

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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SIN

Sin is a monster, great and mean;
Mankind and God it stands between.
It's piling high its billows dark;
Of light it's quenching every spark.

What can it offer to your soul
To help you reach a higher goal,
When all of it is devil-theft?
It purloins 'till you've nothing left.

But Satan comes with promise great,
And says, "You will not be too late;
Just go ahead and take your fill,
There's time enough to save you still.

"Go have a spree, though man or wife,
You have but once to live this life.
Enjoy yourself now while you may—
'Twill be as good as any way."

This is a lie of Satan hid—
He always lied; Christ said he did.
He means to sink your soul in sin,
So heaven you can't enter in.

Remember this: *when ye think not,*
Jesus will come—then sad your lot!
For if you die in sin, the sum
Is, Heaven ne'er can be your home.

So shun his words, old man or youth;
He's never known to tell the truth.
His trade is sin, it's known quite well;
His way is sure the way to hell.
—J. H. Pierson.

An Open Letter To Saints In The Gospel Trumpet Movement

Last month I had an article in the "Faith and Victory" paper entitled "The Image to the Beast" in which I endeavored to point out the fact that "Man-Rule" was the image to the beast. Catholicism (the BEAST) has its "Man-Rule" being patterned after

the absolute monarchy. Protestantism (the SECOND BEAST) has its image to Catholicism in its elected ecclesiastical committees, boards, conferences, synods, or its democratic congregational home-rule. When men have ecclesiastical authority to which they have been elected—authority that ceases when their term of office expires—you have the IMAGE TO THE BEAST. In the IMAGE TO THE BEAST set-up you find authority belonging to certain elected positions. While you are serving on the FOREIGN MISSIONARY BOARD you have authority over missionaries (that is, you help decide where they will be sent, whom they shall work with, when they shall come home, what salary they shall receive, where they shall build meeting houses, etc.). If the missionary is unwilling to work as the FOREIGN MISSIONARY BOARD directs, he loses their support and fellowship. He is no longer free to go where God directs, work with whom God directs, etc., but must do as the board says. If you are on the ORDINATION COMMITTEE, the right to ordain having been taken away from the individual minister as the Bible teaches, you, as a member of the ordination committee, help decide who shall be ordained, and when and where. Unless your committee decides to ordain, there is no ordination for the brother or sister. Now, such authority is POSITIONAL. If you have the position you have the authority—no position, no authority. When your term on the board or committee ends, and you are not re-elected, you no longer have authority over the missionary or over the ordination of other ministers. This is not God's plan. The Holy Spirit has reserved for Himself the right to deal with ministers and saints as individuals. He wants to lead ministers and saints individually. He wants to bestow the GIFTS on His saints as He sees fit. He wants the GIFTED individual to work as He directs, not having to get authority or leadings from ANY MAN, looking to Him alone. He wants to call the missionary, send the missionary, have the missionary look to Him by faith for his needs, and be free from the authority of MEN.

Surely, the Gospel Trumpet movement has set up its IMAGE TO THE BEAST. The above described conditions prevail. There is COMMITTEE control, BOARD control, and ANDERSON control of many phases of religious freedom. Might I name some of the

committees and boards? Is there not a PROGRAM committee; that is, a PULPIT committee? Is there not an ORDINATION committee? Is there not a GRIEVANCE committee? Are there not PUBLICATION committees of different names? Are there not FOREIGN MISSIONARY boards? Are there not HOME MISSIONARY boards or committees? Are there not STATE EVANGELISTS, elected by men? Are there not many committees for the seminary? I'm sure you could probably name others, but let this suffice. Now the early church was not governed in this manner. Its committee of seven was to deal with temporal, and not spiritual needs. When the Holy Ghost said, "Separate Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them" Acts 13:2, (foreign missionary work) the church fasted and prayed and laid hands on them and sent them away to work. It recognized the Holy Spirit's right to send them, and humbly acquiesced. "So, they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost departed" Acts 13:4.

Brother, sister, this image to the beast was not created in a day. It has been going on for years, gradually growing and shaping itself, until today it stands clearly revealed by the truths of the Bible. Many precious souls have not detected its growth, or even realized that Man-Rule was usurping Holy Spirit rule. Many saw at one time, who started to escape but were lured back by pleas to "not create division, but to stay in and help us fight this thing." Some saw the thing from the beginning and raised their voices against the inroads of Satan, pointing out the trap the devil was setting and took their stand against these soul-destroying tactics of Satan. The setting up of the IMAGE TO THE BEAST is not accomplished in the church of God, but by those who HAD BEEN the children of God. One has to remove himself from God's church to do this. Many do not realize this, but let us see what God's Word says. Protestantism "DECEIVETH them that dwell on the earth, by the means of those miracles which he had power to do" Rev. 13:14. Brother, sister, let the truth of God's Word open your eyes. The setting up of the image constitutes the creation or birth of another sect. It is a sect added to the hundreds already in existence. It requires a fleeing, a forsaking, a coming out of HER to escape the destruction to be heaped upon her. God does not want His children to stay in Babylon. "Come out of her, my people," Rev. 18:4 applies to the new sects as well as to the old established ones. Babylon captured many dear souls out of the church of God by the creation of the sect with headquarters at Anderson, Indiana. It kept the Bible name. It kept most of the Bible's fundamental doctrines. But it imbibed of a spirit from Satan, a compromising spirit, a spirit of letting down, a spirit of freedom of conscience, of worldliness, and worldly conformity, a spirit of doubting the ability of the Holy Spirit to govern, a spirit calling for MEN to take the place of the Holy Spirit. This makes it all the more deceitful. If the truths of justification, sanctification, divine healing, the oneness of God's people, etc., can be preached along with a slackness, a wishy-washyness, and a

yielding of the point to one stubbornly refusing to go all the way, you have a sect with a strong appeal to those wanting the advantages of salvation, but who are unwilling to pay the price for Bible salvation.

This appeal is primarily directed to those starving, hungry, distressed souls who see the slackness, the worldliness, the cut and dried program, the lack of spiritual life, and the downright sinful personages and practices tolerated. It is directed to you who see the error and whose hearts yearn for the real, genuine salvation Jesus died to bring. Perhaps you are in a congregation where the Sunday School teacher uses tobacco, tea, or coffee. There are many. Perhaps you see the minister is more interested in the collection plate than the altar bench. Many are so weary of the outlined college essay given as a substitute for the "glad tidings" of the Bible. Perhaps you have wondered what was wrong, and why, and where. Perhaps you have spoken of these things and been assured the ministers were doing their utmost to restore things as they should be, and the thing for you to do was to keep quiet. Perhaps you knew the truth years ago when the church was being restored to its morning brightness and you are downright sick of conditions as they are now. Perhaps you have come into the work in recent years and are finding things not as you see the church pictured in God's Word. Perhaps you do not even know that there is a real, Bible standard, evening light church of God in existence. Perhaps you do not know that there is still a people who trust God for their souls and bodies, a people who love one another truly, a people whose LEADER is the Holy Spirit, a people separated from the world, and worldly pride. Thank God! there is such a group. Thank God! there is a people whose God is the Lord! Thank God! there is a people preaching and practicing the truths of the New Testament. There is a people where there are no big "T's" and little "YOU's". "But ye are all brethren."

The writer wants to invite you if you are heart-hungry and dissatisfied with the lukewarmness of the Trumpet people, to come and see. Come to a camp meeting of the saints of God. Come to Hammond, Louisiana, or Guthrie, Oklahoma, or to the National Camp Meeting at Monark Springs, Missouri, near Neosho. Come to any other announced meeting and TRY the spirits. You will not find great crowds, but remember God's people are not popular—BUT you will find real spiritual life, and will receive real food to your souls.

Perhaps you are one who is isolated and does not realize the extent to which the Trumpet people have lowered the standard of the Bible. To such I would like to present a few thoughts.

