask God to help us and if we have faith, He will do what we ask. Dear saints everywhere, let us all pray. Prayer is the only thing that will end the war. Also pray for me. I want to make heaven my home. I want Him to use me any way He wants to, because I know Jesus will not put a burden upon us more than we can carry.

Your sister in Jesus,

Eva L. O'Brien

Duarte, Calif.—Dear Gospel workers,—Greetings to you in the name of Christ our Lord. It is again that we are expressing our thankfulness to God our Father and to Jesus Christ his Son, who is also our Saviour, our elder brother, the first-born among many brethren. I'm glad that we are born again to become His brother and He has said He is not ashamed to call us brethren. This causes our souls to bubble with joy that the world can neither give nor take. It is the gift of God, eternal life, that will meet the conditions to be spiritualized and not naturalized, having the old nature destroyed, being baptized into the one body which is pleasing to God and all souls who receive the blessing.

I am glad that we have found that we must walk in the light lest darkness come upon us. And that same light shines all over the world where Jesus is reigning. And we, as ministers of Southern California, expect to let that light shine to drive out the darkness that the enemy is trying to bring in the midst of God's people; and we are thankful to God that the Oklahoma ministers are cooperating with us. Brethren, let us thank God for the unity of His Spirit and the power of the Holy Ghost that will help us to be witnesses for Him and speak the same thing and all walk by the same rule. God said He would put watchmen on the walls that would not hold their peace day nor night. I love to declare to the whole world that when God puts watchmen on the walls they can see a long way off. Sometimes men think they are on the wall when they are down in the ditch (in the midst of confusion). But the watchman on the wall that sees clearly is continually teaching and warning the people that they may walk in the light. "If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." My soul says, "Amen and Hallelujah!"

—Bro. L. E. Davy

Tulsa, Okla.—To all the saints everywhere,—Today finds us still on the right side, the one our Jesus died for, the one that dripped blood and opened that precious fountain in the house of David.

Truly we are glad to be counted God's children. We have been learning some precious lessons lately, have been shedding tears in prayer, many nights wet our pillows with tears; but our God sees and knows all about them. He brought a precious scripture to us where in days of old he saw the saints tears and heard their cries; and He is just the same today. How it did comfort our hearts to know he sees our burdens we bear for the gospel's sake.

I believe we understand what Jesus went through when he said to the disciples. "Will you also go away?" Oh, our Lord has the wonderful words of life. It did seem to us that all of our sixteen years of efforts for God would pass away in a short time. How our dear Lord must have felt when even his dear Father left him to die between the two thieves! Dear ones, will we follow Jesus' footsteps? They will lead us through the valley, over steep places, and through dark places; but all we want to know is that His presence is with us as we go along. Truly we are glad to be worthy of the hard things for His cause and sake. We have tried our Lord by his Words and find he is able to take us through. Loved ones may forsake, but Jesus wants us to count all these things joy. We want to be numbered with God's people and wherever they go we shall be there also. We are seeking daily to please our Lord. Pray for us.

Bro. Sam Barton and family

Young People's Section

THE RADIO

(Do we use it, or does it use us?)

Quit using your arm,
It soon becomes limp.
Quit using your brain,
You develop a simp.

When the radio sings
And plays all your songs,
Reads all of your books, and
Rights all your wrongs,

When you slump on the lounge
And don't move a speck,
You become a moral
And physical wreck.

When you hear all the ads
And the programs as well;
Doped out and paid for
By the forces of hell,

Your family and country
Has lost a good man,
While the dupes and demons
Add on to their klan.

If we use the radio
For all it is worth,
It becomes a great blessing,
Instead of a curse.

But when underworld forces
Start to belch and to cough,
I'm thankful to God
I can shut the thing off.

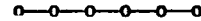
—Erle E. Forbes

Editorials

During the latter part of September, Brother Egbert Allen held a tent meeting near Norwood, Missouri, and was assisted by Brothers O. C. Porter, W. C. Murphey, and Fred Pruitt of Guthrie, also Brothers Darius Gibson and Murphy Allen. The attendance and interest was exceptionally good, and the truth was received by many honest hearts. There are yet those in the by-ways and hedges who are hungering for the full gospel, and the Lord and His people are searching for them.

While the tent meeting was in progress, Brothers Darius Gibson and Murphy Allen went to Winona, Missouri, and held services in that community. This is where Sister Selma (Hieber) Williams has made her home since her marriage August 12, 1944. We trust their efforts will be fruitful in establishing the truth in this new field.

