

FAITH AND VICTORY

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For Easter Day

'Christ the Lord is risen to-day,'
Sons of men and angels say:
Raise your joys and triumphs high,
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply.

Love's redeeming work is done,
Fought the fight, the battle won:
Lo! our sun's eclipse is o'er;
Lo! He sets in blood no more.

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ hath burst the gates of hell!
Death in vain forbids His rise;
Christ hath opened Paradise!

Lives again our glorious King:
Where, O Death, is now thy sting?
Dying once, He all doth save:
Where thy victory, O Grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led,
Following our exalted Head;
Made like Him, like Him we rise;
Ours the Cross, the grave, the skies.

What though once we perished all,
Partners in our parents' fall?
Second life we all receive,
In our Heavenly Adam live.

Risen with Him, we upward move;
Still we seek the things above;
Still pursue, and kiss the Son
Seated on His Father's Throne.

Scarce on earth a thought bestow,
Dead to all we leave below;
Heaven our aim, and loved abode,
Hid our life with Christ in God:

Hid, till Christ our Life appear
Glorious in His members here;
Joined to Him, we then shall shine,
All immortal, all divine.

Hail the Lord of Earth and Heaven!
Praise to Thee by both be given!
Thee we greet triumphant now!
Hail, the Resurrection Thou!

King of glory, Soul of bliss!
Everlasting life is this,
Thee to know, Thy power to prove,
Thus to sing, and thus to love!

—Charles Wesley

Everlasting Life

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3:36. If you have not repented of your sins and accepted Christ's shed blood as a remission for your sins and know Him as your personal Saviour, then you may think this is a strange statement. You may say, "I already have life. I had life when I was born into this world."

That is true, my friend, but this statement does not have reference to the natural or literal life which we receive when we are born into this world. It has reference to the spiritual life which we receive when we repent of the old life of sin and are born again. This new birth is made possible by faith in the cleansing power of the blood which the Lamb of God shed on Calvary. "For when we were without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." Rom. 5:6. "For God so loved the world [sinners] that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16. "When we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son." Rom. 5:10. "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved." John 3:17. The word, "world" here means "sinners." Read this scripture again using the word, "sinners" instead of "world." Jesus said, "I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved," John 10:9. Then in Acts 4:12, we read, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Jesus also said, "I am the way, and

the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6. "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes, we are healed. All we, like sheep, have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way: and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." Isa. 53:5, 6. God has already laid your sins on Jesus, His only begotten Son. He went to Calvary's cross and died in your stead and in my stead. The purchase price has been paid for the redemption of your soul. Your part is to repent of your sins to God and ask Him to forgive you, and accept and acknowledge Jesus as your Saviour from sin. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him: and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Isa. 55:7. "But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness: and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." For the scripture saith, "Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed." Romans 10:8-11.

Dear friend, why not do it now? "For behold, now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of salvation." "Today, if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts."

—Ray H. Freeman

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"CARRY HIM TO HIS MOTHER"

Many are no doubt familiar with the words which I have chosen for the subject of this article. They were spoken by a man of long ago when his son complained to him of pains in his head. He needed some one to comfort and care for him in this hour of pain and misery. There was one to whom he could turn to find such help and comfort as earth could afford, that was his mother. If any one had a love and care for him, it was she. Her love was enduring; her patience was untiring; and her care was tender. Her heart beat in sympathy for her son.

It was said that when he was brought to his mother, he sat on her knee till noon. No doubt there was a prayer in heart as she sat with anxious waiting and watching to know how the case would be with the treasure God had intrusted to her care.

There have been many mothers, and there are yet today many who are very desirous to perform their God-enjoined duty toward their children. There was the mother of Moses; a God-fearing woman. I believe she offered up many prayers in behalf of her son, and instructed him in the fear of God while she had the blessed opportunity. When he had come to manhood, he willingly chose the way of the Lord.

We read in Judges, chapter 13, verse 12, "How shall we order the child and how shall we do unto him?" This question was asked by the parents of

Sampson; whose father was a praying man, and he wanted divine guidance concerning his son.

We remember Hannah; how she prayed for a son, and how interested she was in him in desiring that he should be in the service of God all his days, how in his childhood, she made him a little coat from year to year, and carried it along when she went to the yearly sacrifice.

The mother of Zebedee's children desired that her two sons should be as close to Jesus as possible in his kingdom; although she may not have known for what she was asking. It was the interest she had in them that caused her to make this prayer for her sons.

Many, many others have been rewarded for their faithfulness to their sons.

There is another side to the picture. We find in this day and time, so many mothers who seem to have no sense of the responsibility that rests upon them in regard to their children. Eph. 6:4, "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." How many are failing along this line and yet claiming to be followers of the meek and lowly Lamb, having no time to pray with their children nor to instruct them in the ways of the Lord. Oh yes, they are interested in the precious little jewels. They want them to have a good place in society, or in the business or political world, and want them to be praised by their fellowmen, but have sadly neglected the most important part; that is to teach them the fear of God. What a blessed thing it would be today if there were more sons and daughters in the land that had a mother and grandmother or guardian like Timothy, of whom it was said that from a child he had known the holy scriptures that were able to make him wise unto salvation, because of the faith and interest of his loving watchers. Oh mothers of today, how much effort are you putting forth to bring your children up for God? What kind of an example are you setting before them? Are you one of them that use obscene language, smoke, play cards, dance, and joke, thus speeding them on down to destruction? Are you one of the more moderate ones who have idled away their time and now complain that they can do nothing with their nine- to twelve-year-olds? What a pity! How is it in your case: parents obey your children or children obey your parents? Who is to blame? This life is fleeting; you will some day be taken away. Will you be satisfied to leave the dear children behind with the chart you have mapped out for them? It could be otherwise. Many mothers have looked into the face of their dying child; and what a pain in their heart if there was no evidence that he or she would be with Jesus while the ages roll on. There are many mothers in this age who ought to be with their children, or their children ought to be with their mothers, who have left them in the hands of less competent ones while they are out enjoying the gaities of life, card parties, clubs, theatres, and many other activities to the neglect of their children. So many children are out in the night, exposed to the vile tempter's snares,

A CHALLENGE TO THE CHURCH

Back to the Sermon on the Mount, or Compromise—Which?

Introduction

For many months past, in fact, since the year 1940, the writer has been deeply concerned with the question of the Christian's attitude toward war and whether or not he may knowingly and voluntarily participate in it to any degree and at the same time retain the pleasure of God upon him. This concern called for much prayerful study of God's word, and a consideration of various opinions, both pro and con, on the subject. Knowing that the nations are in the midst of a terrible war, many tongues and pens pass over the question with indecision, indifference, and almost utter silence, leaving it to the individual as a matter of conscience. It is high time that a warning should be sounded in God's holy mountain and a standard be lifted up for the people.

In research work the writer has not found in the Church of God literature or records a single complete Biblical interpretation of the question relative to the problems which confront the saints today. A number of ministers have been interviewed, and varied opinions were expressed. Surely the Christian doctrine of peace is a part of the gospel, for it was instituted by the Prince of Peace. In this challenge to the church I would ask the careful and diligent consideration by both ministers and lay-members of the points herein discussed, trusting that the reader will rediscover or catch a new vision of the Bible standard of the Christian's conduct as set forth, commanded, and practised by Jesus and the apostles in the morning era of the Christian dispensation, with a view to re-establish and restore these vital truths and practices to the church in this "evening" time along with all the other Bible doctrines that have been restored from the rubbish of confusion of the "Dark Ages."

This is not a complete discussion of the vital question. Though some statements may be rather pointed, these lines are written with "charity for all," and with sincere convictions that it is our Christian duty to discourage and warn against an evil which our Saviour so severely condemned, even to the sacrifice of friends, or life itself.

Past Teaching of the Church

Since the beginning of the Church of God reformation movement in 1880, the United States has been engaged in three major wars—the Spanish-American War of 1898, World War I of 1917, and the present World War II. To be exact, these have all occurred in the last 47 years, which is about the average length of time that even the pioneer ministers have spent in the work of the Lord. The Spanish-American War was of short duration and perhaps did not present the question so forcefully to the church. In World War I of 1917, quite a few saints were conscientious objectors, and they suffered persecution and much mistreatment. The Selective Service Act of 1917 provided exemption from military service only for the

members of the so-called "historic peace churches," and the Church of God was not recognized as such. At the same time it seems that a number of Church folk more or less followed along with the war spirit, being influenced by the popular feeling of the times, and there was no definite, generally-accepted standard or practice for the saints in regard to military service or aiding in the war effort, except that they should not actually take up arms to kill another. This opinion has prevailed down to the present holocaust of destruction, and was adopted in a resolution by the ministers at the Monark Springs, Mo. camp-meeting in July, 1940 before the present Selective Service law was enacted. The taking up of arms was the only objection offered, and the matter of further participation seems to have been left to the individual's conscience. I, for one, am convinced that it does not set forth a complete interpretation of the Bible standard of practice. We know that when the "Official Statement" came before the various draft boards that it was a hinderance rather than a help to those who conscientiously objected to any participation in such a horrible business.

Our Only Authority

In order to arrive at some conclusions on this vital subject, let us take for our authority the teachings and examples of Jesus, the Founder of the church and the Prince of Peace, and consider the teachings and practices of the apostles and saints of the early morning church. On the Mount of Transfiguration the voice of God, in speaking of Jesus, said, "Hear ye him." The consequence of our decisions should not affect the making of those decisions, but they must be according to Jesus' teachings regardless of the outcome. It is certain that all who "live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." Too many want to take an easier way, the way of least resistance, the way the majority is going, and the way to shun the reproach of the cross of Christ.