First, I would like to say that I have attended their local meetings, their revival meetings, their young people's conventions, and their state camp meetings. I have met and talked with many of their ministers. I love many of them personally, ministers and lay members, and what I say is spoken with love for their souls, and with anxiety to see them

escape the deception of the thing. I believe the end of time is near, that TIME is growing short and that those going to be delivered from sin or from deceptions must bestir themselves or that it will be too late.

As things come to my mind I will speak them. First, the church started standing in opposition to Babylon. Sectism was preached against. There was no fellowship with sectism,—no cooperation. This was as it should be. Of course, there was persecution from sectism. Sectism wants to be let alone. "You go your way, and let me go mine. I'll stay off your toes, and you stay off mine." Yet the Bible teaches us to cry aloud against sectism and to give the call "Come out of her, my people." The Bible teaches the church separated from, and in active opposition to sectism. There can be no league with Babylon,—no cooperation, no exchanging of pulpits, no condoning of remaining in Babylon. She must be up out of the mud, clean and pure, and calling, "Come to higher ground." Do we find this truth being practiced among the Trumpet people? NO! On the other hand we hear of influential sectarian ministers who make no profession of being associated with them, TEACHING the MINISTERS of the Trumpet movement HOW TO PROPERLY CONDUCT A SUNDAY SCHOOL! This in A MINISTERIAL ASSEMBLY! Are not the graduation sermons of the Anderson college or seminary being preached by leading sectarian ministers? How can ministers going out with such sectarian benedictions HAVE MUCH TO SAY AGAINST SECTISM? Brethren, the Word calls for a higher standard than that.

(Continued on page 7.)

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THE TRUTH ABOUT HELL

First, I want to tell where hell is and give Bible proof for it. The truth of God's holy word will verify this statement: "Hell is right at the end of a Christless life." Luke 16:22, 23, "The rich man also died and was buried. And in hell he lifted up his eyes [now remember this was after his body was put in the grave] being in torments and seeth Abraham afar off and Lazarus in his bosom." Lazarus preceded the rich man in passing from this earth. "And it came to pass that the beggar died and was carried by angels into Abraham's bosom" (paradise). The body (or dust) returns to the earth as it was and the spirit returns to God who gave it. And God assigns the spirit to the place for which it lived while in the body—either hell or heaven.

Now to those who are living in sin, we warn you that hell is not far away as some people suppose. Hell is right at the end of the sinful life you are living. Some say, "I don't believe in hell." Well, maybe you don't. But remember that doesn't change what God has recorded in his word. What we believe or disbelieve doesn't change facts. Every one who has passed out of this life without Christ as his Savior, knows there is a hell. My poor sinner friend, I ask you to remember the rich man in hell. Just hear his pitiful cry, "Father Abraham, have mercy

on me and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am tormented in this flame." But Abraham said, "Son, remember" the Christless life you lived while on earth. Yes, my poor sinner friend, after it is too late you will remember how you rejected Christ while you were here on earth. You will remember how you scorned the invitation so often extended to you by God-fearing people.

Remember that hell is a place as well as a state. Rev. 19:20. The beast and the false prophet (false religious bodies or sect churches so called) both were cast alive into the lake of fire and brimstone. Rev. 20:10 says, "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever." Hell is a place where the wicked or ungodly will be in a state of terrible suffering and torture as God's word warns you. God's precious holy word faithfully warns the wicked. It says (Psa. 9:17), "The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God." Now dear sinner friend, remember that when you once get into hell there is no way out—and there is only one way to stay out of hell and that is to repent and forsake your sins, and be born again. Jesus said, "Ye must be born again." And right at the beginning of new life, which you receive when you are born again, you will find the highway of holiness which is the only way by which you can escape hell and enter heaven. Now remember, hell is the place where everybody goes who misses heaven. "For without are dogs [two-legged dogs] and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie." What an awful crowd! Jesus said, "Ye must be born again." And then when we receive the new birth our names are recorded in the book of life which is kept in heaven. Having our names in the book of life is the only hope of heaven we have. For Rev. 20:15 says at the final judgment, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life were cast into the lake of fire." In the first chapter of 2nd Thessalonians it says that the Lord will take vengeance on them that know not God and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power." Hell hath enlarged herself and opened her mouth without measure. —George W. Stephenson

Mississippi—I want to thank every one that helped Bro. Frank McCarty to rebuild his home which burned. He received over \$100.00 from readers of "Faith and Victory." May the dear Lord bless every one of you.

Yours in Christ,

—Novella Pugh

PRAYER REQUEST

Sister Nellie Lovell of Bogota, Texas, desires the prayers of the saints, that they all might be agreed with her. She desires that the Lord will especially undertake there in her home town, for the Baptists are greatly opposing the truth.

June 24th is set aside for prayer and fasting.

"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

Missouri—Dear Brother Pruitt,—Greetings in Jesus dear name. We truly thank the dear Lord for His help and keeping power. I can truly say that I am more encouraged than ever to press on and live for the Lord. He healed my body some time ago, and I truly thank Him for it. It seems as though my sickness brought me closer to Him. I know it pays to live close to the Lord. Your brother in Christ, —H. A. Decocq

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Indiana—To all the dear saints, greetings,—I am still striving to please the Lord. I need His help every hour. I can see His hand and help in many things. I had an ulcer in my throat and through the prayers of some of the saints it is better. I do not feel it much now. I had promised God I would write a testimony.—Scott C. Baker

Editorials

Considering the confused mess of Christendom today, it would seem that we are living in the most deceptive age of this world. In view of this fact, we who have the fear of God upon our hearts certainly ought to be diligent to walk circumspectly before the Lord. The Scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' day were the cleverest and most godly-appearing men of that age and had the people under their influence to such an extent that many of the poor, honest people of that day were afraid to openly acknowledge that they believed Jesus to be Christ, the Messiah, lest they be put out of the churches. John 9:22.

You will notice as you read about Jesus and His dealings with whitewashed, religious leaders that He did not spare them, but openly rebuked them, and that in severe terms; for He discerned that they were the most guilty ones and because of them and their false teaching and practices the people would not believe the truth He taught and separate from the world and bear the reproach of the cross.

Jesus plainly told them that they were "Graves that appear not" (Luke 11:44); meaning that they were dead to God, but did not appear to be because they made a big display of serving God. In another place He says, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do" John 8:44. These and many other true sayings did Jesus openly declare to these nice, clever, and pious-appearing, religious leaders of His day.

Christendom could not be in the confused mess that it is in today without the existence of many false prophets and teachers who put their own private interpretation on the word of God and lead precious souls to believe lies, dividing and sub-dividing them and causing them to worship idols in the way of man-made churches. They wrest the scriptures from their proper meaning and cause souls to commit fornication with the multiplied harlot daughters of the great whore, "the Mother of Harlots" (Rev. 17:5). These leaders of the harlot daughters are usually men who have a good outward appearance, and, having been taught in some man's Bible school, they appear very spiritual and speak great, swelling words that captivate the vain minds of men and cause many to make a profession of religion. Those who are captured in this way become adherents to that particular harlot daughter or sect, becoming zealous to accept wrested-scripture teachings to uphold their self-righteous religion. This, with many other things, is what makes the sad condition of Christendom which we see before us today.

Since there is such a host of false teachers and prophets in the world deceiving the people, it will be well for us to consider for a while what a false teacher or prophet really is. Webster's dictionary gives the word false as that which leads astray; or to deceive. Then a false prophet or teacher would be one who leads souls astray, or deceives them, causing men to believe things contrary to God's instructions and will.

We turn to 2 Peter 2:1 and read, "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily [without the Spirit] shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of." Webster defines *heresy* as a sect and something that tends to division. In 1 Cor., third chapter and third verse, Paul makes it plain that those that make division are carnal and walk as men.

In 2 Cor. 11:13 we read that Paul met with false apostles, teachers, or prophets in his day. He called them deceitful workers, and said that Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light and that it was not a great thing for his ministers to be transformed as the ministers of righteousness. If Paul met up with false apostles and teachers in his day, how much more would it be so in our day, since they have multiplied during all these years.