The Apostle Paul wrote that "Love is the fulfilling of the law." It is the one rule for the fulfilling or keeping of all other rules. Love for God would naturally cause one to obey the object of His love. Love is the very expression of God's character, for "God is love." Love is the test of discipleship. Love is the greatest and strongest element in the world. "Love never faileth." Love is the strong cord that binds and unites God's people together. In God's Church no human organization is needed or desired. On the other hand, in sect Babylon where divine love does not exist, artificial means must be employed to organize their adherents—by subscribing and submitting to man-made creeds, rules, and legislation. In the body of Christ, His love tempers the members together. How wonderful! God's highway is so far above this world's confusion.



There are sins of omission. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." James 4:17. In the 25th chapter of Matthew the judgment day scene is portrayed. The Judge is seated upon a throne and dividing the sheep from the goats. The sins of commission are not there mentioned, but what we have not done, by sins of omission, we are judged. To those on the left hand the Judge said, "Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment." The withholding of love is proof that we never knew the Lord, and for us He lived and died in vain. "He that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God and God in him."

—L. D. Pruitt.

CORRESPONDENCE

Clarksville, Tex.—Brethren and Sisters in Christ,—Greetings. I promised the Lord that if He would heal Sister Essie Moore's babies I would write the testimony for the "Faith and Victory" paper. It may help someone to grow stronger in faith.

She has twin babies. One, Donnie, has the rickets and is poor and weakly; the other is fat and robust.

On Monday, Oct. 2, Donnie took the summer bowel trouble. When I heard about it Tuesday night I went to help her pray for him. He didn't get any better; so some (including the baby's father) who meant well but didn't understand about the Lord's power to heal, took him to the doctor on Thursday. That morning the other baby had a hard chill and fever and some stomach trouble. They got medicine for both babies and started giving it when they got home. The mother cried and entreated them not to give the medicine. She told them that she had taken it all of her life and did not get healed until she started trusting the Lord for healing. One of the neighbor women remarked that she looked as if she needed healing then. She had been fasting and praying for the babies and caring for them constantly and had to do her house work too; so she was surely worn down in body.

They told us to go to bed, so we lay down by the babies; but they were too sick to leave for men to care for. I slipped out on the porch and tried to pray. I could think of nothing to say except, "It looks like we are defeated, but defeat I shall not know. What are you going to do, Lord?" Over and over again I said it, "Lord, defeat I shall not know. What are you going to do?"

They gave medicine until Saturday night. The big baby got worse all the time and the little one got weaker. His stomach was bloated very bad and he was so weak we had to keep him on a pillow. He looked like a little dead baby. By Friday, Sister Essie looked about as bad as the baby.

The big baby was still getting worse Sunday morning. The father said that he didn't care what we said, but he was going to give this baby more medicine. He did, but it continued to get worse. I told them that the Lord was going to heal the little baby and they would know it was not medicine that did it. Sister Essie and I had prayer again before I left Sunday night. She said the Lord healed the baby that night. I went back Monday morning and Donnie, the little weak baby was healed of his stomach trouble. He cried to get in the little chair. She put him in it, and he began to rock. One of his aunts was afraid it would make him sick at his stomach, but I told her that it would not because the Lord had healed him and would give him strength to do that. It didn't hurt him.

The Lord is still answering prayer. The big baby was healed Friday. We need your prayers that we may prove the good Lord over and over again to a lost world.

The doctor said the little baby has soft bones. We are praying for strength and muscles, which are needed for him to walk. Will you help us?

Christian love,

Mrs. Nellie Lovell

—o—o—o—o—o—o—

Harrisburg, Pa.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—I want to greet you in Jesus' dear name. I am still saved and happy in the Lord and feel like traveling on until I reach that city where all of our sorrows and troubles and sadness will be over. Praise the Lord! It will be a wonderful time when we meet our dear loving Lord face to face, and all the dear saints who have gone on before. What a wonderful meeting! I get so anxious for that time to come, yet I want to stay here as long as the Lord wants me here; and I want to do what I can for Him and for poor lost souls.

Oh, what awful times we are living in right now. It surely looks like the Lord will soon come. We who are ready will be anxious, but just think of the many souls lost in sin's dark night, who are not ready to meet God. It makes our hearts ache just to think of it. I want to do more for lost souls and pray more, too.

Bro. Pruitt, I always pray much for all you dear ones there at the Lord's print shop. I pray the Lord will bless you and keep you all encouraged and true and faithful to Him to the end.

I hope all are well and happy in the Lord. I want the Lord to show me what is best for me to do. I want to please Him and not self.