Jesus' sermon on the Mount, as recorded in the 5th, 6th, and 7th chapters of Matthew, sets forth the rules of Christian conduct. Relative to the subject before us, let us read what Jesus taught. "But I say unto you, that ye resist not evil [non-resistance]; but whosoever shall smite thee on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them which despitefully use you and persecute you; 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. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matt. 5:39, 44-48. Jesus set forth the "golden rule." "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." Luke 6:31. This might more correctly be termed the "for-

gotten rule" because of its widespread, universal violation today. When Jesus sent the disciples forth to preach the gospel, he said, "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. But when they persecute you in this city, flee [non-resistance] ye into another." Matt. 10:16, 23. When Jesus was on trial before Pilate, he answered, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." John 18:36. He also said of his disciples, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." John 17:14. Are you in Christ's kingdom in which His servants do not fight? At the time Jesus was arrested, Peter, under the influence of the carnal nature, drew his sword and cut off the ear of the high priest's servant. "Then Jesus said unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish [be lost] with the sword." Matt. 26:52. After Pentecost Peter had no more use for carnal weapons. Jesus commanded the disciples, "Go ye into all the world," and that includes other nations, even though they be enemies,—not with sword or gun, but with the gospel (good news) of salvation.

Let us notice the teachings of the Apostles which agree with the teachings of Jesus. Paul writes, "Bless them which persecute you, bless, and curse not. Re-compence to no man evil for evil. Avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath; for it is written, Vengeance is mine: I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him, if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Rom. 12:14, 17, 19-21. "Owe no man anything, but to love one another. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Rom. 13:8, 9. "See that none render evil for evil unto any man." 1 Thes. 5:15. Peter writes: "Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that ye should follow in his steps: who, when he was reviled, he reviled not again: when he suffered he threatened not." 1 Peter 2:21, 23. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Heb. 12:14.

The Practice of the Early Church

The foregoing is what Jesus and the apostles taught and practised. Now let us notice how these truths were interpreted and practised in the early morning Church, as recorded by the church fathers and historians.

In Cadaux' "History of the Church" is found documentary evidence from the church fathers which shows clearly that for the first two and one-half centuries when a soldier was converted he left the army.

We now quote from West's, "World Progress" history, which was the Oklahoma state adopted text when the writer attended high school: "Clean lives marked the early Christians to a notable degree. The Christians kept apart from most public amusements. This made Christians seem unsocial. Also, because Christ had preached peace, many Christians refused

to join the legions, or to fight, if drafted. These 'pacifists' and 'conscientious objectors' irritated their neighbors by even refusing to illuminate their houses or garland their portals in honor of national triumphs."

Myers' "General History" records the following: "Christianity had come into the world as a religion of peace and good will. The Master had commanded his disciples to put up the sword and had forbidden its use by them, either in the spread or in the defense of the new faith. For three centuries now his followers had obeyed literally this injunction of the Founder of the Church, so that a Quaker, non-military spirit had up to this time (A. D. 312) characterized the new sect. By many of the early Christians the profession of arms had been declared to be incompatible with the Christian life."

How Practice Changed to That of Today

These historical records show clearly that a non-resistance, non-military spirit prevailed generally in the early Church for three centuries. Now let us notice how and who accepted the military spirit into nominal Christianity. As the Bible student well knows, the seeds of apostasy began to grow in the time of the apostle Paul and John the Revelator. The leaven of spiritual decay spread gradually but surely. Christianity (so-called) became so popular that by A. D. 306, when Constantine the Great succeeded to the throne as emperor of the Roman Empire, he became a Christian by profession, but not by practice, and is known as the first Christian emperor. Christianity by him was made the state religion, and he also recognized the Christian Sunday, the first day of the week, as a day of rest, forbidding ordinary work on that day.

Constantine had several rivals for the imperial throne, and he fought to hold his position. One of the most important of the battles was that of Melvian Bridge, about two miles from Rome. The historian, Myers, says: "Constantine's standard on this celebrated battlefield was the Christian cross. He had been led to adopt this emblem through the appearance, as once he prayed to the sun-god, of a cross over the setting sun, with the inscription above it: 'In this sign conquer.' Obedient unto the celestial vision, Constantine had at once made the cross his banner, and it was beneath this new emblem that his soldiers marched to victory at the battle of the Melvian Bridge."

Myers further states: "This act of Constantine constitutes a turning point in the history of the Christian Church. The most sacred emblem of the new faith was made a battle standard, and into the new religion was infused the military spirit of the imperial government that had made that emblem the ensign of the state. From the day of the battle at the Melvian Bridge a martial spirit has animated the religion of the Prince of Peace. Since then Christian [?] warriors have often made the cross their battle standard."

Further quoting Myers: "By the year A.D. 321 Constantine had granted the Christian societies the right to receive gifts and legacies, and he himself en-

riched the church [apostate] with donations of money and grants of land. This marks the beginning of the great possessions of the church, and with these the entrance into it of a worldly spirit. From this moment can be traced the decay of its primitive simplicity and a decline from its early high moral standard."

From then until the present, most of Christendom, both Catholic and Protestant, participate in military service and enter into the war efforts of their respective nations. Even so-called holiness movements, some passively and some positively, glorify war from the pulpit and press, and they "whose minds are blinded by the god of this world," say that Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is not applicable to our age. A religious publication termed "a vital journal of Christianity" displayed a suggestive soldier-gun emblem urging the purchase of Defense Bonds. Some would place loyalty to country above loyalty to God, concluding that one who dies in defense of his country has a sure passport to heaven.

What Is War?

War is the enemy of all Christian ideals. War means all that Jesus did not stand for. It is the complete reversal of the Christian attitude toward life. Instead of ministering to and healing the wounds of man, experiments and research are made as to how greater and more deadly wounds can be inflicted. The chief of Chaplains of the United States Army is quoted as saying recently that "War is a nasty, dirty, destructive, damnable business." If he is right in his definition—and I think he is—then some good (?) folk have gone into a terrible business.

Arguments for Participation

The scriptures most commonly used to support participation in carnal warfare are Romans 13:1-6 and 1 Peter 2:13-17. The argument usually presented is that the "Christian" must be subject "to the powers that be" and this includes taking part in carnal warfare at the command of that government under which he may happen to be living. To accept this interpretation would require the true Christians of ALL THE NATIONS engaged in the present conflict to support their respective governments, with the result that brethren in Christ would meet on the battlefield, seeking to kill and destroy one another. Such a course is unthinkable, for it would violate every cardinal teaching of Christ and the New Testament. In Romans 13:1-6, the thought that the Christian should participate in carnal warfare at the command of the "powers that be" is not under consideration by the Apostle; but the opposite is taught, as is clearly shown by reading the preceding chapter and the verses following the 6th verse of the same chapter. It reveals an unbroken line of truth relative to love in action to our brethren, our neighbor, our enemy, and to all men, and leaves no room for vengeance or retaliation of any kind. However, it is the Christian's duty to faithfully obey the State in all requirements which do not involve a violation of the New Testament teachings. But he must obey God rather than man when the demands of the State conflict with his supreme loyalty to Christ; yet the Christian should "Render unto Caesar the things that are

Caesar's," and "Obey every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake." Government is ordained of God, especially for the punishment of evil doers. God's people is a called-out, holy nation, separate in spirit from the world, and whose "citizenship is in heaven."

Others argue that "responsibility for taking life in battle belongs to the State and not to the individual doing the deed." This reasoning would nullify about all the clear teaching of God's Word regarding judgment, for it declares that "every man must appear before the judgment seat of Christ," must give "account for himself," and will have judgment rendered "according to his deeds."

Some try to justify themselves by the Old Testament sanction of war, forgetting that "the times of this ignorance God winked at: but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." Acts 17:30. Israel under the Old Testament law were permitted to go to war only by divine appointment. When out of divine order they were defeated. No such divine sanction has been made by the Lord in the New Testament dispensation. On the contrary, the use of physical force or violence as pertaining to God's people was annulled by the Lord's sermon on the mount, as was also the practice of polygamy.

Some will say that we are all helping in the war—by paying taxes, etc. That is true, more or less. But here are some points to consider relative to paying taxes. First, taxes are levied for collection—not a voluntary contribution—and, second, Jesus, by precept and example, teaches us to pay taxes. (Luke 20:20-25; Matt. 17:27.

Consenting or Aiding in the Deed

There are those who feel their conscience allows them to accept non-combatant (so-called) service. Saul of Tarsus, evidently in all good conscience thought within himself "that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus," Acts 26:9. In this thought he persecuted the unresisting church, "and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them." He "knew the raiment of them who slew" Stephen, "consenting unto his death." But later, when awakened, he sensed his guilt of the blood of Stephen, and says he "obtained mercy because he did it ignorantly in unbelief."

If, for instance, you would knowingly and willingly loan your car to a group of bank robbers, or in any way aid them in their bank-robbery crimes, justice by the laws of the land would hold that you were a party to the crimes. You would be an accomplice by aiding and abetting the ones actually committing the crimes, and therefore subject to punishment. A large bill-board now reads, "The war bonds you hold are fighting bonds." Perhaps you would not fight, but will loan your money to carry on the fight. War plant workers are termed "soldiers on the home front," and surely they are as necessary for the prosecution of the war as the soldiers who use the weapons on the battlefield.

The Golden Rule—"And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise"—most certainly has a universal application. This being true, how could a person be practising this teach-

ing and at the same time voluntarily aiding in and building weapons of war with which to destroy people of other nations? To be sure, these workers would not want other nations to build bombs to drop on them, or to produce any implements that would, directly or indirectly, bring harm to them. Let me ask further, how could a preacher do war work during the week and then on Sunday attempt to exalt the Prince of Peace? Consistency would demand that his actions agree with his words.

In 1 John 3:8 we read, "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." God is not the author of war, nor the creator of any implement for the purpose of waging war. Therefore, war and all things pertaining thereto, must necessarily be the works of the devil. How can professed children of God knowingly and willingly aid in and help carry on that which Christ came to destroy? "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother." 1 John 3:10.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peace makers: for they shall be called the children of God." Then whose children are the war makers?

Sad, but true, many well-meaning persons have been caught in these snares by the whirl-pool of confusion and war drums, and by listening to strange voices instead of the "still small voice" of God. Some seem to feel that war is a "necessary" evil. It is true that history is largely a record of wars, but we need many more saints in these days like the Hebrew boys and Daniel who stood true to their God-given convictions against the wicked rulers, whether ecclesiastical or political.