Now, dear reader, false teachers are not men with horns and hoofs showing plainly that they are of Satan, but according to the Word, they are transformed angels or messengers of light or preachers of righteousness. They preach many right things and seem to have great light but have enough poison in their doctrines and teachings to poison the soul and make it of the world instead of God.

One of our present-day, noted, radio preachers published a book about the time Mussolini of Italy was coming into power and prophesied that Mussolini was the coming anti-Christ, and that he would rule the world for seven years during which time we would have great tribulations and then Christ would suddenly come and overthrow Mussolini and would reign on this earth in righteousness. It is very plain now to all sensible people that he was and is a false prophet. The Bible says not to fear such a prophet. Read Deut. 18:22.

The false prophets of our day have a large following, generally, because it is much easier for the fleshly man to hear them. Most people are so entangled with the things of the world and love their fleshly lusts so much that they fall right in with the false teacher or prophet, being more or less deaf to the voice of God.

My beloved readers, I wish to say to you that Satan's false teachers and preachers are not all out in the dark creeds of men nor in the plain-out, devil religions in this world; but his "angel of light" preachers often pass themselves off for saint preachers and gradually deceive and decoy people into soul-poisoning ways, bringing damnation upon their own souls and upon those that hear and follow them.

If you want to know more about the true ways of God and how to get established in the Lord and His truth so you will not be blown about by the many winds of doctrines and deceived by the cunning craftiness of men, you should secure the book, "The New Testament Church, Its Symbols, Metaphors, and

Analogies." A revised and enlarged edition has just been printed. It is advertised on page six of this paper.

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Campmeeting Notices

1945 NATIONAL CAMPMEETING

The National Campmeeting of the Church of God will be held this year, the Lord willing, July 20 to 29 inclusive, on the saint's campground at Monark Springs, Missouri, which is five miles east of Neosho, Missouri.

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

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

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

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

Much work will need to be done at the campground and dining hall in preparation for the meeting. Several able-bodied, consecrated men are needed to come a few days before the meeting to assist Bro. Barton in these preparations. If you can come to help, write Bro. Barton before hand so that he may know whom to expect. The Neosho congregation has always been faithful in helping to prepare for the meeting, and the usual cooperation can be expected this time.

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

Come praying and expecting a glorious and profitable meeting.

—L. D. Pruitt, Secy-Treas.

1005 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

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The 38th annual campmeeting of the Church of God at Hammond, Louisiana, will be held on the general Southern Camp Ground, from June 29 to July 8, 1945, inclusive. It will be run on the free-will offering plan as heretofore. We trust God to supply all financial needs, also all spiritual needs through the ministers whom He sees best to send, and other precious saints. The camp ground is easily reached, located one mile south-west of the I. C. depot, and buses come to Hammond from all directions. We also have excellent train service. We pray that the Lord will bless more than in times past in the different camp meetings for there is so much trouble in this world and there is great need of a real spiritual uplift among His saints.

Please bring your sugar and point ration books, also your straw ticks, bed linens, and towels. Straw will be furnished free, also sleeping quarters. Send donations or for further information write to Brother and Sister Ray Key, Box 370, or Brother Max Williamson, Hammond, Louisiana.

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The Oregon Campmeeting this year will be held at Jefferson, Oregon, August 2 to 12. Jefferson is on the S. P. Railroad and Highway 99, 16 miles south of Salem, and 9 miles north of Albany, Oregon. A more complete notice will appear in the July "Faith and Victory." All saints pray and all come who can. God is going to bless.

For any information desired, write Emma Busch Scio, Oregon, or Noah White, or Sam Wilson, Jefferson, Oregon.

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There will be a camp meeting in the Maple community, fifteen miles south of Clarksville, Texas, also, it is fifteen miles east of Bogota, Texas, and four miles south-east of Cuthand, Texas. You must go through Cuthand. This will be the first campmeeting in this section of Texas. It will be necessary to come prepared to take care of your personal needs. Brother Egbert Allen will have his large tent, also some smaller ones. If you can bring a tent, or cots, or bedding, please do so. This is a new field but a needy one. The meeting will begin August 10 to continue through the 19th. For further information write Sister Nellie Lovell, Route 2, Clarksville, Texas. Come praying, expecting God to work with us.

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The first campmeeting to be held in Midway, Louisiana, will begin August 24 carrying on through September 2. Midway is not a Post Office, but is midway Jena, Louisiana, and Goodpine, Louisiana. Those coming by bus will come by way of Alexandria, Louisiana. It is on Highway 84, 38 miles east of Winnfield, Louisiana. Those coming will be taken care of on the grounds or in homes. Bring straw ticks and some bedding if possible. We expect to have Brother Egbert Allen and his tents there. For further information write Brother J. E. Mitchell, Route 1, Trout, Louisiana, or Sister Cassie Price, Route 1, Trout, Louisiana.

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The Oklahoma State Campmeeting of the Church of God will be held near the corner of Sixth and West Warner Streets, August 3 to 12 inclusive. For further information write to Faith Publishing House, 920 West Mansur, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

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Tent Meeting Notice

Lord willing, we expect to start a tent meeting four miles south of Norwood, Missouri, on Bill Wymer's farm June 1st. Other ministers will be there to help in the meeting. All who are interested in the truth of God's word are welcome. Bro. Egbert Allen

Obituaries

James Murdock was born at Columbus, Mississippi, January 10, 1866. On December 28, 1886 he married Miss Elizabeth Leech. To this union eleven children were born, five of whom are now living. In 1892, he professed a hope in Christ and united with the C. M. E. Church in Mississippi. After moving with his family to Oklahoma, he heard the full gospel preached and took his stand with the Evening Light saints. Brother Murdock was an old pioneer and a loyal citizen. He was only

ill a few days. The morning that he was stricken, he called his wife and children in and told them he wanted to pray with them. He told the Lord in his prayer that he had been fixing a long time for this day. One of his daughters asked him if the Lord should call him, would he be ready to go? He said, "Yes, there are no dark clouds in my way." On April 12, he passed away at his home near Grayson. He leaves to mourn his passing a wife, four daughters, one son, a sister and brother, twenty-two grandchildren, fifty-nine great grandchildren, and other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Sister Frances Bell.

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Sister Sarah Jane (Foster) Huffmon was born to the Foster family March 1, 1869 in Gainesville, Texas. She was married to Alex Huffmon in Plano, Tex. To this union two children were born. Later they moved to Okla. She passed away in Okla. City, May 2, 1945. She was a faithful saint in God's church for thirty years.

Her survivors are: two brothers, two nieces, three nephews, five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a host of friends.

"She is not dead, but sleepeth." The funeral service was conducted by Manley Spears. Text Rev. 14:13.

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Amanda Madison was born September 20, 1867, at Red River, Texas, and departed this life in Pasadena, California, April 22, 1945, being 77 years of age. In the year 1887 she was united in marriage to Robert W. Morgan and to this union one daughter and six sons were born. The daughter and two sons preceded her in death.

At an early age in life she became a Christian, and lived a life of faithfulness and obedience unto the Lord. She leaves her loving husband, Robert W. Morgan, four sons: Alonzo, Edward, Norman, and Tousaint, all of Pasadena, California; one sister, Dona Harris, of Sapulpa, Oklahoma; a brother, Willie Madison of Fresno, California; nine grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and a number of other relatives and friends that will greatly miss her loving and kind words of advice and encouragement. Among her last words were, "I am fully resigned to the will of God, and I am willing and ready to go or to stay." Funeral services were held April 27, 1945 at the James Wood Funeral Parlors of Pasadena, and the body was laid to rest to await the general resurrection in Pasadena Cemetery.

Sister Emma Holden of San Bernardino, officiated using as a foundation text 2 Cor. 5:1.

—T. T. Holden

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NOTICE OF BOOK REPRINTED

A revised and enlarged edition of the book entitled, "The New Testament Church, and Its Symbols, Metaphors, and Analogies" is just off the press, and ready to send to all who desire them. Saints who have read the old book have received so much light and soul food that they have ordered it in quantities to give away to other ministers and Christian friends. More calls have come into this office for it than any other book we have ever printed.