With Christian love to all,

Sister Krause

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Olla, La.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt,—I am so full of the Spirit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ this morning, I just want to tell the world how Jesus can save. He reached His dear nail-scarred hand of love down into the pit of sin and pulled even me out. Praise His holy name! He had to take the jewel of our home to make me see just where I stood. When our little girl took sick, I knew no one but our Saviour could heal her.

Oh, how I came to the Lord on my knees, begging to Him to spare my only little daughter. I promised Him that I would live the rest of my life for Him. But I had trialed with God too long and He wanted my baby to be His little angel.

For about three years after He took her I just felt like I had lost interest in living. But about a month ago I began to have such a burden and weight upon my heart I just couldn't bear it. I spent about three weeks in almost continued prayer for my sin-sick soul. Praise the Lord, He took that burden away, and now I am praising His holy name for salvation.

Dear saints, I have a son who is not saved, and neither is my companion. I want your prayers for them, and some neighbors whom I dearly love. I want to see them all saved.

Pray for me that I will be strong in the Lord and can overcome the many temptations.

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Emma Arthurs

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Choctaw, Okla.—Dear Brother and Sister Pruitt,—Greetings in the name of the Lord. Today finds me saved and sanctified, living for the Lord. I feel impressed to write my testimony this Sunday afternoon, after reading the "Faith and Victory" paper. Truly the Lord is wonderfully blessing me.

The testimonies that I have been reading today have been food to my soul. I was really encouraged over the one write-up especially, written by a sister, entitled, "Hold to God's Unchanging Hand."

I desire your prayers, for the family and myself.

Your saved sister,

Mrs. S. Williams

—o—o—o—o—o—o—

Allegan, Mich.—Dear ones in Jesus,—Once again we wish to greet you in the name of our Saviour and King the Lord Jesus Christ. It has been a long time since I have sent in my testimony. But I praise God for His keeping power, for I am still saved and sanctified wholly. I praise God today for the wonderful salvation. Bro. Pruitt, I was thinking today where the word of God says in Isaiah 35:8, "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called, The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein." Dear Brother, these words are plain, aren't they? Then if we read Rev. 18, we see Babylon is become the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. We can clearly see that we must forsake her entirely, and cry out against her, so that souls may escape, and be saved.

Thank God for His word! It sure is a lamp unto our feet and a light upon our pathway. Bro. Pruitt, I know that this is somewhat strong for some Christians, but I feel lead to write it. I was reading the "Faith and Victory" about two weeks ago. I read it all through and some of it I would read three or four times and was praising God from the depths of my heart for the wonderful messages and testimonies. When I laid the paper aside I picked up the Gospel Trumpet which was given to me in the place where I work. The minute I picked up the "Trumpet" God spoke and said, "Unclean," and the paper dropped from my hand. Now this is all I need to convince me that God has left the so called Church of God or the Trumpet Church. Now when God calls them unclean, He classes them right in with Babylon, Rev. 18:2. They still call themselves the Church of God and live and dress like the world. I came to the conclusion if it is the Church of God as they claim so boldly, it

must be the Church of God of this world, see 2 Cor. 4:4. This may be strong for some but I feel that God wants us to sound the TRUE gospel trumpet and warn souls so that they may come out and forsake the whole of Babylon and not be deceived and stay in part of what is going by the name of "Church of God!"

Please pray for wife and me so we may stand true to God at all times. I went over to see dear Bro. and Sister Brandt of Holland, Michigan. It did my soul much good to see them, as they are the ones God used to lead us out of Babylon. Praise God! They were both in good health and are happy in Jesus.

I'll say goodbye and God bless you all at the print shop and trust that this testimony may be used to God's glory.

Your blood-washed brother, Gerrit Joostburns

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Prairie Grove, Ark.—To the dear saints of God,—I desire to thank each of you for your prayers. How glad we are to report that we are saved and trusting God. Our hearts' desire is to live for God. It is so wonderful how God saved my husband and me. He was bad sick this spring for quite a while, but God answered prayer and healed him and he is able to work again. We have so much to be thankful for. My aim is to live for God regardless of what goes or comes. Pray for us that we always be true and live right. —Mary and Wells Brockman

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Rose Bud, Texas—Brother Pruitt and co-workers of the Lord's work shop. This morning finds me saved and looking to the Lord more than ever before. I feel that some one is praying for me, for my health is better; I have felt better in the last week than I have in a long time.

I received the books on the New Testament Church. Oh, how it has thrilled my soul! I can hardly tell how much I get out of it. I read it over and over, I'll tell you it turns light on the Christian's pathway. I do thank you again.

My son is in the Marine corps and he seems to be having a pretty hard time, and he worries a lot. God knows best. He wants to come home, but cannot. Pray that God will save him, also pray for my husband and me, for we are working together to make it to heaven.