Here is another inconsistency. The government reaches out with one hand to sell war bonds, the proceeds of which to be used to bring about human suffering and destruction, while on the other hand, through the Red Cross agency, solicits your contributions for the relief of human suffering. Where is the logic in such a procedure?

No Hope for Permanent World Peace

Peace is derived only from a right condition of the heart and mind. War and fighting will continue as long as man possesses the carnal nature or the principle of sin in the heart. Ever since Cain slew his brother Abel, there have been fighting and killing in the course of history, and such a condition will exist as long as the world stands, regardless of the number of peace conferences held or the scope of economic and political adjustments. Not for long can peace be enforced with the threat of punishment. "For from within, out of the heart of man, proceed" all evil.

Universal Military Training

This nation is one of the big powers which is now committed to the policy of maintaining world peace by force of arms if necessary. Therefore, from here on out, this country intends to keep militarily prepared and ready for instant action. Undoubtedly, a peacetime universal military training law will be passed, which perhaps will demand every boy to take a

year's military training when he reaches the ages of 17 to 21. This will present a question to the saints who have sons under that age. Right now is the time for the Church to reach a uniform understanding or Biblical standard on this point and unanimously petition the government to exempt our boys from such training on the same grounds that we object to actual military service. The Bible teaches parents to bring up their children in "the way they should go," and "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." If war is wrong, then a saint can take no part in it, and should therefore be so taught to the children.

General Trend of the Church

Several months ago the official report was that only about forty young men were in Civilian Public Service camps as conscientious objectors from the trumpet movement. The ratio of men objecting to military service is about the same in the Church, as we know it. To us this trend toward the war spirit is a sad commentary on our profession of adherence to the high standard of the New Testament. What is more grievous is the fact that some honest young men have gone to so-called old-time saints and ministers for advice on this question, and were advised to go on to war. In one case the conscientious young man was termed "stubborn" by the minister because he did not want to go. Under this unscriptural advice, who would be responsible should the young man get killed or kill some one? We should warn the righteous that they sin not, lest their blood be required at our hands.

The Attitude and Hope of God's People

One may ask, what should be the Christian's attitude toward war? The negative attitude is to refuse to participate in military service in any form or aid in the war effort, and on the positive side to renounce war and work for its elimination by teaching and living the gospel of Christ which alone brings peace and good will to man. Constructive non-resistance means overcoming evil with good.

There is hope and comfort for the true children of God who face these conditions. We who are or faith know "we look for a better country, that is an heavenly," and "confess that we are strangers and pilgrims on the earth." We already enjoy the "peace that passeth understanding." We already have the "victory that overcometh the world." The freedom we declare is "that we are made free from the law of sin and death." The liberty we share is that we are "delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God." Thank the Lord!

To those who desire to know the truth, walk in the light, and please God rather than man, these lines are prayerfully addressed. The writer would appreciate a card or letter from any reader expressing opinion, decision, or comment in regard to this important issue. The basic principle of Christianity—love—is involved. The question and challenge to the Church is, "Where do we go from here?"

—L. D. Pruitt, 1005 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla.

who ought to be at home under a mother's care. The curfew should be sounded. Some one ought to cry out with a mighty and strong voice, "Carry him to his mother," to whom he should be taken without delay.

The lad of our subject sat upon his mother's knees until noon and then died. The mother with confidence hastened to the Lord; to the man of God for comfort. She had gone as far as she could go, but trusting her dead son into His care, her faith was still active in his behalf. She received the desire of heart because she had done her part. Mothers, if you have done your part and death should call you or your sons away, you can trust it all in God's hands and He will say unto thee at the last, "Well done." Well done because you have taught your sons the fear of God; you have taught them to respect and revere His Word; you have prayed with them and taught them to pray. In the still hours of night when no one else knew, you carried them to God in your supplications; when you went about the duties and toils of the day, you carried them in your heart; you weeded out the words of hate and spite from their conversation. God saw all your efforts, and when the end comes, He will say, "Well done."

—Ulysses Phillips

How Vain Is Man!

"Man that is in honor, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish" (Psa. 49:20).

In the first, second, and third verses of this chapter we read: "Hear this, ALL ye people; give ear, ALL ye inhabitants of the world: Both low and high, rich and poor, together. My mouth shall speak of wisdom: and the meditation of my heart shall be understanding." Here the Lord is calling to ALL the inhabitants of the world, all classes of people, to consider the importance of wisdom and understanding in setting Him above the beasts that perish. Oh, how vain is man without the wisdom of God! Oh, that men would get wise enough to stop and see it! Last night as we lay upon our bed, the thought came so forcibly into our mind: How vain is man to try to stand up and try to assert himself as anything without the wisdom and understanding that God giveth! What an utter failure he is within himself. The thousands of great (?) functionaries of earth who think themselves "something" who are too proud and haughty to speak to the average man,—the president, the senators, the representatives, the lawyers, doctors, and "big" sect preachers (D. D.'s, etc.) ALL, according to God's way of looking at it here, have no preeminence above the beasts that are salted down for meat, or made into fertilizer, or driven off to the stock yards to be slaughtered. You say this is putting it down pretty hard? Well, it is just the way the Lord has it fixed, and it will "come to pass" that way when proud man steps up to the judgment line without humbling himself to God and finding out he is nothing within himself. How utterly pitiful, and sickening to see man puff up and try to exalt himself

before the eyes of the Infinite and Almighty God! This refers to man seeking honor from man, and leaving God out. It only elevates his animal life and puts him on a level with the cows and horses.

—J. H. P.

Freedom From Sin

Worldliness is sin. There are some thoughts that I would like to present under this heading since sin in its various forms is surrounding us on all sides, as common as nature itself. The Bible writers often refer to it as "the world." This includes not only the grosser forms of sin, but all manner of disobedience to God of whatsoever nature or extent. God's people must be free from all these things. Paul wrote to the brethren who had been quickened in Christ, "In time past ye walked according to the course of this world." But Christ gave himself for our sins that he might deliver us from this present evil world. That our separation from the world in this sense is to be real is shown by the words of Christ, "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." Bear in mind: if you take your stand for God and for the whole truth of his word, determined to be free from all worldliness, there will be a real separation in spirit and life between you and the worldly-minded. You will have opposition. "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." This was realized by the first disciples, for we have the testimony of Jesus himself. They were free from the world. He said of them in prayer to the Father, "I have given them thy word and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world even as I am not of the world." To us, this means everything which partakes of the spirit and nature of the world must be forsaken: worldly sentiments, worldly dress, worldly ambitions, worldly amusements, and everything that is not in harmony with the word of God. "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. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." 1 John 2:15-17. —Mrs. Roy Pruett

oo—oo—oo—oo—oo

Louisiana,—Dear Saints,—Greetings in Jesus' name. I want to thank the Lord for what He has done for me. He has healed me of afflictions which I have had so long. One special one was my gums which have been very bad for quite a while. I praise His dear name. It is so wonderful to trust in one who knows all about us and blesses us in this life. I am encouraged to go all the way with the Lord and suffer for his sake. Please remember my father and me in prayer. He is getting up in years but is just a babe in Christ. He is almost a year old but is fighting the battle for the Lord. And also pray for my son who once was saved but has gone back in sin.

Your saved sister,

—Velma Wilson.

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

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

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

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

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

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

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma

The chapel where the church of God meets in Guthrie, Okla. is located on the corner of 6th St. and W. Warner Ave. Regular Sunday services are: Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; preaching services, 11 a.m.; young people's meeting, 6:30 p.m.; and preaching services, 8 p.m. Mid-week services are: prayer meeting, Wednesday, 8 p.m.; and Bible study, Friday, 8 p.m. All are welcome.

The Way To Do It

A preacher stood watching a marblecutter, who with chisel and hammer and a great deal of skill was changing a stone into a statue. "Ah!" said the preacher, "I wish I could deal such clanging blows on stony hearts." "Maybe you could," replied the workman, "If you worked like me, on your knees."

Editorials

Brother Stover of Pomona, California, has written to us about setting apart one day of each month for fasting and prayer for the sick, the boys across in the fighting zones, the boys in C. P. S. camps, and other burdens that may be upon the saints. I think it would be a good thing to do. I believe it would please the Lord to set apart Thursday of the third week of each month as a special day of fasting and prayer. The first special fasting day will be Thursday, April 19. We trust all the saints will seek the Lord for a special burden of prayer on that day and pray for the sick, for those in trouble, for the young men all over the world, for enemies, for souls that are lost in sin and other precious souls that are in bondage in the cages and pens of men.

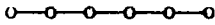


This is a shaking time when God is stirring things, both in earth and in the ecclesiastical heavens. Everything is pointing toward the end of time. God is sending forth His blazing gospel to separate all who will hear Him from the world and get them out of Babylon, which is the sectish confusion that now exists in the religious world. He wants to fit them into His building in preparation for His coming. The flaming gospel of Christ is a savor of life to a soul or a savor of death. If you receive it, embrace it, and follow Jesus on a white horse (Revelation 19:14, a white horse represents the cleanness and purity of the saints), honoring Him as "King of kings, and Lord of Lords," it will mean life eternal to your soul. But if you reject the gospel and drift on with sects, divisions, and conform to the world, your deluded soul will fall a prey to all the beasts and fowls (evil religious spirits) which the angel mentions in Revelation 19:17; and you will be numbered with the throng that will persecute the saints of God who are following the Lamb of God on white horses.

Some are believing the blazing gospel of the evening light and are willingly taking the crucified way with Christ, but others are turning it down, calling it fanaticism. Thus in their efforts to preserve their fleshly lives, they are falling a prey to the different religious sects, and will be with that company called "Satan," which is the Pagan power (or dragon) named in Revelation 20:2 that deceives Gog and Magog and gathers the people together, in number as the sand of the sea. Revelation 20:8. They will compass the camp of the saints about (which in symbol is called the City of God or Mt. Zion), then God will send fire down from heaven and destroy them. Christ and His white-robed followers will always be conquerors over Satan and all of his agents. According to Peter, the earth and all things therein will be burned up, then the Judgment will take place.