It now contains 140 pages with a good paper binding. If you want a feast for your soul and also make yourself a blessing to others, order some of these books. They will be postpaid to you for 25 cents each or six books for \$1.00, 25 books for \$4.00.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE SAINTS

(Continued from page 3.)

In the beginning the church taught against seminaries and college training for the ministry. It taught that a minister could not be taught to preach in a seminary. If he was educated already he did not go to a seminary to learn to preach. The Bible and the Holy Spirit were held up as being able to qualify him for the ministry. This calls to my mind dear, old Brother Willis M. Brown, who practically learned to read after he got saved. I have heard him tell many times how when he got saved he got his Bible down and tried to spell it out. He started with the first chapter of Matthew, and the going was very hard. He would tell how he nearly gave up in despair of being able to get anything out of the Bible when he came to the 21st verse, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." When he would get there and tell how the Lord had saved him from his sins, the fire would fall, and we would be strengthened. I think again of the time when Peter and John were called before the rulers of Israel "and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus" Acts 4:13. If Jesus was able to take up a group of ignorant fishermen and set in motion forces that changed the world, HE STILL IS ABLE. Years spent in a seminary after a call to preach would be more profitably spent with THE LORD. The church of God DOES NOT NEED A SEMINARY.

There is a certain amount of advice against picture shows and tobacco, but from personal knowledge I know that one will not be set aside if they go to picture shows, or use tobacco. Of course, there may be exceptions, but I am speaking in general. I sat in the Bible class in a "First Church of God" in a certain town and knew the teacher was a cigarette smoker. I had heard him say that he saw nothing wrong in it. Of as many as go to picture shows, have you ever heard of one being rebuked for it as having sinned? No, indeed, fellowship is not broken over attending picture shows. Yet the Word says, 1 Tim. 5:20, "Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear."

The old teachings against coffee, and tea have been thrown overboard, I suppose, since I have seen coffee served at a state camp meeting. There may be some opposition, but it is evidently powerless.

The teaching in the beginning of this reformation was plain and forceful concerning divine healing. God was taught to be our only healer, and that a failure to trust him when sick was resorting to the arm of flesh. When faith was weak, we were taught to seek the Lord for more faith. When anyone resorted to medicine for his healing he felt, along with others, that he had failed God and needed to repent of his unbelief. This is not the case today. A very, very few are teaching divine healing, and practicing it. Ministers are teaching that those who lack faith for healing should do the next best thing,—that is,

go to the physician. Faith cannot be built up to receive healing if we have it in our mind to use medical aid if the Lord fails to answer as soon as we want Him to. Only complete TRUST in him, whether well or sick, will bring the faith necessary for healing. "Have faith in God." When MAN takes over the ruling of the congregation, it will not be long before MAN takes over the healing of the congregation. As God is placed in the background in one phase, we find Him fading into the background in other phases.

Worldliness and worldly adornment are rampant. Have you not seen various church leaders,—Sunday School teachers, superintendents, song leaders, or singers with some or all the following worldly adornments: bobbed hair, waved or curled, rouged cheeks, painted lips, red finger nails, red toe nails, no stockings, beads, lockets, various kinds of finger rings, ear bobs, short dresses, low necks, no sleeves, and bracelets? I have seen all these things, and am sure you have. I know you have seen the ministers' beautiful, neck-tie, tie-clasp, and collar holder. So often they are gold. The Bible teaches us to leave off all worldly adornments, and to adorn with a meek and quiet spirit.

There are at present several divisions among them. There are conservatives, radicals, and in-betweens. Some are teaching sanctification one way and some another. Some want the college and some do not. There is much politics over the control of the Trumpet. The editorship of the Trumpet is a prize all sides want. The more conservative ones are fearful of the liberal group winning control. They do not want things to go farther than they now are. Yet, they keep fellowship with the liberals, and by retaining them are going to lose out to them. When the liberals win control—as I am sure they will—you will probably see them compelling the conservatives to believe like them or get out. The property of most of the churches is deeded in care of the Extension Board. Whoever controls this board will control the property. With all the building campaigns, etc., there is much valuable property and when the liberals win control of the Extension Board you may just watch them telling the conservatives, "Get in line or get out." I am afraid many will get in line rather than lose their interest in the property. They will console themselves with the thought that it is better to yield than cause division. A split was narrowly averted only a few years ago. This was over the college. I want to tell you how a man, a leader of the group opposing the college, was brought into line and his opposition to the college stifled. This is the way the IMAGE TO THE BEAST (Man-Rule) works. I wondered what caused him to have a "D. D." and asked him why he had it. I knew he had opposed it in times past. He said, "They PUT ME ON THE SPOT. They came to me and offered me a 'D. D.' and told me if I refused it, I WOULD BE CONSIDERED OUT OF HARMONY WITH THE BRETHREN. So I took it."

When the saints at Hammond, Louisiana, refused to accept the compromise years ago, the Trumpet leaders pulled their followers out, and

started a meeting on a porch near enough to the camp ground for the singing to be heard. Then they brought suit against the saints for possession of the property. It seems their witnesses confessed from the stand that they had changed their teaching—that they had NEW LIGHT. Then the pastor of the camp grounds was asked if he had changed his teachings. He denied doing so. The judge dismissed the suit saying that AS THEY HAD CHANGED THEIR TEACHING THEY HAD FORMED A NEW SECT AND MUST GET OUT AND BUILD THEIR OWN PROPERTY. I believe the saints could have held every meeting house in the world if THEY HAD BEEN WILLING TO GO TO LAW FOR IT. They were not. But now it is different with the Extension Board having control, and the Extension Board will hold the property no matter if changes are made in the teachings.

Brother, sister, you, too, will be subjected to pressure if you stand up for the Bible way. Many have had to violate their beliefs to remain in harmony in the past, and you may be sure it will continue. These things are coming because MEN are in control. The Holy Spirit is NOT in control. You saints, OPEN YOUR EYES! Awake to the snares of the enemy. Flee from the Babylonish daughter. Take your stand for TRUTH and the BIBLE. COME OUT, dear soul, COME OUT WHILE THERE IS TIME. DELIVER YOUR SOUL. A fallen reformation NEVER HAS, and NEVER WILL come back. Some in it may want it to come back, some may see it needs to come back, and may preach coming back, but FALLEN movements JUST DON'T COME BACK. Individuals can escape. Individuals can come out, but trying to drag the movement back is just more than can be done. The load is greater than the real saints can carry. So, dear soul, take your stand on the Bible, and if you never meet another saint you can influence all you can to serve God, and you can raise up a church of God in your own community, by the help of the Lord. God will put you to work.

You have heard and will still hear stories against the saints. They have always been persecuted and spoken against, and will always have to bear that cross. Their motives will be misconstrued, their preachers condemned, and their efforts to keep sinners out of control will be called man-rule.

Yet my personal invitation is, "Come and see." Visit us, get acquainted with us, talk to us, and see if you don't find us living for God and standing for all the truths of the Bible.

I would like to hear from interested souls.

Your saved brother in Christ,

C. C. Carver, 6125 Willard Ave., Shreveport, La.

FOOLISHNESS

America today is drunk on foolishness. At a time when we should be sober to face the terrible issues that confront us, the world is full of jesting and foolish talking. In Prov. 24:9, God says that

the thoughts of foolishness are sin; and Paul, in the fifth chapter of Ephesians, classifies foolish talking along with filthiness and other sins of the body.