We are Saints of God, Willie and A. L. McIntyre

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San Bernardino, Calif.—Dear saints,—Greetings to all in Jesus' dear name. I feel impressed to write a few lines to you this morning since reading the little article in the paper concerning a certain minister from Calif., who is making division and trouble among the saints, which is very grievous to the true saints. We are sure the Lord wants His work to prosper. In searching the scriptures we find the Lord never has, neither will He ever let His approval be upon any man or woman who tries to run the Church of God, regardless of race or color, our social standing, our ability, our wide influence that we may have, or how competent we feel we are to run the Church of God. The Lord is going to govern and rule His Church Himself. None of us are of any value unless we keep humble before Him. The Lord is fully able to deliver the Church from his spirit of division and preeminence and can do it in the easiest manner. If the saints will be in earnest agreement of prayer, the Lord will work, and not suffer the weak or unstable ones to be carried away in this divisional spirit. Let us unite in fervent prayer in this matter. The time comes when things go far enough, and the Lord calls for a halt.

Just recently the Lord has accomplished two marvelous things personally for us in bringing deliverance to us in His own way—and His way is always best. He worked these things out without us trying to make our own defense, only in earnest prayer. I firmly believe our God can fight this battle for the saints.

This morning we are saved and pressing onward for the Saviour, thanking Him for His goodness and mercy to us.

May the Lord bless you every one. We desire you to remember us in prayer.

Your sister in Christ,

Emma Holden

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Sandusky, Ohio—Dear Brother Pruitt,—Holy greetings to you in the name of Jesus. I feel led of the Lord to send my testimony for the "Faith and Victory." I thank and praise the Lord for His rich mercies unto me. About six months ago I was very ill. The doctors said that I had tuberculosis and heart trouble. I began to waste away and I decided to put my trust in the Lord. The saints came and had prayer every day and from that time that I exercised more faith and the prayer of faith was offered, the Lord wonderfully blessed me in both body and soul. I have gained forty-three pounds in three months. I am still trusting in His rich promises and I know if we obey His commandments He will see us through. I am determined to go all the way with the dear Lord, and I desire the prayers of the saints that I might ever be humble and true.

Your brother in the Lord,

Samuel H. Webster

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Ashland, Ky.—"Faith and Victory" readers,—I am praising God for a full and free salvation, one that keeps us day by day. Praise God forever! I gave my life to Jesus over 10 years ago. Later on God sanctified me. Ever since then I have been doing my best for Him.

The Lord is my healer and my strength—He is a present help in need.

I want every child of God to pray with me for my son who is in the U. S. N.. He is a good, saved boy but needs prayer. If we would all believe God and pray more the Lord would end this cruel war.

Yours truly,

Mrs. L. E. Stewart

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Tulare, Calif.—Dear saints,—I want to testify that God has kept me saved for fifty-five years, and gives joy unspeakable and full of glory. He also sanctified my nature and has healed my body many times. Although blind, I am not discouraged, for I am still trusting my blessed Jesus who has all power in heaven and earth and with him nothing is impossible. Praise his dear name forever! Oh, how I love Him! And the Bible tells me He loves me with an everlasting love. Pray for me. I am your sister, saved, sanctified, satisfied, and happy in Jesus,

Claudia Sidener

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Scott, Ohio, —Dear Saints,—Greetings in our dear Lord's name. First of all I want to thank God for that peace and joy in my heart the world can't give or take away. I also thank Him for healing power. I don't know how to praise Him enough for what He has done for me. I want to go all the way. My prayer is that He will guide me in all things. Praise His name.

You who are in sin should give Jesus your heart. He will understand it all. How sad to be lost. My desire is to go on and please my Master each day. —Ethel Mohr

GOING TWAIN WITH JESUS

"And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain." Matt. 5:41.

When our Saviour taught his disciples on the mount, he desired to impress upon their minds that a servant of the Lord had much more to do under the New Testament dispensation than they had ever heard or known of under the old law dispensation. This sermon is found in Matt, chapters 5, 6, and 7.

In Matt. 5:38-44 He taught the absolute need of a perfect heart-felt sense of genuine forgiveness to loved ones, friends, and foes alike; and the need of a willing heart to go twain instead of one mile in Christian fundamentals. These weighty truths of our Lord's sermon make us to realize that a cold, formal, ceremonial religion is not acceptable unto God, and will not enable one to cooperate with the Lord to bring together God's people into one faith, heart, and life (Eph. 4:5). For natural men at best (even those who perform charitable deeds, and are strict, honest, and moral) will only go one mile, and their love is not warm and real to those who hate them. God's word must be definitely real and the compelling force of God's love must dominate the daily lives of people before they will become unselfish, peaceable, loving, and considerate of one another's needs, thus making this world a better place in which to live.