According to the prophecies, the evening church will have light, power, faith, and strength even as the morning church; and the commotions and upheavels both in the earth and in the ecclesiastical heavens are preparing conditions for the bright shining of the church in our very times, and most religious people are blind to the fact. The hosts of evil are gradually gathering themselves together under a cloak of re-

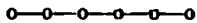
ligion to war against the saints; and many will be slain for the Word of God and others beaten, imprisoned, deprived of property, and forbidden to gather together for worship. The more they truly manifest Christ and come out plainly and clearly against religious sects, worldly conformity, wholesale murder, and other abominations of religious men, the more they will be hated, persecuted, and slain.



Some one may think or say that he has too much love and tenderness in his heart to injure one of God's saints in any way. A great many of that kind were with the throng that crucified Jesus. They did not do the act, but did not have enough of the Spirit and power of God in their souls to stand with the few that followed the Lord. They were a prey of the beasts and fowls (scribes and Pharisees) that were guilty of having the Lord crucified. Those who followed them and were with them were partakers of their sins just like thousands will be in these last persecutions. That is why God in Revelation 18:2, 4, says, "And he cried mightily with a strong voice [God is crying mightily and with a strong voice in these last days], saying, Babylon the great is fallen is fallen and is become [meaning now, not some future time] the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. And I heard another voice from heaven [That voice is now sounding], saying, Come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." God does not want you to be a partaker of their sins, as thousands were who crucified Jesus.

Dear friend, you cannot be neutral in this holy war. If you do not take a firm stand against all the evils and abominations of religious companies, and cut loose from the world so He can fit you into His building, you will be voluntarily going with the host of evil religious workers which are warring against the Lamb and His company on white horses. Oftimes Satan works on tender consciences when they stand against religious men that are in the wrong, and accuses them of being hard and ungodly, troubles and bothers them, trying to get them to repent and give way to his evil workers hidden under sheep's clothing. I believe that Jesus and Paul were both good examples for us and they certainly did not spare these religious evil workers that came against them. Paul even said that he turned some of them over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh that the spirit might be saved. One who is turned over to Satan will have the puff taken out of him so he can get saved if he has any of the fear of God.

Brethren, pray for me that God will give me stronger language and heavier hail stones of truth to let fall on Babylon that some precious souls may be rescued from her ruins. Some are escaping, but we want to see more freed from her death clutches.



Dear saints, did you ever stop to consider that nearly all holiness people are favoring this awful war with its wholesale murdering of God's created beings? If they are not actually in it and partaking of it

in some way, they are drumming for it. Such is a bad sign for any one who professes to follow Christ. Paul says in Ephesians 5:30, "We are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones." Saints need to have some of His bones (Lion strength) in them to enable them to stand steady against the evils and wickedness of this world that is steeped in sin and rushing on to the everlasting burnings.

Jesus Christ is symbolized in the Bible both by a lion and a lamb. He is a Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Every prophet and teacher who has allowed the Spirit of Christ to manifest itself freely has been persecuted or slain. Paul exhorts saints in 2 Timothy 3:12, in this manner, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." Then in the next verse he warns, "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." What heavenly warnings we, as the saints upon whom the end of the world has come when the devil (pagan, evil spirits) is loosed for a little season, find in these two verses! Jesus always manifested the nature of a lamb when dealing with the bodies or souls of mankind, and in defending any self or fleshly life when being attacked by His enemies; but when it came to defending the truth and resisting the devil, casting out evil spirits, healing the sick, lifting up the fallen, and exposing false prophets and evil workers, He was a lion in strength. We read in Revelation 5:5 that He was the Lion of the tribe of Juda, and He prevailed to open the book and break the seven seals. The only way the BOOK can be opened to our understanding today is for us to be born again of the Spirit and life of Christ. Then Christ will open the truth to our understanding, for in strength and power He is a lion.

Our weak-kneed and spineless preachers of today who have a sugar-coated gospel to give to the people, may accuse Him of injuring weak souls when He was laying bare, by the truth, the evil and unrighteousness of the scribes and Pharisees whom nearly all the people respected as religious leaders; but far from it. He was only showing the people the sinfulness of their leaders so they could escape their bondage and He could make them free. He was not breaking the bruised reed nor quenching the smoking flax, but was sending forth judgment unto victory, giving them a chance to see their way out to become strong in the Lord. He was looking after their souls' interests.

The true doctrines of the Bible might be truthfully termed the backbone of the saints in light, and will hold the whole body together. Without them, saved souls will become scattered into all the man-made churches and will soon starve to death and become helpless to get out of the muck; and in this, the last day of the last days, they will find themselves with the religious throng that cries, "Crucify him, crucify him and loose Barabbas." Barabbas represents the self life and worldly conformity. There is no way to lift up Christ to the people in a greater measure and manner than to properly teach the true church which is the Body of Christ in the world. If the true and definite Bible truths are faithfully taught on this subject, honest, God-fearing souls will believe,

see, and loosen from all religious rubbish and flow into the one Body of Christ, and will take their places in the body and begin to function in their appointed places to the glory of God and the upbuilding of His kingdom among men. The ways of God are far too simple and heavenly for the conceited wisdom of this religious world. The deeper teachings of the Word that will lead them into the crucified way, they brand as fanatic, and thereby preserve the self life which will cause them to lose eternal life.



In the January issue we printed an article entitled, "A Startling Vision of Judgment." The saints liked the article and sent so many orders for that paper that our supply was exhausted, and still they called for it. We printed the article in tract form so any one who wants it can send and get it.

Anyone who desires a sample of tracts may send for them and they will be mailed free of charge. Passing out tracts is a good way to get the gospel to men and women. Send and get some tracts and pass them out and in this way do something for the Lord and precious souls.

CAMP MEETING NOTICE

Hammond, Louisiana, Campmeeting is to be held from June 29 to July 8 inclusive. Particulars later.



NOTICE

Saints who have made tea towels, aprons, quilts, straw ticks, etc. for the Monark Springs, Missouri, campmeeting, please mail them to James E. Morris, Monark Springs Campground, Route 3, Neosho, Missouri. Sister Barton will send money to pay postage on packages of things sent for campmeeting use, to anyone who will write to her requesting it.

Send offerings for the meeting to Brother Lawrence Pruitt, 1005 West Mansur, Guthrie, Oklahoma, or to Brother Sam Barton, Route 8, Box 119, Tulsa, 15, Okla.

Obituaries

In Reform, Alabama, the year of 1890, Mr. and Mrs. Ligons were the proud parents of a baby girl, whom they named Sarah. She was a kind, loving, even-tempered child, always willing to do when called on.

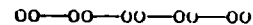
She confessed a hope in Christ at the age of 16, was baptized in Reform, Alabama, and lived a Christian life until God summoned her to the Great Beyond.

She was united in matrimony in 1909 to Mr. Dan Richardson. To this union four children were born.

They moved to Oklahoma in 1916, near Okemah, Oklahoma. After several years they moved back to Alabama. They returned to Oklahoma again in 1940, and settled in Hoffman, where Sister Dan Richardson departed this life, February 5, 1945, at 5:00 a.m. She leaves to mourn, her husband, and three children, a son in the armed forces stationed over seas in Burma, China, three grandchildren, five brothers, six sisters, and a host of other relatives.

After each storm comes sunshine,
After the darkness light,
After the winter's dreary cold,
Come blossoms fair and white.
Surely it is God's wisdom
That after an aching heart,
There shall be life eternal
Where loved ones never part.

Funeral services were conducted February 13, at Hoffman, Oklahoma by Brother Manley Spears. Text: 2 Kings 20:1-7.



Sister Donnie Bell Jones was born December 12, 1910, at Hanna, Oklahoma. She confessed a hope in Christ early in her life. She was united in marriage to Arthur Clemons April 15, 1931. To this union eight children were born, four of which preceded her in death. They moved to California in 1942 and the last part of her life was spent near Bakersfield where she heard the truth preached in its fullness by the ministers of the Church of God. She gladly accepted and lived true to the end.

She departed this life February 26, 1945 at the age of thirty-four years, two months, and fourteen days. She leaves a husband, four children, mother, three brothers, one sister, and other relatives.

We sorrow not as those who have no hope.

The funeral service was conducted by Brother Isaac Chandler who used Hebrews 9:27 as the text.

—Francis Blackwell



A Message to All in Trouble

Dear friends who are sad and troubled, I desire to tell you about One who can help you, regardless of where you are or who you are, or whatever your sin or sorrow may be. You may feel forsaken and cast down and that no one cares; you may be deep in sin; or you may have trouble that no earthly friend could help you bear, and that you would not care to tell to human ears; but there is One who knows, who cares, who loves you, and who came to heal the broken hearted (Luke 4:18). This One suffered for you that you may be free—free from your sins and your burdens. His invitation to you is, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Yes, there is rest and peace in Jesus that can not be found in earthly pleasure. There's no place in this world so dark but that the love and light of Jesus can shine there and comfort you. You may be now in the prison of sin or a prison of stone walls, but the Lord can deliver you. Read Isaiah 42:7. He can save and bless you.

If you desire to find Him, call upon Him earnestly, confess your sins to Him and turn from them and He will forgive you; desire His love in your heart more than you desire anything else and He will save your soul.

Dear ones, do not put off your soul's salvation. Prepare to meet God in peace while you have the opportunity.

Perhaps some soldier who is far from home and loved ones may read this. If so, remember you, too, can have Jesus. There is no place so far away or so dark that Jesus cannot see. He has wonderful ways of deliverance for those who look to Him. He can save from the power of the sword and save lives. He is the best and greatest friend that anyone can have.

—Mrs. Becky Barnes



Ask Largely; Give Largely

Our children come running in and ask of us many things. They come expecting us to give them the things they ask for. They are not afraid either, but come boldly—asking. We look out upon the great world, God's harvest field. He is our Father. He calls us to work in His field. He tells us to lift up our eyes—"Behold the fields." We look at the greatness and the need there. We cry out, "Oh Lord, where shall we go; where shall we start?" He tells us there is

work at our very door. Not only the ones next door, but also adjoining countries, lands (seeming to us afar).