God wants His people to be sober, working out their salvation with fear and trembling, and yet always joyful, giving thanks unto God. Satan has filled the world with foolishness until today more people are interested in the funnies than in our boys on the battlefield or in the holy commands of God. Children make a rush for the daily paper to get its comic sheet, and have very little desire for what is good and wholesome. Their minds are fed on foolishness, and so great is the power that it has over them that they are nervous and restless when they must face the problems of life. When we turn on the radio we oft times hunt in vain for a program that isn't filled with foolishness—foolish songs and foolish talk. The whole air is filled with jesting in this terrible time of sorrow, and it is no wonder it is hard to pray. Satan is teaching our boys and girls that life is fun and a good time in revelry, and teaching them to make light of everything that is sacred and holy. The sin of jesting and foolish talking has led more souls away from God than the sin of bank robbing. Others are more likely to imitate the jester than they are the robber. Any one who dares not consider the avoiding of little sins as of great importance never reaches to any very great degree of holiness or perfectness in character. Strictly speaking, there are no little things in life. To pass little things heedlessly by is true evidence that we are ignorant of the true meaning of a holy, God-fearing life. Things may seem to be little from man's viewpoint, but never from God's point of view. Man may speak of little sins but such is not the language of the Bible. No one religious is influenced to follow the example of the man who steals, but a little worldly conformity is an infection that is likely to spread through the entire religious circle. Any conforming to the world, any thing that lessens the joy of communion with God, or breaks that peace of soul with Him is to be regarded as extremely dangerous. Every thought we think, every word we speak, every deed we do, even our actions are weighed by the Lord and have a far-reaching effect. It affects us, but its effects do not end with us. The sin of worldliness may seem to be very small, but it robs the heart of love, destroys its relish for spiritual things and will if not purged out, leaven the whole of the lump. There is nothing little in religious character. The "little foxes" must be taken or the vineyard is ruined.

—Mrs. Artie Bowers

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California—Dear saints at God's print shop,—The "Faith and Victory" paper is in a class of its own. It is free from religious propaganda; it stands for the faith once for all delivered to the saints; it takes a Daniel and a St. Paul faith to take a firm stand for the whole truth these evil days of sin and corruption in the world. The reward is to them who endure unto the end. May God's richest blessings rest upon you all that love the Lord.

Sincerely in Jesus' name,

—H. U. Christner

Young People's Section

A Prayer

Oh, Lord Jesus, bless my spirit;
 Keep me humble at thy feet;
 Give me love, and health, and patience,
 And salvation pure and sweet.
 Give me grace to do thy bidding;
 Let me know thy voice, so still;
 Help me, Lord, to use my talents,
 While abiding in thy will.
 Help me love e'en those who hate me;
 Of thy Word blest knowledge give;
 Keep me in the path so holy,
 Thus, forever, let me live.

Amen.

—Alice Elizabeth Hall

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Editorials

Sister Dorothy Wilson, one of the young workers at the office, has gone to her husband, Brother Clifford W. Wilson, who is working on a C. P. S. detached service project in Iowa. They are now residing at Monticello, Iowa.

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Brother Noel Anderson was recently at home at Guthrie on a furlough. He is attached to the medical corps and is now working in a veteran's hospital at Bedford, Massachusetts.

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A very few years ago millennial teachers were loudly prophesying over the radio and from the pulpit and press that Mussolini was destined to become the world dictator and eventually the personal anti-Christ. Their theory was that Christ did not set up His kingdom at His first coming, and that His kingdom was in postponement, waiting for the restoration of the Roman Empire. Mussolini, they said, would conquer the world, restore the Roman Empire, and become the anti-Christ. Then Christ would come with physical force and overthrow Mussolini and his world dominion, and set up His literal kingdom on earth.

It is obvious that all such theories which are wholly without scriptural foundation are certain to explode and crumble to nothing. As you well know, Mussolini, while fleeing for his life, was captured and killed by his own people whom he had betrayed and led into wars of aggression. His very memory is scorned and hated by his own people. Such is the ending of the wild speculations and deceptive theories of millennial teachers. It is strange, but true, that so many people are ready to believe almost any high-sounding, sentimental, prophetic theory that might be propagated. The false prophets are past masters in the deceptive art of drawing freely upon the imagination, and painting beautiful pictures to delight the mind and exalt the flesh.

The fact that time has proved over and over again the falsity of these claims should serve as a warning to the saints to beware of false prophets.

—L. D. P.

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Arkansas—Dear saints,—This, my testimony, is written with a desire to help some poor soul to see the right way before it is everlastingly too late. As I read the "Faith and Victory" paper tonight the Lord blessed my soul and I felt like shouting. I thank God for true feelings of praise in my heart. Some do not like for God's people to shout, especially while meeting together. They say it disturbs the people. It is the devil that is disturbed. He surely hates for people to do anything that pleases the Lord. This is very plain to see. If the devil can get a Christian to go to the show or another place of worldly amusement or conform to the world in other ways (such as the sisters wearing make-up, cutting and curling their hair and wearing men's clothing), he is very well pleased. Can't you understand that it is the devil's delight for you to do such things? The next time you are tempted to do anything questionable, stop and ask yourself the question, "What would Jesus do?" You do not have to take my word that these things are wrong, but seek the Spirit of God for guidance and read your Bible. One cannot live for God and the devil at the same time and there is no use trying.

True saints of God are examples of Christlikeness and point people heavenward. We do things that please God. Jesus said through His servant, "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 for ever." 1 John 2:15-17. You should heed God's word now, before it is everlastingly too late, for if you do not do it now, the time will come when you will wish that you had listened and read God's word.

Some do not want to humble their hearts and repent of their sins and be born again of the Spirit of God because they think they cannot have any more fun and life will be a drudgery. But one can have a real good time with the Lord. He will put joy into your heart. He will clean you up and you will be transformed into a different person—one who will have no desire for the sinful things of this world.

I really and truly thank God for picking me up out of sin and putting me on the right road. He cleansed my heart and soul so that now I can see what true pleasures really are. I am glad I can go on and live for Jesus and make heaven my home. You'll never be sorry if you will choose Jesus and the way He leads you, so why not choose Him now? What does it matter if others laugh? Let them laugh. The devil just is using them to keep you from doing what you know you ought to do. It won't be any easier for you to get saved a week, a month, or a year from now than it is at the present time. If you desire to go to heaven—and I am sure you do—you must start sometime. Why not now?

Please pray for the salvation of my loved ones for whom I have been burdened.

—Miss Esther Hale

CORRESPONDENCE

California—I send greetings of love in Jesus' name to all saints who read this. While I was enjoying the good spiritual food in the paper today, God impressed me to write of an experience I had soon after the compromise of some who had been true saints and had gone back on God's Word, teaching it falsely.

I had been isolated for a long time and had many trials and sin in my home and had lost the victory which I needed much and kept trying to gain back. A minister whom I had known for years and who had been a wonderful man of God came to town where I lived and was holding a tabernacle meeting. Once when he preached a good sermon, I went to the altar for help and prayed through to victory. God blessed me wonderfully and that night and the next day I kept thinking, "Could they be right? He surely preached a good sermon and God blessed me there in his meeting." That night I had a dream or vision, which ever it may be called. I was standing in the yard and still wondering about that meeting. I looked down and there was a very large snake coiled up just in front of me. Its body was as large as my arm and the coil was as large as a No. 3 tub. Its tail was up 12 or 15 inches and its head and neck was up two feet. Its body was covered all over with large black and white spots. As I stood there and wondered what kind of a snake it could be (I did not try to get away from it), it struck and its head just grazed my left cheek. I awakened and felt my cheek for it felt as if it had been touched. I began to pray and ask God what it meant, and He made it plain to me. That snake represented the "Gospel Trumpet" people who had fallen away from God's true way. The white spots represented the true Word of God which they had kept and the black spots, the false doctrine which they had turned to, and was as dangerous as that large snake. The people in that made up a large body like the snake, and I had got so close to them as to be touched to wonder if they could be right; but, thank God, not so close as to be bitten. The Lord brought it all so plainly to me, I thanked Him and said I would never again think they were right when it takes a snake like that to represent them and to warn me, and I never have been back to their meetings. They once knew the truth and turned away from it for worldly things, so they are worse than many sects.

I admonish all Holy Ghost ministers to preach the Word, and not sugar-coat any message which God gives, for He will give nothing that people do not need. If the Holy Ghost is leading you, feed the sheep with the pure, true Word of God with the love of Christ, and if someone becomes hurt or offended it shows that one needs something and needs to move up, and your hands will be clear of his soul. I feel that many subjects are not being taught so the young people can understand them as they were taught fifty years ago and up to a few years ago, and the young generation now needs the same teaching which we received when we were young. They are like we were at that time. They know very little about God's Word and the plan of salvation, especially justification and sanctification and a holy life. I feel a great interest in our young people. While God's grace is sufficient to keep the young as well as the old, yet they have need of much help from the older saints as well as from God, for this world is in a terrible mess of evil.