God's New Testament plan is that people shall have a heart-felt experience of salvation from sin. It is impossible to grow into this experience. The Spirit is faithful to convict souls of sin and their need of a Saviour. When they come to the realization of their need, if they will repent, confess, and forsake sin, then God for Jesus' sake will forgive, and will send the Holy Spirit to dwell in their hearts.

Every one must be born into this newness of life, then a growth in Christian virtues begins that makes heaven more real and richer to ones daily life. Then it is easy to obey the spirit of God's word and go twain instead of one mile. This experience will enable one to forgive an offender more than seven times; yea, even seventy times seven (Matt. 18:21, 22). One with this experience will not consider any part of God's word as being non-essential or unfitted or unsuited to modern religion or theology, but will love and obey it all.

Must we go only one mile with the Lord by declaring that only one tenth (tithe) of our income is required of us to help in the work of the Lord? The doctrine of the New Testament church founded by Jesus Christ is that all we have is the Lord's, and is entrusted to us, his faithful stewards, and we count it a blessed honor and privilege to willingly go farther than the tenth as the need presents itself and our circumstances allow us to do so. No one can ever repay the Lord for His values received in the redemption of his soul, whether the gift and sacrifice be great or small. There is a compelling force in love, so that one who really loves the Lord will no more withhold any of his substance from Him than a faithful husband would from his beloved family,

God forbid that we stop at eighty- or a hundred-fold when our talents or gifts entrusted to us have increased to that high mark or rating. Shall we be content to sit idle when we have been instrumental in saving one soul? "Every branch that beareth fruit, He [God] purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." John 15:2. It is worth all and more than we do and can put into it to go twain in cooperating with our Lord. God's loyal, faithful ones are daily searching His Word for more to do that will create faith, love, and joy in Christian virtues or service.

A true Christian will not try to find scripture to justify any lust of the flesh of which he is particularly fond; for he only finds life as he practices self-denial and sacrifice and crucifies all lusts of the flesh. "Use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh." Gal. 5:13.

Those who are willing to go twain with the Lord will positively do good for evil. They will forgive and do that which will make unsaved people ashamed by returning good for evil, thus heaping coals of fire upon their heads (Rom. 12:20). When one has an unsaved companion who would cause contention by calling him (or her) to account for an oversight, blunder, or mistake, he should take it patiently with a kind, humble, meek disposition rather than to insist upon his rights and thus give offense. The Christian spirit is thoughtful and considerate, and in the home will cause husband and wife to bear each other's burdens.

No temporal thing is so priceless, beautiful, and lovely as a meek, humble, forgiving disposition of those who are willing to go twain instead of one mile. Minister unto others, even to your enemies, the same as though you were ministering to the needs of Jesus if he were here. If even your enemy is hungry, give him your lunch even though you have to fast; for by so doing you can feast upon the bread of life.

—John H. Griffith

Let Us Make Man In Our Own Image

"And God said, Let us make man in our image after our likeness." Gen. 1:26. And man was created in the image of God.

Many people seem to think that they now have the IMAGE of God (at least, they talk as though they thought so); but I declare that at the fall of man, he no longer had the IMAGE of God. Can we suppose that God has a form like unto ourselves? We know that the word speaks of His face, His hand His arm, etc., but man's form is not so different from the gorilla or the monkey—he also has a head a face, and arms, etc. But how about the spirit? Can we claim to have God's IMAGE if we do not live better than the ape? If we do worse than the animal, can we still claim that we are in the IMAGE of God? No, of course not. It was the Spirit of God in man that made man akin to the TRINITY. When Seth was born to Adam and Eve, God said Seth was born in the image of Adam. Let us read it, "And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth," Gen. 5:3,

Adam had fallen insomuch that God drove him and his wife, Eve, out of the garden of Eden, and cursed the ground because of their sin. From then on death reigned from Adam unto Moses. And from Moses to Christ God claimed a people as His own because of the sacrifice of bulls, goats, lambs, etc.; for they pointed his people to His great sacrifice, **Jesus the great sacrifice**, and all who trusted in Him were covered with the blood. "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission" of sin. Heb. 9:22. These all pointed unto the Christ of God, who alone was able to restore man to the image of God. Christ is God's hope of bringing man back into God's likeness, His image.