"Behold the fields. Go ye!" He says. Then let us as His children ask Him to lead us, guide us, give us all our needs. What do we need? We give Him ourselves, then He promises to provide all our needs. We are to ask, ask largely to be used for His glory. He wants His ministers to preach giving. God calls His laborers; He also calls givers. Let the saints give liberally and wisely, not grudgingly. Many of God's laborers have families. They need our financial support. I know of places where they think God's minister's ought to work with their hands to support themselves. We see the results. There are exceptions, but let us loose the "oxen that treadeth out the corn." We ask everywhere for Holy Spirit-filled men and women to come and preach. We want the Gospel preached and taught here and away across the seas in heathen fields where souls are perishing. We want laborers over there too. Those that are not called to go can pray and give of their gold and silver and stand back of the workers. Then the publishing works, all need help. There are many places the Lord's money needs to go. Ask largely, give largely; pray earnestly, seek often our Lord in prayer. Oh the power of prayer! How comforting to know we can come to our heavenly Father asking Him for all we need and He will supply. May we all be up^{and} doing as God calls, gives, and sends. When we are all given to Him, we will give freely, as freely as we have received.

—Jessie Holloman

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Indiana—Dear Brother Pruitt—God bless you. This the 23rd of February, 1945, I feel like telling something of the goodness of God to me, at this very needy time. After the trials, temptations, and burdens of last night, this morning in early secret prayer, the sweet Holy Spirit helped me to penetrate the heavens and receive much encouragement. There is nothing to be found that can comfort one's heart as the Holy Spirit of God. He also brought much encouragement and strength by part of a song He suggested to me and He is blessing all the day. The song is this: "Walking in sunlight all of my journey, Over the mountain, through the deep vale, Jesus has said; I'll never forsake thee, Promise divine that never can fail," etc. O glory to Jesus! The suggestion of this beautiful song by the precious Holy Ghost began the unvailing of a stream of truth that is still unfolding itself and filling my heart with comfort at 5 o'clock this evening! Truly this song let the sounding live down deep in my heart as I so keenly realized I have been for quite a time, going "over the mountains" and "through the deep vale." And yet, while it is any thing but pleasant (Heb. 12:11), yet it is a blessed fact we can at the same time be "walking in sunlight"—the sunlight of His word—and heavenly sunlight it is. Then what a consolation the concluding lines: "Jesus has said, I'll never forsake thee; Promise divine that never can fail." What a consolation to know we can actually walk in sunlight—the sunlight of God's word—all of our journey, though we walk in trouble. Praise our God. Truly God has been so good to unworthy me.

I shall tell of one case, six or eight weeks ago. After having to care for wife night and day, I had quite

a cold and had expectorated considerable blood. One night, daughter Esther was helping me a while with her. I was spitting more blood than ever, that night, and spoke to Esther of it. She said, "You had better go to bed or you will see what you'll have." Right then, the conviction seized me to stay right with wife and see that she was taken care of regardless of myself. From that hour, I've spit no more blood. Oh, how much we owe the Lord for His goodness to us.

—J. H. Pierson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Louisiana,— Dear Saints everywhere,— Greetings in the dear name of Jesus. I am praising the good Lord for all He means to me. Truly He has wonderfully blessed and helped me and I give him all the praise and honor.

I feel led to tell of my experience since last camp-meeting at Hammond, La. Perhaps some of you have read and remember the tract that I had published entitled, "Warning to Young People," and you know how I found myself away from God, having two living husbands. I found it quite difficult to please the Lord until I was willing to give up Sam (the last man I married) who was in the army and over seas at the time the Lord spoke to me about this matter. Since he was away, it was much easier for me to say I could give him up than it would have been had I been living with him at that time, and in my heart I thought I would never live with him again. But Sam returned from over seas July 15, 1944 and I knew nothing of his coming until I saw him. Then the problem of giving him up became real to me. Of course, I loved him with all my heart and it seemed to me that I couldn't resist him. I was miserable, but went on with him wondering how I could tell him about it and how he would take it; and was he going to understand? Well, that night I did tell him, but he didn't understand. He thought I was foolish, though he didn't seem to be very much surprised either. I did not leave him then. We spent about two weeks together and I was so burdened I asked him to take me home, which he finally consented to do. That was the first day of August. We were apart all the month of August, but he wrote letters wanting to come back, and did come the last of August. We were together, off and on, from then until the first day of March. To begin with, he was displeased with the way I dressed and persuaded me little by little to dress to please him until at last I found myself in sin, worshipping Sam instead of God.

But after all I had done, Sam still seemed to be unhappy and I was very miserable myself. I would try to pray, but all I could say was, "Dear Lord, have mercy on me and spare me until I can see what I can do." I knew I was not pleasing God; but, praise His dear name, He never did stop talking to my heart, and I am so thankful. How can I ever praise Him enough for his mercy unto me? Truly, it was not the dear Lord's will for Sam and me to live together. I could only ask Him to work it out some way for me because I was helpless and could do nothing of myself. I knew I couldn't serve Him and live with Sam even though I did try, but I hated to leave Sam knowing how much he had seemed to love me. It seemed to me that would hurt him too much. I had asked the saints to pray for me.

I must say that I was surprised the way the Lord worked. Our love for each other was not any more the same and finally Sam as good as told me that he did not love me any more and thought it best that we

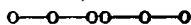
part, even though all this time I had been doing everything I could to please him.

I know the dear Lord loves me and He has done so much for me. I want to serve Him all the rest of my life and do all I can to help others to live for him. I have spent most of the day today in my room alone reading the Bible and tracts and praying to my dear Lord for forgiveness. I felt His presence with me and know He did forgive me and take me back to His fold. Praise His name! By His help and grace I mean to stay true, press on, and fight the good fight of faith. I have a stronger determination than ever and I need the true saints' prayers that nothing else will ever be a stumbling block in the way.

Oh! how I do long to be with the dear saints! I'll be so happy when campmeeting time comes again. I plan to attend every one possible. I am now working in Baton Rouge, but don't know how long the Lord will see fit for me to stay here. I am willing to go anywhere, do anything, or fill any place the Lord would have me to. My address now is 155 Royal St., Baton Rouge, La. If any of the saints feel led to write to me, I shall be glad to hear from them.

I desire the prayers of the saints that the Lord will help me to bring my little girl up in His fear and grant that I shall be able to get a job that will enable me to have her with me. Should the Lord have a job for me, I am ready to go. He has done so much for me. Praise the Lord!

Your sister in Christ, —Gladys Cashio

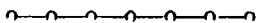


West Virginia—Dear Brothers and Sisters,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. The last time I wrote, you sent me a book on the New Testament Church. Oh, it was so rich and food for my soul. I believe in the church of God where the saints stood thirty-five years ago.

I have been saved thirty-six years and have stood true to God. I have trusted God all these many years for the healing of my body. He healed me many times. One time He healed me of blood poisoning. Praise God for His goodness to me.

Pray for my husband and family. They are all unsaved. I have four boys and one girl.

—Georgiana Sayre



Louisiana—Greetings to the saints everywhere.—The Lord, I feel, has moved upon my heart to give this testimony to the glory of God.

I was converted at an early age of my life, was reared in my grandparents home. They were devout Baptists.

Naturally when I was saved I stayed in the Baptist church and went on in this church well satisfied until about ten years later, then the Lord began to talk to my heart and told me he wanted me to "Come out of her." Revelation 18:4. I was reluctant at first, not knowing what to do or which way to turn; but after several months of praying and meditating, I came out.

The Baptist Church of which I was a charter member, asked that I get up publicly and ask for my letter and give my reason for doing so, and when I did, the glory of God seemed to roll over my soul till I could hardly keep from shouting. Of course my people, all belonging to this sect, persecuted me beyond expression; but the Lord had mercy and compassion and one by one He led them out. The Lord led me right where I am now (bear that in mind). Of course I didn't know where I was, but knew I was free to worship God as it pleased Him.

While in this condition, a Gospel Trumpet minister came along and told me that I was with them, and took

the scriptures and showed me the beautiful Church of God.

Not long after, I began to work with them. I began to backslide, living up and down; but thanks be to God, I was humble, hungry for God and eager to please Him, and as soon as I saw my condition, I would come back to God.

Back to my conversion, I'd like to briefly tell how it happened. I was taught only that if I lived a clean moral life and joined the church, I was a fit subject for heaven; but there was a hungering surpassing all my teachings for real salvation, and God worked with me. I sought Him day after day for a year; praying till my knee caps were so sore that I could not kneel, and then prayed all night and God sweetly saved my soul.

I lived a consecrated life and led people to God until I began to backslide or joined the Gospel Trumpet people, and lost out to some extent.

I heard much teaching on sanctification, but saw such a little of it lived until I began to claim that I was sanctified, reasoning with myself that I was converted during the year I prayed, and sanctified the night that I prayed all night. Well, of course, you can imagine what a condition I got in, thinking I was sanctified and when I would sin, I would go to God and ask for forgiveness and think I was re-sanctified.

I went on in this deception until March 31, 1941, when God convicted me of my need of the Holy Spirit. I called mightily upon God and He filled my soul with His Spirit. From that time on, or after the Lord called me into the ministry, I saw such a tremendous task before the ministers to get the church sanctified. I do feel like God used me to a little extent any way, even though I was branded as fanatical always.

As time passed, I became more dissatisfied with the system that I was in, but did not know how to remedy the situation. The longer I remained with them, the more dissatisfied I was. I lost the desire to give the tracts out, and lost interest in the "Gospel Trumpet," so I was at a loss to know what to do.

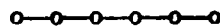
The last episode that I recall was when I attended the Midwest Ministerial Assembly held in Kansas city, Mo. When I saw the speaker who belonged to some sect, I was heart sick. Of course, I heard fine lectures, but I was hungry for spiritual things and felt so disappointed, I just left and came home before it closed.