May God bless all saints everywhere, I pray.

Your sister saved by grace,

—Bonnie Wells

Arkansas—Dear Brother and Sister Pruitt,—Greetings in the name of our dear Saviour who died on the cross.—I had something wrong with my stomach Saturday, the 5th, Sunday, and the rest of that week I could hardly do anything for my stomach hurt so. I started to go to the doctor but I just said I would trust in the Lord. Thursday, last week, I was just about well, and Sunday, 13th, I didn't hurt anywhere.

Thanks for the "Faith and Victory" paper. It helps me a lot. It gives me courage and strength. I promised the Lord if He would heal me I would testify through the "Faith and Victory" paper. This is the first time I have had to call on the Lord to heal me, for He has been so good to me in keeping me in good health. Pray for me that I can go all the way and come out on the good side—the dear Saviour's side. Praise the Lord.

This is my first time to write. Love to all the Christian people, Sister in Christ, —Mrs. Gladys Cooper

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Ohio—Dear Saints of God,—Greetings to all of you in Jesus' precious name, with much love. I thank the Lord for His goodness and kindness through all of my sickness and disobedience to Him. He loved me so much that He spared me to get saved. I surely thank and praise His dear name for what He is to me. He is everything to me. He is my physician in the time of sickness, and He is my all and in all.

I thank the dear saints of God for their prayers in behalf of my afflicted body for I am much better. Pray on for me and my unsaved children. My honest prayer is that the Lord will save souls. Sister Nellie Hudson

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Louisiana—Dear saints of God all over the world,—Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, —I am on the battlefield for the Lord and going forward as a true, bold soldier fighting against sin and shame, trying to lead the people out of darkness into holiness.

I am thankful for what the Lord is to me. He brought me out of shame in time. Praise His dear name! When I was sick He heard my prayer. He is a wonderful Saviour to me. Thank the Lord for the Way.

Your sister,

O. Vaughn

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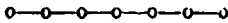
California—To all my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, the whole family on earth,—Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings and supplies every need for both soul and body.

I truly thank God for His abundant mercy to me. A God who is able to hear and answer the prayer of faith for the healing of "incurable" diseases without medicine or surgery is surely worthy of adoration. He has heard prayer for me by the saints here and elsewhere, and healed me of cancer of the bowels, a trouble that began some years back, but I only suspicioned it, only fought it at times and its manifestation, other times, ignored it, and sometimes enlisted the prayers of others. It came to a climax this last March. It seemed that everything within me turned to fluid and I had the case of bowel trouble I had ever known. I became so weak that I almost gave up, and said to wife, "If I ever get up from this, it will be by the prayers of the saints."

The miracle was wrought! The healing is complete and I am better in my bowels than I have been for years, praise God! I thank the Lord and all His people who so valiantly held on in prayer, all night until God answered. For some time before the outbreak, the best of food

was sickening to me, but my faith never wavered; I believed God would heal me at the "appointed" time. I was resigned to go or stay, as the Lord willed. It was no strain for me to believe when we met the condition as set forth in James 5:14. When hands were laid on (according to the Word of the Lord), and the prayer of faith offered in the name of Jesus, I felt the check, and in 24 hours my bowels were better than they had been for several months, and today they are better than they have been for years. I give all the glory to the God who created the heavens and the earth and me. There was no experimenting, no medicine, and no cutting. What a miracle! Just believe and receive. I believe every promise, for God is faithful. We are "fearfully and wonderfully made" and I don't want any man experimenting with my body. I have seen too many healed of "incurable" diseases for me to have any doubts about God's power to heal "all who come unto God by faith" in the name of Jesus.

Your brother in the faith, C. Z. Stonecypher



Missouri—Dear readers of the "Faith and Victory" paper,—It has been some time since I have written through the little paper to God's people, but have often thought of the different faces and wondered how you are prospering in your souls. No doubt, many are wondering how I am getting along since I have left my home state. I am happy to say from the depth of my soul, that God is still my refuge and strength. We can travel, leave home, and still be in the great family of God. When He calls me home I hope to join the family that has gone on before.

The Lord has done so much for me, I do not know how to tell it. I have a home and a good husband, for which I praise the Lord. The Lord often gives us more than we expect. "He is abundantly able to do more than we are able to ask or think." Truly it pays to serve such a Master, trust and obey Him.

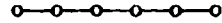
Pray the Lord to send a minister to this place. There is work to do here; there are hungry and needy souls. We feel time is short and people need the pure gospel. Some are looking for "the way". Many souls are going the downward way these days taking no thought where death will find them. Some are being deceived. May God protect and shelter the honest souls.

I can report victory in my soul. Salvation is valuable and we should value it above all else. The devil always tries to crush God's people. That is his business. We are called fanatic and narrow; but "strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leadeth to life" eternal. I believe there are a few who will stand the test and dare to be true, bless His holy name.

There is so much false doctrine and so much pretending till some say there is nothing to any religion. I must again say that there are a few. I believe God will have some to catch up to be forever with Him in glory. I can not tell it like I know it, but in my heart I know it means to be in the family of God, and we know this reality in God's salvation. Some may profess and they trample the blood of Jesus under their feet; still God has a church which is clean. Some go so far as to not even call on the Father, nor believe in the Father. I do not quite understand such doctrine when we know our Lord was with the Father even from the beginning, and when Christ taught His disciples to pray "Our Father which art in heaven," etc. We read in 1 John 2:22, "He is anti-Christ, that denieth the Father and the Son." Some may say they do not deny the Son. We

cannot deny one and not the other any more than we can be sanctified after we have lost our salvation. We desire your earnest prayers.

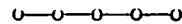
Yours in His service, Clyde and Selma Williams



Michigan—Dear Brother Pruitt and all,—All is well, for which we praise our dear Lord. If it were not for the dear Lord living in our souls we would not know what to do when we behold how this old world is going. The people are living as though this life in this world is all they need to think about, but that is not true. If we live without Him we shall have to die without Him, and words cannot describe what it will mean for one to die without Christ.

I am glad that the dear Lord is blessing with good things, and that down in my heart I love to do a little for His cause and for His people. May the little paper, which gives us the word of God, be the means of the salvation of souls.

—C. Brandt



Oregon—To all the holy brethren and saints,—Greetings in the dear name of Him who laid down His life that we may have eternal life, and never die.

My soul and spirit is deeply stirred as letters come to me from different places, pleading for prayer that they may get help to both soul and body. I can see that many dear souls are almost starved, no doubt, trying to live on the food that is dished out by fallen ministers who have departed from the faith, having loved this present world. Dear ones, there is no soul food there. The word is food to our souls when it is revealed by the Holy Spirit, and all from whom the Spirit has been withdrawn can not speak forth the words of life.

Some have written asking where the scripture is found that condemns drinking of tea and coffee. If God has bought me with a price, if this body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, then I'd better investigate and learn whether or not tea and coffee is good for God's temple. If not, God has said He would destroy all who defile His temple.

Others ask for the scripture condemning musical instruments being used in the house of worship. To this question we say, if the holy, heavenly music wherewith God floods the souls of all His redeemed, the things that cause us to lift up our hearts in song and psalm and spiritual devotion, singing, and making melody in our hearts unto the Lord, if these glorious things have leaked out and gone, then we might begin to look for some device of man, some thing to tickle the ear, some thing that sounds good to worldly-minded people; but as long as we have the heavenly music in our souls, we have no desire to try to invent some way to worship God. The angels in heaven know; yea, and those on earth all understand the music that comes from a sanctified breast. It is heavenly! It may not sound good to fallen man, but to God and the angels, it is glorious. I am persuaded that if the eternal God could be worshipped with men's hands or needed the devices of men, He would supply His holy remnant with all these devices. We see He is Lord of heaven and earth. He is a spirit, and all who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth. We know He supplies His people with all spiritual blessings causing them to sit together in heavenly places in Christ. We are made to continually drink of the river of life, and we are filled with all the fullness of God; wherefore we offer up to Him spiritual sacrifices, while our hearts overflow with His love and grace. There is no thirsting for earth's pleasures, nor adorning rich and gay,

FOR WE'VE FOUND A RICHER TREASURE—ONE THAT FADETH NOT AWAY! !