Human beings can give God nothing but their hearts. When they do this, God takes them and cleans their hearts so He can put His Holy Spirit in the redeemed heart and live and reign there while they live here upon the earth. Only these have the **IMAGE** of God restored to them; only these can stand before God and be pleasing unto Him; only the redeemed saints of God are His blood-washed throng.

If you want to have God's blessings, then obey the scriptures; do the works: repent, confess, forsake, and believe. Then God will bestow upon you his wonderful **SALVATION** that saves from sin. In other words, get saved from all sin, and remain in God's favor by his grace and power. Jesus has suffered to redeem all men, but everyone has his part to do, and that part is to give his soul and body unto God, that God may make of him what He wants him to be, by living in him. In His sight man is only an earthen vessel, head, hands, etc., all members to be used by Him forever, that good may come to his fellowman traveling through this world of time.

—I. Edith Kriebel

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Divine Providence Rules

In this time of national tumult and war crisis, let us remember the Divine Providence rules, and as our loved ones are called, we should commit them to Him for He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think. (Eph. 3:20) "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matt. 10:28.

During the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a day for fasting and prayer. He said, "It is the duty of nations as well as men, to own their dependence upon God, to confess their sins in humble sorrow. Yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures and proved by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.

"Nations, like individuals, are subject to punishment in this world. May we not greatly fear that the awful calamity of the cruel war which now desolates the land may be a punishment inflicted upon us for our sins. We have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us.

"It behooves us then to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for forgiveness."

There are blessings for the individual or nation who keeps the precepts of the Bible or a curse if they will not obey. "If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked way, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." "Righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people." —Mrs. Chas. Reese

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My Clothes

I bought a dress—'twas hard to find—
I searched through every store,
But, oh, I thought the way I clothe
My spirit means much more.

Am I so careful of the things
I think and say and do?
So very watchful lest I grieve
A gentle Spirit true?

Am I alert lest I should soil
My life with something mean?
And do I watch my mind and heart
To keep my spirit clean?

The things I clothe this body with
Do not mean so much to me,
But that which clothes my spirit
Is for eternity.

—Rosa F. Anderson

BIBLE STUDY

Order Sunday School supplies about two weeks before the 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 Wilson, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie.

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE RACE PROBLEM

Sunday, November 5, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations

October 30 to November 4.

- M. Peter's vision Acts 10:9-16.
- T. Made of one blood Acts 17:24-28.
- W. Peter and Cornelius Acts 11:5-15.
- T. A cosmopolitan church Acts 11:19-21; 13:1.
- F. Philip in Samaria Acts 8:4-8.
- S. Philip and the Ethiopian Acts 8:25-39.

Printed Portion.....Acts 10:9-16, 34, 35; 17:24-28.

Acts 10:9. On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:

10. And he became very hungry, and would have eaten:

but while they made ready he fell into a trance,

11. And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

12. Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

13. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.

14. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.

15. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

16. This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.

34. Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

35. But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

17:24. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

25. Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

26. And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

27. That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

28. For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

Golden Text: "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons; but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." Acts 10:34, 35

Practical Truth: The Christian attitude toward those of other races should be one of sympathetic helpfulness.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Joel prophesied of the Holy Ghost dispensation: "Your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams." Today's lesson is one fulfilment of this prophecy.

When one can see objects clearly with his natural eyes, we say he has good vision. Sometimes when people have a vision, it is simply a creation of the imagination; but the kind of vision which Peter had was a divine revelation for the purpose of enabling him to have a clear spiritual vision, or enabling him to know the mind of God on a subject. If a vision from God is obeyed, it will always result in a forward move either of the church or an individual. "Where there is no vision the people perish."

Without revelations from God, man soon drifts into bigotry. God gives visions to those who seek after truth, and He never leaves the meek without guidance. When people pray, they are in a good condition to give up their own thoughts and ways and accept God's. It is then that God can reveal His will and cause them to perceive things which they had not realized before. Peter's vision marked the beginning of a new era for the Christian church, and as a result of it we who are Gentiles have the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Since this truth was revealed to Peter, true Christians know that God is not pleased with race prejudice, for since God is no respecter of persons and accepts all who

work righteousness, His people must be like Him and accept all whom He has accepted. One man has nothing to boast of above another; neither has any race a right to boast of its superiority. The real cause of hard feelings and prejudice between races is not the color of the skin, but it is a lack of the spirit of God in their hearts. The devil takes advantage of the selfishness in men's hearts and makes them think it is the color, temperament or some characteristic in the other race that they do not like.

This does not mean that different races should intermarry and have the same social manners and customs, but it does mean that there can no feeling of hatred exist where the Spirit of God dwells, and no race should be barred from a place of worship where the salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ is preached.