God kept dealing with me and talked to my heart and told me to accept the whole truth, the real Church of God, or else He would remove the candle stick out of his place (Revelation 2:5). I was so hungry for the truth and all God's fulness, I immediately yielded to God and again the glory of God flooded my soul. This was about December 15, 1944. I attended the saint's meeting in Guthrie and found I at last was at home, home with God's people.

Pray much for me that I may go forward and lead many souls to God and out of sectism.

Yours in Christ,

Beulah Sneed Carter



Texas—Dear Brother Pruitt,—Holy greetings in Jesus' dear name. I have enjoyed the paper, "Faith and Victory." This is a wonderful name for the paper because we surely must have faith if we expect victory. Praise the Lord's name.

I request the saints everywhere to pray that the Lord will heal my body of the affliction upon it. Some say it is high blood pressure. Whatever the trouble is, God knows.

I gain strength from reading the saints' testimonies.

—Mary E. Bly

Young People's Section

The Love Of Jesus

I cannot express the rapture,
But I know that I am blest,
With the precious love of Jesus,
Which I feel within my breast.

The paths of sin I wandered,
And could find no rest of soul,
Until I came to Jesus,
Who has made me pure and whole.

He bade the sin clouds roll away,
And in their place He sent
A blessedness and perfect light,
A hope and sweet content.

How gracious, kind, and mighty,
Is this loving God I serve
Who gives me peace and gladness,
Much more than I deserved.

How joyful, kind, and peaceful
Is the love I feel within;
For I know that God is with me,
And has saved my soul from sin.

—Alice Elizabeth Hall

A Message to Young People

I feel like writing a few lines to our young people, especially those who are going to school and are living for the Lord. Quite a number of our young people recently got saved at our Los Angeles Assembly Meeting and at other Assembly Meetings. We do praise the Lord for them. Now they have returned to school and I know they are being tried and tested as they live for the Lord and measure up to the Word of God. God's people will be tried. James 1:12.

I am sure each one of you made a decision to live for God, regardless of what would come and by having that settled and a deep determination to live for God in your heart, you have won the greatest battle. You have decided it is better to please God than to please your fleshly desires; you have decided to live according to God's Word to the best of your knowledge and walk in the light as God shines it on your path. This is what it will take to be able to stand.

First, we want to point you to Jesus' words, "Watch and pray lest ye enter into temptation." Matt. 26:41. It takes much praying and watching. Watch that the devil doesn't trap you in some way. One thing the devil will work the most diligently on is to persuade you to be a little reluctant through fear of shame to admit you are a Christian. He will try unrelentingly at timidity too, or along the line of admitting

that you feel a Christian should not be worldly in actions, dress, or especially in places you attend or go. If he can force you in this condition, he will crush the very life out of you making you feel so uncomfortable at school where you are with others. Jesus said, "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words, in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." Mark 8:38.

It is not wise to go to school and tell every one they are no good and are on the road to hell. They probably know that; but when the right opportunity arises, or you are asked why you live in such a manner, then you can be courageous and bold to speak your true convictions on the subject. If you don't, the devil will accuse you and others won't know where you stand and Jesus will not be lifted up. Study God's Word so you can answer them freely and with assurance.

The Lord kept me saved while I was going to high school. My experience wasn't as bright as it could have been at times, but I was always ready to stand up for the way the Bible teaches us to live.

Some would say to me, "Why do you believe like you do? It surely is queer." I would answer them, "I want to live according to the way the Bible teaches, the best I know how, as we are to be judged in the Judgment Day by it" or "Our pilgrim fathers came to America because they wanted to worship God by following the dictates of their conscience, not having that privilege in the countries they left. And, too, the United States gives us religious freedom" or something to that effect. There could be no arguments to these answers, as they could see we have a right, each one, to live as we feel best.

I remember answering some girls who had asked about my going to picture shows—as they had said they were good pictures—that a picture show, even though considered good, could be compared to a can of garbage. It contains both good and bad food, but who wants to fish and scrap around finding the good and after finding it see it all coated and soaked with the offensive bad? You are sure to pull out some of the bad getting at the good. It is much, much better to stay away from it all, lest you find some of the mess clinging to you.

They asked why my hair was long. I told them the Bible explains it is a shame to have short hair. This is found in 1 Corinthians 11.

I never listened to the impure, shady stories they wanted to tell. God made all things pure and clean. People are the ones who have tried making them impure. The girls who knew me soon found out that I didn't approve of nor care to listen to such, and they never tried to tell me any. They respected me enough that many times they would stop other ones from telling the lewd, licentious stories in my presence. How-

ever, if they didn't, I would tell them and walk away until they had finished. God wants us to have pure, chaste minds.

In John 17:15, we read where Jesus prayed, "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil." Praise the Lord, He is able to do just that.

When I graduated from high school, there were only two girls who had long hair and I was the only one who had long sleeves out of a large class. Our dress was formal—we girls wearing gowns of ankle length. I was as happy as the other girls that night. People I didn't know came to me and extended their congratulations and some told me how they admired me for my courage in dressing as I did. God is the only one who caused me to feel all right in my heart about it all.

I have related these few things as an encouragement to our young people who are living for God as they go to school and to those who long to be saved, yet fear the price too great. Come to Jesus and He truly will help you and give you the grace you need in every trial and temptation.

God can keep all of you boys saved as you go to school, also. My brother, Lawrence, left Junior High as I entered and left High School as I entered, and the Lord kept him saved and even on through the years he attended college. Be encouraged, God can do the same for you.

—Mrs. A. Marie Miles

Oklahoma—Dear Brother and Sister Pruitt and co-workers,—Greetings of love in Jesus' precious name. The Lord is wonderfully blessing us in making our journey to that Home awaiting us in Glory Land. Truly I feel like thanking the Lord for all He has done for me. Today there is nothing I'd rather do than serve the dear Lord. He has done much for me and I can not praise Him enough for it. In school He is my guide, at work my guardian, and going to and from school and work, He is my protector. I am sure I could not tell the many times He has helped me through my trials and temptations, because when I try, He will have blessed me so many times that when I think I have finished, I will have to begin over again.

I noticed in the last issue of the "Faith and Victory" that the second appeal has been made for bedding, aprons, tea towels, and such for the campmeetings. I am glad to hear how the Lord is blessing for this purpose. I would like to suggest to the young people that we might each make an apron, and perhaps a tea towel or two a piece.

Let us each one look to the Lord and inquire what He would have us do. Those who may not like to help in this way might prefer to send silverware, granite plates, and cups, etc. Some of us are working and I'm sure if we spend part of our money this way, the Lord will surely bless. Remember dear young saints, it is more blessed to give than receive. And how many of us do not like to receive His rich blessings and His great healing power, the grace and strength He gives us to live day by day. God, too, loveth a cheerful giver. I want Him to love me, don't you? We, the young folks, will have to learn to carry this on as well as preaching, praying, singing, and praying for the sick. Let us all do some little something.

Remember me in your prayers.

Your little sister in Christ,

Twila Benson

Oregon—Dear Brother Pruitt and the dear saints,—I will try to write you dear saints another letter. I read the tracts that you sent and surely did enjoy them. They were food to my soul and when a child of God finds things that is food to his soul, he just keeps reading it and drinking it in.

I can still testify that the Lord is still good to me. It is surely good to see how the saints are on the move for the Lord. We have been having some wonderful meetings here of late and I am surely thanking the Lord that He is stirring His people. A few years ago there were no meetings here in Oregon, and now the dear Lord has raised up three congregations at different places. The Lord is gleaning out the few who have honest hearts.

I received a letter from California the other day telling of the good meeting that they were having, and how the saints were rejoicing. It did my heart so much good to hear that the saints were growing.

There are several in the congregation here that have severe colds. Will you please remember them in your prayers?

Your sister in Christ,

—Marie Busch

CORRESPONDENCE

Missouri,—Dear Saints,—Greetings in the dear name of Jesus. I am still in the fight against sin in every form. I look out in the world and see so much going on that is not of God. It makes my heart ache to see so many church people walking in darkness and not in the light of Jesus.

I believe in living by every word that cometh out of the mouth of our God, and to keep all (not merely a part) of the commandments of God.

I surely like the "Faith and Victory" paper, and when it comes to my home, I sit down and read all the testimonies the first thing, which is much help to my soul. I like all the writings that are in the paper.

I sent and received seven books on "How to Live a Holy Life" by C. E. Orr. I surely enjoy reading the book. It gives such good advice on the things of the holy life. I have given out most of the seven books to others to read. God bless those that read it.

Brethren, pray that I may fight the fight of faith to the end and win some soul to Christ. Amen.

Your brother in Christ,

I. L. Turner

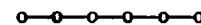


Illinois—Dear saints—Let us pray for peace in the land, for the ravages of war have caused many hearts to be broken and many tears to be shed. This war has hurried millions of souls into eternity unprepared to meet God.

This would surely be a different world if the members of the human family would abide by the Golden Rule, which says, "As ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." Unless they do awaken to the need of living more unselfishly and living according to the instructions of this rule, there can never be peace; it matters not how many leagues of nations or armistices are signed.

I surely hope the saints will pray earnestly for peace.

—Wylie Glass



Alabama—Dear Brother and Sister Pruitt,—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I have been talking with the Lord about many things. I thank Him for the "Faith and Victory" literature. I receive so much consolation from it. While I was reading the editorials in the February issue, I noticed that you said that the Spirit can not gather those who are more or less of the world. It is

those who loosen from the world entirely, that the Spirit can gather into one. This is my personal experience, bless His name forever. I praise the Lord for being separated from the world and all men organizations. God has set me in the church, the one body of Christ. My heart goes out for all who name the name of Christ, that they will be crucified to the world and risen with Christ.

God's blessings are upon His people.

Pray for us. A sister in Christ, Viola Lowla

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

Oregon—My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I am so glad to report victory over the opposing power of the enemy. I am yet saved and pressing on in Jesus' dear name; and the Lord has so wonderfully healed me in my body. Praise His dear name forever. He has said in His word, "He that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit." I am so glad to be in this way. Praise His holy name.