Some who have heard this truth for years seem to question about some of these things, perhaps caused by teachings of shepherds who have fallen. Awake, oh souls, awake! Sink into God and His Holy Spirit until every fiber of your being responds to Him and the heavenly music floods your entire being. All those questions will vanish like fog before the bright and gleaming sunshine.

To all hungry ones we say, "Cut loose every doubt, every hindering thing, and come to Father's table and eat to your souls content that your life may overflow with the glories of God and His salvation."

Holy remnant, hold up your head, lift up your eyes, surely the time of our redemption draweth nigh.

I am your brother, who has learned to count all things but dross, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, not to please men, but God; not desiring to tickle men's ears. Since I have been made conformable to His death. I do not seek things to exalt self, but exhort all to come to the knowledge of the truth, that the music of heaven may rebound in my soul and others. —Sam Wilson

Ohio—Dear Christian friends,—I thank God for His great goodness to me this morning and for what He has done for me up to this time. I thank Him for salvation and that He has saved me. By His grace it is my desire to stay true. This morning I especially thank Him for giving me strength and health that I can work, for I feel my responsibility to do something for Him. I thank God, too, that He has protected my son that has been across over two years now, going along with this war. I do hope and pray that He will be coming home soon now. Please remember Him in your prayers, and me also, and pray for my unsaved husband.

May God bless you all and give you health and strength to go on with His work is my prayer.

A sister in the Lord, —Mrs. E. Ewald

Louisiana—Dear ones,—Today finds me still desiring to live for the Lord who has done so much for me. Truly He is a present help in time of need. He knows just what is best for us. May the Lord help us to ever look up to Him for our help. He knows about our needs. We may think we need things when He knows we don't. Then when we do what is right and look to Him He can do the rest, and we don't need to fret, for the Lord knows what is best for us.

I want to tell a little of what the Lord has done for me. I have dreaded to try to get different things through the ration board. I needed a cook stove and I didn't know if I could get a certificate or not, since I had sold my stove which was a good electric stove intending to try to get a second hand gas stove thinking that would be better since we have gas in the house. One lady I talked to in a store said I would have to tell a little white lie but I told her I couldn't do that. But I decided I would try any way to get a certificate. I told them about selling my stove and didn't tell as the lady called, a little white lie, but told the truth and carried it to the Lord in prayer. Praise the Lord. I got my certificate today. About a week ago I sent for it. Let us be careful to always tell the truth for living will surely get folks into trouble with the Lord. I remember a time when I held my hand up to a question that was asked when I didn't feel just like I should, and I really suffered over it. It caused me to weep and call upon the Lord about it.

We can't be too careful about our words. Oh, how we need to watch and pray.

I have an affliction which I have been suffering with and the Lord has blessed me but it is bothering me some again. I ask the saints to please remember me in prayer.

I also want to mention the pictures I took of the ministers at Monark Springs, Missouri. There were several different ones who wanted some of them. I ordered the pictures and have them now but when I started to look for the addresses of the ones who wanted pictures I had lost the addresses. I had a notice put in the paper before this but didn't hear from but one person that gave me an order. If any one has told me they wanted some of the pictures and haven't received them, I would be glad if you would drop me a card with your address. Yours for the truth, —Leona Green

Route 5, Box 258, Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Oklahoma—Dear Bro. Pruitt and Workers in the Lord,—We are still well and happy in the Lord. He has been very good to us and we surely praise Him. The way is getting brighter all the time. Jesus is sweeter and more precious every day. We want to live near to Him so we can prove by our daily lives that we love Him and the good, old, Bible way. There are wonderful hidden treasures in the Bible. The Holy Spirit is our light and makes the way clear. Praise God! We are sending a little offering to be used in the Lord's work. May God bless you and keep you all and the servants and ministers of God to preach His Word with godly fear and boldness to warn the people of God of the awful sin and worldliness. It is going on in a terrible manner in this world and among such that call themselves children of God. Pray for us and we do for you.

—Bro. and Sr. Dave Haas

Arkansas—Dearly beloved saints, greetings,—I received your letter and read it with much interest. I surely enjoy the fellowship of the saints. "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love." It is so sweet to trust in Jesus and rely on His precious promises. He surely is a stronghold in the day of trouble and is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is able to heal any affliction. His goodness to me and my family is sufficient evidence of His love for His children. I have been given up three different times by the earthly doctors, once when I was afflicted with inflammatory rheumatism, once with pneumonia and last, but not least, with tuberculosis in the last stage. They gave me only six months to live. Twenty-five years have passed since then and I am still here. Our children, eight in number, were all small then, but the Lord saw fit in His mercy and wisdom to spare my life to help wife rear our children to manhood and womanhood. Now they are all married.

Wife is improving so please continue to remember us in your prayers. Your brother, F. W. Warner

Indiana—Brother Fred Pruitt,—Greetings in the dear Lord Jesus' name. I am so very glad to say that I do know that Jesus is a healer. God is so wonderfully answering the prayers of the dear saints who have been carrying me on the altar of their hearts to Jesus. I am glad to say since the last letter I wrote you that the dear Lord has wonderfully blessed me. Now I can stand and put most of my weight on my legs and can take my crutches and walk a few steps. I am yet saved—in the arms of Jesus. Bless His holy name. Please continue in prayer for me.

—Thomas J. Williams

DO WE BELIEVE THE WORD?

"I charge thee therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word: be instant in season, out of season; REPROVE, REBUKE, EXHORT, with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." 2 Tim. 4:1-4.

Oh, saints, WATCH, for when could this scripture ever be fulfilled any more than it is now? Many (and some who profess to be saints) are justifying themselves in their lusts.

Paul named some of the most outstanding sins in Gal. 5:19-21, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Dear people, let us not make any allowance for any of these things which the Word declares will bar us out of the kingdom of God. "They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." It grieves me to see those who claim to be of the family of God indulging in those things that the Word of God condemns.

The sin of adultery is being indulged in in an alarming way in our nation, and is not rebuked enough by the Christian people. Sometimes some who have a reputation of being godly are trapped by a "FREE LOVE" spirit. Jesus said, "If a man looks on a woman to lust after her, he has committed adultery with her already in his heart." Let us cry aloud, "QUIT IT, repent, and turn from it." "Shun every appearance of evil." Jesus said to Mary Magdalene, "Go and SIN no more." If Jesus considered her action "SIN," then it is SIN. Some do not seem to think it is sin to them. We are in the last days, you know, when many are seeking every pleasure and love self more than God. "Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." Let us see to it that we are one of the "Blessed."

"Be not deceived: God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." "The wages of sin is death."

—John B. Thorn

CONFIDENCE

I do not know, I cannot see,
What God's hand prepares for me,
Nor can my glance pierce through the haze,
Which covers all my future ways;
But yet I know that o'er it all
Rules He who notes the sparrow's fall. —Sel.

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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.

BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS

Sunday, June 3, 1945

May 28 to June 2.

Daily Readings and Meditations

- M. The Saviour promised Isa. 53:1-9.
- T. The coming one Zech. 14:8-11.
- W. The messenger of Christ Mal. 3:1-4.
- T. The Magnificat Luke 1:46-55.
- F. When Jesus came Luke 2:1-7.
- S. Children of God. Gal. 4:4-7.

Printed Portion.....Malachi 3:1-3, 16, 17; Luke 1:68, 72, 77, 78; Gal. 4:4, 5.

Mal. 3:1. Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

8. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' sope.

3. And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

Mal. 3:16. Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.