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THE CHURCH DURING WAR AND PEACE

Sunday, November 12, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations

November 6 to 11.

M. Love to enemies Matt. 5:43-48.

T. Subject to higher powers Rom. 13:1-7.

W. Overcoming evil Rom. 12:17-21.

T. The Christian's armor Eph. 6:10-17.

F. A good soldier of Jesus 2 Tim. 2:1-11.

S. Jesus bestows peace John 14:23-27.

Printed Portion.....Matthew 5:43-48; Rom. 13:1-7

Matt. 5:43. Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy.

44. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

45. That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

46. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

47. And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?

48. Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Rom. 13:1. Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

2. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

3. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power that do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of it the same:

4. For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is a minister of God, revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

5. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

6. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

Golden Text: "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." Matt. 5:9.

Practical Truth: The work of the church is one of the most potent means of promoting international friendship.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

It requires more than human strength to obey these instructions which Jesus gave in His sermon on the Mount. But we can be sure that He never gave any command without having a supply of grace for us which will enable us to obey. The non-Christian can love those who love them. If there is no difference between you and the sinner, then you are a sinner.

Verse 44 gives definite instructions for the treatment of an enemy. Someone may ask, "Did any one ever obey that verse?" Many have lived and died in obedience to it. Jesus, our great pattern, so loved his enemies (all who sin are His enemies) that he died that they might be saved. When dying on the cross, He prayed for his slayers. "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." After he died and arose again, he imparted his grace to others who were then able to follow His example. When Stephen was being stoned to death, he prayed for his murderers. The disciples of the Lord in all ages have been robbed of possessions, rights as citizens of their countries, imprisoned, beaten, mobbed, stoned, cruelly treated, and slain and every true Christian has obeyed verse 44. Thank God, there are a few true ones today.

God's people could not have obeyed such a command under the law, for then the commandments were written on stone. Perhaps many of them could have done good to others who hated them, and prayed for others who persecuted them, but they could not have loved their enemies, for love must come from the heart and is not an outward act. But in this dispensation God works on the heart and it is a joy to do His will. A Christian has no place in his heart for a spirit of hatred during war time any more than at any other time. The love of a Christian can have no geographical limits.

Some teach that we must fight other nations in order to obey our lesson which is taken from Romans. This lesson only teaches that the believer must not do evil, for rulers are not a terror to good works but to evil. The Jews did not want to be subject to the Romans, who were the "powers that be" at that time, and would have even taken up carnal weapons to overthrow them. Such an act would have been contrary to the spirit of Christ, for He raised no hand against them though they were oppressing his people (in the flesh, Jews). They were exhorted to be subject to them. A Christian cannot enter a plot to overthrow the government. He must be a law abiding citizen unless the law is contrary to the law of God, in which case he is to obey God rather than men even at the peril of his life.

The church is a saving institution in time of war the same as in time of peace and must ever be governed by its Head (Jesus) who came not to destroy men's lives, but to save. During the first two centuries after Christ established his church, when a soldier became a Christian he left the army.

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CHRISTIANITY AND DEMOCRACY

Sunday, November 19, 1944

Daily Readings and Meditations

November 13 to 18.

- M. God and Caesar Mark 12:13-17.
- T. Love and law Rom. 13:8-10.
- W. Christians and civil law 1 Pet 2:13-17.
- T. Dealing with offenders Matt. 18:15-17.
- F. Restoring an erring one Gal. 6:1, 2.
- S. Unbiased leadership 1 Tim. 5:17-22.

Printed PortionMark 12:13-17; Romans 13:8-10;
1 Pet. 2:13-17.

Mark 12:13. And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in his words.

14. And when they were come they say unto him, Master, we know that thou art true, and carest for no man: for thou regardest not the person of men, but teachest the way of God in truth: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not?

15. Shall we give, or shall we not give? But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, Why tempt ye me, bring me a penny, that I may see it.

16. And they brought it. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? And they said unto him, Caesar's.

17. And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marvelled at him.

Rom. 13:8. Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

9. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

10. Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

1 Pet. 2:13. Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

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

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

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

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

Golden Text: "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." Gal. 6:2.