Now brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all of them which are sanctified.

Yours in Christ, —Callie B. Owens

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

Michigan—Dear Brother and Sister Pruitt,—I am indeed glad to write a word for Jesus. I have read your "Faith and Victory" paper and I enjoyed reading it very much. It gives me courage to see how the people from all over the U. S. A. are standing up for Christ. May I say, "Fight on, dear Christian soldiers, this battle will soon be ended." This old world is reeling now, the end is near at hand.

Saints, I need your prayers. I want to be strong in the Lord; I want to live the pure and sanctified life. Pray for me that I may forever look forward to Christ that I will live the life that He is calling for in these last days. I want to be one in the number when He says, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Yours in Christ, Jessie M. Alexander

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

Michigan—Dear Brother and Sister Pruitt,—I did not tell you in my other letter how God healed me of T. B., gall-stones, gravel stones, tumor, cancer which was all through me, and typhoid fever. I desire to do all I can to help others to get healed.

I like your little paper, "Faith and Victory." I like the stand you take against the ridiculous way some of the professed saints dress and help to carry on the work right on the platform with their anklets and short skirts above the knee, and the minister upholds them. That is what I call the nominal church, the church in name only. May God help us to cry out against sin instead of compromising. We must clean out and clear the way for the good.

May God bless you and keep you in the Bible line.

Mrs. W. E. Berryhill

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

Texas—Dear saints,—I am thanking my Jesus for everything. He is my doctor in illness, and He is my companion when lonely. I am happy to know that Jesus is the respecter of persons, but deals with all the same. Flesh and blood cannot enter the kingdom. We must have pure and undefiled religion. Only the pure in heart shall see God (Matt. 5:8). Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the earth." I know I am salt and that I have not lost the savor. I unloaded the world and now I am teaching others to do likewise.

I have been suffering with head and chest colds for about three months. It seems to have settled in my back,

but I am not wavering nor doubting. I am willingly suffering. Some ask why I do not go to a doctor. I tell them that I have a doctor who can cure all. When Satan tempts me, I begin prayer meeting alone. I say, "Lord, this is your body and you know just how much to put on it, or what it can bear; and if it be Thy will for your body to suffer, Thy will be done, not mine." I am thanking Him for this victory. Please pray for my spiritual condition and for my physical body. Also, I am asking for special prayer for my five children whose spiritual eyes are dark, causing the whole body to be full of darkness.

The whole world needs to unload, every man and woman his own sins. Then they could see plainly and the war would cease. It is sad the way they are letting the devil fool them. They are wise in the knowledge of this world, but ignorant of God's ways. In this city they are making many things to kill their enemies. Jesus tells us to love them. I prayerfully study the holy Word and when the Spirit tells me to speak, I speak regardless. So far they have dropped their heads and acknowledged that I am right. They tell me if all were like me we would be having peace. Man cannot cleanse his way if he does not take heed to the Word of God. See Psalms 119:9.

Your sister in Christ, Elnora Washington

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

Oklahoma—Dear Brother and Sister Pruitt,—I received my first "Faith and Victory" paper. I enjoyed it very much. It filled my soul with joy to read how the Lord does wonders.

I want to thank all the saints every where for praying for me. I am now much better and will soon be able to walk again. Praise His holy name! I have been in bed for a month now, but can sit up a little and I am getting stronger every day.

I have read your book, "God's Gracious Dealings." I do wish every one could read it. It made me want to read more of your writings. That is why I ordered the "Faith and Victory" paper and will continue to read it.

Yours in Christ, Mrs. Emery Fleshman

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

Kansas—Dear ones at the print shop and saints scattered abroad,—Greetings in the name of Jesus. I truly thank God for what He is to me today. I am happy in the Lord and running up this shining way. I was at the assembly meeting in Guthrie, Oklahoma, and truly my soul did feast from Father's table. I was stirred before I went, but after I went it seemed like I had just got saved, and I have been rejoicing in the God of my salvation. He has done so many things for me since I returned home, I shall never cease to praise Him. He has come to my rescue in sickness and has made ways for me where there didn't seem to be any way. I can truly say, "The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man can do unto me." I am still looking to Him to work out some problems for me. Those who know the worth of prayer, please pray earnestly for me. The dear Lord is truly sanctifying unto me my deepest distress. I am redeeming the time as we were instructed to do in a message that went forth at the assembly meeting on the subject of "Time."

Your sister in one body, Laura Nichols

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

California—Dear Saints,—Heavenly greetings. Today finds us rejoicing in the wonderful salvation of God in our souls, praising Him for His wonderful love and care for us. He is our all and in all. He fills our hearts with His love and grace, and we have a "press on" in our souls that will not give down to the imposing element of the satanic powers that come against the children of God.

Two weeks ago we had the privilege of spending

I am now down and unable to work. I have eczema, milk leg, and an ulcerated stomach. I am asking all God's people that will, to pray for me that I might be healed to the glory of God, and that I may have a closer walk with the Lord.

Dan P. Heidelberg

Ohio—I have been in failing health since last May. I am told that it is cancer, but I am not looking at the disease. My trust is in the greatest Physician the world has ever known. He has been our doctor for over thirty-three years. He has healed me of a broken wrist, and badly scalded foot and by His divine power I am here today. My heart is fixed to follow on until He says it is enough.

Lula Strong

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|---|---------|
| Roll of 5 "Faith and Victory" papers, one year..... | \$ 1.00 |
| 12 papers each month, one year | 2.00 |
| 25 papers each month, one year | 4.00 |
| 50 papers each month, one year | 7.50 |
| 100 papers each month, one year | 14.00 |

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 Genevieve Capps, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie.

THE AUTHOR AND PERFECTER OF OUR FAITH Sunday, April 1, 1945

Daily Readings and Meditations

March 26-31

- M. A song of victory Psalm 2:6-12
- T. The empty tomb Matt. 28:1-10
- W. Mary's joy John 20:11-18
- T. Walking with Jesus Luke 24:13-24
- F. Learning from Jesus Luke 24:25-35
- S. A happy meeting John 21:15-19

Printed Portion Matt. 27:62 to 28:9

Matt. 27:62. Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

63. Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

64. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

65. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can.

66. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

28:1. In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

2. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord ascended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

3. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

4. And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

5. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

6. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

7. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

8. And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

9. And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

Golden Text: Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. Hebrews 12:1, 2.

Practical Truth: Through his death and resurrection Christ achieved what was necessary for the perfecting of our faith.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In Psalm 9:16, it is written: "The wicked is snared in the work of his own hands." Notice how this scripture is fulfilled in this lesson. In their efforts to secure the tomb to keep the body of Jesus there the "chief priests and pharisees" furnished the world with undeniable evidence that Jesus did arise from the dead. Can you see the hand of God working when the seal was placed on the tomb and the soldiers stationed there to guard it? This was the beginning of the "many infallible proofs" (Acts 1:3) of Christ's resurrection. Consider the following facts and discuss how it would have been almost impossible for the disciples to have stolen the body of Jesus away while the soldiers slept (This is what the Pharisees hired the soldiers to tell, Matt. 28:12, 13): 1. The stone which was placed at the opening of the sepulchre was so great that three women could not roll it away (Read Mark 16: 1-4). 2. "In sealing a sepulchre or box, the fastening was covered with clay or wax, and the impression from a seal of one in authority was stamped upon it, so that it could not be broken without discovery"—Peloubet's Bible Dictionary. 3. It was a death penalty for a soldier to go to sleep while on duty and there was more than one soldier guarding the tomb.

When God works man cannot hinder and if he tries to hinder, God just uses him as a tool to accomplish his purpose.

It is good to believe the records written concerning Jesus' death and resurrection, but God did not give these records merely for the purpose of teaching us historical facts; "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." Jesus said, "Because I live ye shall live also;" and, "I am he that liveth and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and death." Souls who are locked in the prison house of sin (death) can look to the risen Lord in faith and he will set them free. There is life-giving power in Jesus' death and resurrection for all who really believe. Paul said that he had gladly suffered the loss of all things that he might know Christ and "the power of his resurrection." If your soul has not been quickened (made alive) by this power, Christ's resurrection means nothing more to you than an idle tale and your hope of a future life in heaven is vain. "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God."

THE BOOK AND THE FAITH Sunday, April 8, 1945

Daily Readings and Meditations

April 2 to 7

- M. Walking in the law Psalm 119:1-8

- T. The cleansing word Psalm 119:9-16
 W. Understanding the law Psalm 119:33-40
 T. Loving the precepts Psalm 119:97-104
 F. Light from the Word Psalm 119:105-112.
 S. Wonderful words of life Psalm 119:129-136

Printed Portion Psalm 145:10-19

Psalm 145:10. All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee.

11. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom and talk of thy power;

12. To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.

13. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.

14. The Lord upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down.

15. The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season.

16. Thou openest thine hand and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

17. The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.

18. The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

19. He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: He also will hear their cry, and will save them.

Golden Text: Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations. Psalm 145:13.

Practical Truth: The Bible is the record of the special revelation which God has made to man and makes known to us the way of salvation.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our printed portion is a psalm of praise. When mention is made of the works of God, we usually think of the earth and all on it which makes it so wonderful and the sun, moon, stars, etc. Truly all these works combine in proclaiming to us the mighty power of God. "The heavens declare the glory of God." But when we consider God's works which praise Him there is more to be considered than these things, wonderful though they be.

One of God's great works is "The Bible." The title of our lesson suggests this topic for discussion today. There is no other book like it. It was not written by the will of man, "but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." It contains "the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers." Man without the Spirit of its author dwelling in his heart cannot understand it, therefore many have wrested it to their own destruction. He usually does not like what he does understand of it because it shows up his sins which he would like to keep covered. It has been misunderstood, misrepresented, rejected, abused, hated, scorned, and ridiculed for ages, yet it lives and continues to praise its Author. The fact that it lives and still grips the hearts of men only shows how weak and foolish man is to try to overthrow the works of God. It is offensive only to the disobedient. Those who are willing to humble their hearts and measure to its standards find it to be a precious volume full of life-giving, "burning words from heaven." They never tire of reading it for it is their love letter from their loving, living, powerful heavenly Father, and each time they read it they find some new treasures. It is full of exceeding great and precious promises which will never fail.