Practical Truth: Christian living helps to make democracy a success.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The chief priests and scribes and elders had failed in their attempt to trap Jesus (Mark 11:27-33) so now they send some of their lesser followers to entangle and ensnare him in an argument. Notice how subtly they tried to divert his attention from the true purpose of their question by pretending to be seekers after truth. But the Son of God could discern the thoughts and intents of the hearts of men. We can be sure that if we have a sincere desire to know what is truth for the purpose of choosing it that the scripture is true in James 1:5, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." Jesus imparted some of his wisdom to these seekers, but unbraided them because of their hypocritical hearts. They thought their plot was clever and hidden, but it would be food for the wicked if they could realize that their plots against God's innocent ones are not hid from Him. A frank, straightforward, unsuspecting person may be easily entrapped by such a question as they asked Jesus, if he does not have discernment from God. The gift of discernment has an important place in His body of people today.

When they asked the question, "Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not?" they wanted to know if God wanted them (His people) to support a pagan ruler. This was the "catch" in the question, for naturally they did not think God wanted them to do it, and yet if Jesus had said they should not, they would have reported Him to Caesar

to get him into trouble. They forgot the fact that even though they were God's people and had heretofore been governed by His rule and authority, He had ordained even back as far as that time when Jacob and his sons were living, that "the scepter" should "depart from Judah" (Gen. 49:10), and that time had now come. To resist the power and refuse to pay tribute would be to resist the ordinance of God. But while Christ did make it plain that they were to honor the government, he did not stop there, but gave them a second rule which guards and limits the first. Render to God's the things that are God's. A government has no God-given right to pass laws which would injure the conscience of God's people if they should obey. We are made in God's image and belong to Him.

The Spirit of Christ in us which causes us to love and honor God, also causes us to keep all commandments relating to our conduct toward our fellowmen.

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THE CHRISTIAN VIEW OF INDUSTRY

Sunday, November 26, 1944.

Daily Readings and Meditations

November 20 to 25.

- M. A parable of industry Luke 19:12-26.
- T. Dealing with busybodies 2 Thess. 3:10-12.
- W. Toil under a tyrant Exod. 5:2-18.
- T. An ungrateful servant Matt. 18:23-30.
- F. Counsel to servants 1 Tim. 6:1-6.
- S. Counsel to the rich 1 Tim. 6:9-11.

Printed Portion Luke 19:15-26; 2 Thess. 3:10-12.

Luke 19:15. And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

16. Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

17. And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

18. And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.

19. And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.

20. And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin:

21. For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.

22. And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow:

23. Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?

24. And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds.

25. (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.)

26. For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.

2 Thess. 3:10. For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

11. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

12. Now then that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

Golden Text: "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth." Eph. 4:28.

Practical Truth: Christianity exalts the dignity of work.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The first part of our lesson is the latter part of a parable. Begin reading at verse 12 to get the parable in full. The nobleman in this parable represents Christ who has gone to heaven. The return of the nobleman represents the second coming of Christ. He has work for all of his servants (Christians). All have not the same ability or the same spiritual gift, but each one has some and He expects each one to do his best with what he has. When the Lord returns and the judgment sets we shall all have to give an account for the way we have used our God-given gifts. "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward it with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Rev. 22:12. The cities in this parable represent the reward, but this does not mean literal cities any more than the rest of the parable is literal. Some are so literal-minded as to think they are going to become mayor of Chicago or New York when Christ comes to reward his servants. More light and understanding can be gained as to the meaning of this if we read the parable in Matt. 25, beginning with verse 14. Notice that the reward is entering into the joy of the Lord. His joy is certainly not the care and responsibility of being the mayor of literal cities.

When some people get saved they immediately begin to do all they can for the Lord. Thus their spiritual life grows and they soon become strong, stalwart Christians. When spiritual gifts are used they always grow. But when others get saved they seem to feel like they can do nothing, so their talents are laid away while they continue with their selfish pursuits. Both types are represented in the parable. If the money had belonged to them, they could have done what they pleased with it, but it belonged to the Master and should have been used as he directed. Did you ever see any one who claims to be a Christian act as though he regards his life as belonging to himself to use as he pleases? The Lord informs us in His word that we are not our own, but are bought with a price (the blood of Jesus) therefore we should glorify God in our bodies and Spirits which are his. What the Lord thinks of us now seems to be a matter of little concern to some who claim to be His servants, but it will be quite different with them when brought face to face with the Lord.

2 Thess. 3:10 makes us understand that it is the duty of every normal person to work. The Lord is not pleased with those who wear their bodies down with work to satisfy their greed for gain while they neglect the Lord, but a moderate amount of work is good for both soul and body. The Lord has called some to leave their manual labor and spend most of their time in His service. He expects others to work and support those who give their time all to Him in His work. It is said, "An idle mind is the devil's workshop." The Lord never goes to the devil's workshop to get workers. He always calls those who are busy. This scripture has reference to manual labor, but there is a spiritual lesson in it for us too. Those who do no work for the Lord are not permitted to feast at His table.