How many promises can you find in the printed portion? Notice there is a condition to each promise. Can you think of anything that you need that is not promised in these ten little verses, if you will meet the conditions? If such exceeding great promises are given by the Father in ten little verses of His Book, think of what an inexhaustible supply of them are in the 31,093 verses of it!

PIONEERS OF FAITH Sunday, April 15, 1945

Daily Readings and Meditations

April 9 to 14.

M. God's promise to Abraham Gen. 13:14-18.

T. Living in tents Gen. 18:1-8.

W. Abraham and Isaac Gen. 22:1-13.

T. God's promise to Isaac Gen. 26:23-25.

F. Jacob's dream Gen. 28:10-17.

S. Joseph made ruler Gen. 41:33-40.

Printed PortionGenesis 12:1, 2; Acts 7:4-7, 12-17.

Gen. 12:1. Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2. And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.

Acts 7:4. Then came he out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.

5. And he gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child.

6. And God spake on this wise, That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil four hundred years.

7. And the nation to whom they shall be in bondage will I judge, said God: and after that shall they come forth, and serve me in this place.

12. But when Jacob heard that there was corn in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first.

13. And at the second time Joseph was made known to his brethren; and Joseph's kindred was made known unto Pharaoh.

14. Then sent Joseph, and called his father Jacob to him, and all his kindred, threescore and fifteen souls.

15. So Jacob went down into Egypt, and died, he, and our fathers,

16. And were carried over into Sychem, and laid in the sepulchre that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor the father of Sychem.

17. But when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt.

Golden Text: By faith Abraham, when he was called . . . obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. Hebrews 11:8.

Practical Truth: The Hebrew patriarchs were pioneers of faith and worthy examples in this respect to us, who need faith still.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The international lessons for this quarter were planned with the purpose in view of giving the pupils a bird's-eye view of Bible history. In other words, it is a **speedy survey** or review of the Bible. The next quarter

will have lessons beginning with Genesis for the purpose of studying these same lessons in a more detailed manner.

Our lesson today is a review of the book of Genesis from the 12th to 50th chapters. The four main characters are Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. The title calls them "Pioneers of Faith." A pioneer is one who goes before, preparing the way for others to follow. This portion of Hebrew history was reviewed by Stephen when he made his defense for his faith in Christ as he stood before the council just before his martyrdom. For a better spiritual understanding of the acts of these men read Hebrews 11:8-27.

People often look for and point out flaws in the lives of these "pioneers of faith" in order to have a cloak for their own sins. It must be remembered that these men did not have the Holy Spirit to dwell in their hearts to guide them into all truth as we have Him today. We have no right to condemn them in the light of our knowledge of God's will for us today. God loved and honored those men because they had faith in Him. Living faith in God will cause one to obey Him. Abraham believed God, and because of this faith he willingly left his home and kindred to go to a new land in obedience to God's word.

Now God desires to lead souls from the land of sin into the promised land, which is a state of purity, righteousness, joy, and peace in the Holy Ghost. Those who have living faith in God will hear and heed His voice. They willingly leave their old sinful practices and associates that they may obtain this new life. This is why true Christians are called "children of Abraham," even though they are Gentiles in the flesh. It is their faith and obedience to God that makes them his children.

Isaac is not so prominent in Bible history as the other three, but he filled God's place for him. His outstanding characteristics were submissiveness and peaceableness. In reference to the offering up of Isaac by his father Abraham (Gen. 22:1-13), Isaac is a type of humanity. He was doomed to be slain and offered up as a sacrifice for sin, but God intervened and provided a sacrifice to take his place that he might go free. Humanity was devoted to death for sin, but God provided a Lamb, His only Son, to become the sacrifice that we might go free. It is important that we realize the need of the obedience of faith on our part in order to receive the benefit.

The class can probably tell many interesting things about the life of Jacob. Of special interest to the Christian is the time when he wrestled with the angel and prevailed and his name was changed from Jacob to Israel (Gen. 32:24-32). Great indeed is the faith of one who will cling to God until the blessing is obtained, even though it causes suffering to the flesh.

Joseph set an example for "children of faith" when he suffered so many years as a slave and prisoner, yet kept his faith and trust in God and was true to Him, also in his willingness to forgive those who had wronged him; and he did not become puffed up when God exalted him, but gave God the glory.

THE FOUNDING OF THE NATION

Sunday, April 22, 1945

Daily Readings and Meditations

April 16 to 21.

- M. Israel afflicted in Egypt Exod. 1:8-14.
- T. The child Moses Exod. 2:1-10.
- W. God calls Moses Exod. 3:1-10.
- T. Choosing wise leaders Exod. 18:13-27.
- F. Laws for living Exod. 20:3-17.
- S. Erecting the tabernacle Exod. 40:1-16.

Printed PortionExodus 18:19-24; 19:3-8.

Ex. 18:19. Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God:

20. And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.

21. Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:

22. And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee.

23. If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace.

24. So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said.

Ex. 19:3. And Moses went up unto God, and the Lord called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;

4. Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

5. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

6. And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

7. And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the Lord commanded him.

8. And all the people answered together, and said, All that the Lord hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the Lord.

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

Practical Truth: Righteous laws, made and enforced, contribute to the welfare of any nation.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Today's lesson is a study of God's dealings with the literal children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob from the time of Joseph's death until they reached the promised land, and the way they responded to His dealings. It includes the books of Exodus and Numbers. In connection with this lesson, read again Stephen's defense before the council, Acts 7:17-44. This presents an excellent review of this period. Read, also, Psalms 78. Some main points to stress about this period are: prosperity of the Israelites in Egypt until they "multiplied and became exceedingly mighty;" the Egyptian oppression and cry to God for deliverance; preservation of Moses, his schooling in Egypt and in the wilderness, and his call to be the deliverer; the plagues; the departure and crossing of the Red Sea; the journey to Sinai; giving of the Ten Commandments; building of the tabernacle; the journey to Kadesh-barnea; sending out of the spies, their reports and the effect the reports had on the people; thirty-eight years of wandering in the wilderness; and Moses' death.

The printed portion records some advice which Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, gave to Moses when he visited him at or near Sinai. Was it good advice? Do you know of a time when Moses heeded Jethro's advice in being Israel's advocate to God? Notice the description of the type of men which Jethro advised Moses to choose as helpers. What did God promise the Israelites and on what condition were these promises to be fulfilled? Did the people keep their promise to God?

Moses is a type of Christ, and the Israelites whom he led from the bondage of slavery into freedom and delivered God's laws to, is a type of the holy nation, the church of God, which Christ led from the bondage of sin. If you have never been redeemed from sin, you will not be able to understand this; but if you have been saved, you will be able to see that in most of God's dealings with His literal children, there is a type of His dealings with spiritual children.

SETTLEMENT AND STRUGGLES IN CANAAN

Sunday, April 29, 1945

Daily Readings and Meditations

April 23 to 28.

- M. Instructions to Joshua Josh. 1:6-9.
- T. Joshua's choice Joshua 24:14-16.
- W. Dangers in Canaan Judges 2:16-23.
- T. Gideon's victory Judges 7:19-23.
- F. Moving to a new country Ruth 1:1-5
- S. Ruth, a loving daughter Ruth 2:14-18.

Printed Portion . . . Judges 2:6, 7, 11, 12, 18, 19; 6:11-16

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

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

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

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

18. And when the Lord raised them up judges, then the Lord was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the Lord because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them.

19. And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way.

6:11. And there came an angel of the Lord, and sat under an oak which was in Ophra, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites.

12. And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him and said unto him, The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

13. And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? but now the Lord hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

14. And the Lord looked upon him, and said, Go

in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?

15. And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.

16. And the Lord said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.

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

Practical Truth: Situations of special moral peril are serious and should be avoided as far as possible.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Review the books: Joshua, Judges, and Ruth. This period extends from the death of Moses to the birth of Samuel. Five lessons from these books were studied last summer. The headings at the beginning of each chapter of these books in your Bible will help in the class review.

The book of Joshua includes: Joshua chosen as leader after the death of Moses; the sending of the spies to Jerico and their reception by Rahab; the crossing of the Jordan River; the encampment at Gilgal; the fall of Jerico; the trespass of Achan, and the attacks upon Ai; the treaty with the Gibeonites; the conquest of southern and northern Canaan, and other kings; the division of the land among the tribes; Joshua's farewell address and death.

While Joshua and other leaders who were his contemporaries lived, the Israelites remembered their covenant and served the Lord most of the time; but when a new generation came on they intermarried with people who worshipped idols and their hearts were drawn away from the true God. This was because many of the tribes settled down among the "ites" instead of driving them out as the Lord had commanded. It seemed hard for them—as it has other nations since their time—to remember that it "pays to serve God." When the oppression of other nations, which God allowed as a punishment for disobedience, would become unbearable, they would cry to God who would then show mercy and give deliverance by the hand of judges. "Deliverer" describes their character and function better than "Judge" as we understand the meaning of the word now. One of the most noted judges was Gideon whom God commissioned, directed, and enabled to deliver the Israelites from the oppression of the Midianites. Are you ever tempted to doubt God's presence as Gideon did? If so, you should search for the trouble. It may be that your "sins and iniquities have hid his face from you." This can also be applied to our nation.

There are many types and shadows in these books. Space will not permit a discussion of them here, but the pupils could derive much spiritual benefit by watching for them. Also, God's spiritual Israel of this dispensation can receive timely warnings from the mistakes and punishments of literal Israel. God does not want us to drive enemies of the truth out of any country; but He wants all evil driven out and kept out of our hearts by his grace. God's Israel of today has no battles to fight with carnal weapons; but we wrestle "against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day." Eph. 6:12, 13.