17. And they shall be mine saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels: and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

Luke 1:68. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed His people,

72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;

77. To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,

8. Through the tender mercy of our God: whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us.

Gal. 4:4. But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

5. To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Golden Text: I am the way, the truth, and the life. John 14:6.

Practical Truth: God made ample preparation for the coming of Christ.

Comments and Application

No record of Jewish history from the time of Nehemiah and Malachi to the Birth of Christ is given in the Bible excepting allusions to the period by the prophets. We learn from secular histories that it was a time of war and blood-shed with other nations, and confusion and strife among themselves. There were times when it seemed they would be blotted out as a nation for they often incurred the hatred of other powerful nations, but Satan could go no farther than God allowed. God had said that Christ would be of the seed of Abraham (the Jews), and that the scepter should not depart from Judah nor a law giver from between his feet until Shiloh (Christ) should come, and God protected the Jews in miraculous ways that the scriptures might be fulfilled.

Those four hundred years were also years of spiritual darkness among them, and God sent no powerful prophet to them during the time, but even in this dark time a few remembered the law of the Lord and looked forward to the coming of the promised Messiah.

In those days it was customary for a herald to go before and announce the coming of a king. This was the mission of John the Baptist. The people had long expected Christ to come, but even though the prophets had fully described the manner of his coming and the purpose of His coming, they were expecting Him to come in pomp and splendor and to conquer their oppressors and exalt them in a worldly sense. They were so blinded by these expectations that it was quite necessary for a forerunner to go before and break down some of the wilderness of sin from their hearts so they would be in a better condition to accept the King. John was sent by the Lord and received his message and authority from Him. The main theme of his message was: "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." There were many earthly kingdoms, but Christ was coming to set up a heavenly kingdom—a kingdom composed of subjects who would allow Jesus to rule them. The message then to those who desired to become subjects of Christ's kingdom, was, "Repent." It is the same today. In vain do you claim Christ as your king if you have not repented of and forsaken your sins and if you do not daily live in obedience to the commandments of your King.

The question is asked: "Who may abide the day of his coming? Christ's coming was like the rising of the blazing sun upon a dark world. His preaching showed up all the imperfections in the hearts of men, and those who had been religious leaders before he came were put to silence. His words of truth judged the wicked and unbelieving and purified the righteous. He was the sun of righteousness who arose with healing in his wings. Though the imperfect righteousness of man withered away before his eyes (which were a flame of fire); yet those who were willing to humble their hearts before Him and plead for mercy were healed. He imparted His holiness and life to them and made them bright with His glory. Then those who were healed—His church or children who are more precious than gold—He purified and purified with fiery trials so they would bear the image of the Father. He still purifies His own by trials.

What do you think was the topic of conversation among the people who feared the Lord (Mal. 3:16)? Would your name be in the Lord's book of remembrance?

Our lesson from Luke and Galatians tells why Christ came to this world. Notice, it says, "To give knowledge of salvation by the remission of sins." This is an individual experience. Do you have that knowledge?

THE MINISTRY OF JESUS

Sunday, June 10, 1945

Daily Readings and Meditations

June 4 to June 9.

- M. Jesus came to help Luke 4:16-21.
- T. Jesus came to heal Mark 8:22-26.
- W. Jesus came to teach Luke 6:20-26.
- T. Jesus came to rule Matt. 21:6-11.
- F. Jesus came to comfort John 14:25-31.
- S. Jesus came to die Luke 22:14-20.

Printed Portion Mark 1:14, 15; Luke 4:16-21; Mark 8:27a, 29, 31.

Mark 1:14. Now after that John was put in prison. Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

15. And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Luke 4:16. And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

17. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

18. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

19. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

20. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

21. And he began to say unto them, This day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears.

Mark 8:27a. And Jesus went out, and his disciples, into the towns of Caesarea Philippi:

29. And he saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Peter answereth and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ.

31. And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Golden Text: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. John 10:10.

Practical Truth: Jesus, the Messiah proclaimed the good news of salvation to the people of his age and of every succeeding age.

Comments and Application

The Prophets had ascribed the title "Prince of Peace" to Jesus, yet the Jewish people seemed to expect someone to rise up whom they could follow with swords and staves, thus subdue those that had the rule over them and establish a kingdom for themselves. The plan of God was (and still is) far different from the devisings of those carnally minded.

At the very beginning of Christ's ministry souls heard a truth that was never preached previous to the time of John the Baptist: "The kingdom of God is at hand." When something is "at hand" we have an easy access to it. What glorious tidings! It is a great bless-

ing to be a citizen of a country in this time-world where the rule is according to justice. As we go about doing the right from day to day we know that should we be molested the earthly powers that uphold right would enact in our defence. Jesus proceeded to teach of a spiritual kingdom. Souls had been bearing the yoke of the law. All willing and obedient ones found a way to so live that God in His mercy would undertake for them and show His power to deliver them from sin and evil. But now God was made manifest in the flesh, and as souls beheld the love, compassion, and righteous judgments of Jesus during His three years of public ministry, surely the kingdom of God was "at hand," and has been ever since because the Holy Spirit was sent and He is faithful to teach and warn in every way necessary.

Jesus also taught repentance. That was the requirement for a birth or a real beginning in the kingdom of God. Since human nature always has been the same, souls took offence then as now when admonished to repent. May all of God's ministers as well as every child of God live with a burden for souls that will lead on in helping souls to repent. Believing the gospel naturally follows repentance. We just know we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ as soon as we humble our hearts in true repentance.

Jesus was frequently found in Jewish synagogues, for there he had opportunity to meet souls who were listening to prophetic readings of Himself and yet they understood not. What a burden He must have had for the poor souls in darkness. No wonder the eyes of all in the synagogue were fastened on Him, for He stood there endued with all power to heal the brokenhearted, deliver the captives, restore sight to the blind, etc. He also had a knowledge of the suffering and cruel death awaiting Him as a recompense, nevertheless a love for humanity that afforded a firm purpose to be true. Does He not have the same burden for souls today? He speaks words to the sinner that are as glorious light breaking into the darkness and despair. May we as His children behold Him (with eyes of faith) endued with all power to deliver and do us good in every circumstance where the enemy purposes some evil.

"With the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." At times when we fail the Lord we suffer greatly and partly because we remember in days past we confessed Him before men. Jesus knew it would be Peter who would reply when He asked the question of the disciples, "Whom say ye that I am?" He also knew Peter would deny Him, and it was necessary that he would have such a confession to think upon then to remember how real Jesus was at the time he made the confession, which memory would cause a bitter weeping and seeking to get back to God. As we yield to the wooings of the Holy Spirit today, we too, have revelations that are not of flesh and blood and we boldly confess Christ, rest in Him, look to Him to have His way in every circumstance.

If we know that the knowledge of any certain thing can be a help to someone we love, we do not withhold. The love Jesus had for the disciples caused Him to speak to them of the suffering and death that awaited Him. It was not all dark, however. He also spoke of His resurrection. At the time the body of Christ rested in the tomb the enemy tried to have the disciples believe that he himself (Satan) had worked and accomplished a victory. The angel asked those who came to the empty tomb to remember how Jesus had spoken to them when He was yet in Galilee. What a comfort it must have been to

know things had only come to pass as Jesus had said. The enemy had only done what he was allowed to do for the glory of God. The same is true today. When in some great test or trial, let us turn to the Word of God. We are told about many things that shall be in our individual lives. Satan will be allowed to buffet in order that the power of God may be made manifest. The glorious victory promised will be sure to come in every case.

—Rosella Slifer

THE CHURCH BEGINS ITS WORK

Sunday, June 17, 1945

Daily Readings and Meditations

June 11 to 16

- M. Our commission Luke 24:44-48.
- T. Waiting for power Acts 1:12-14.
- W. The power comes Acts 2:1-4.
- T. The beautiful gate Acts 3:1-10.
- F. Fearless followers Acts 4:13-20.
- S. Faithful followers Acts 5:26-32.

Printed Portion Acts 5:29-35, 38-40, 42.

Acts 5:29. Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said. We ought to obey God rather than men.

30. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus; whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

31. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

32. And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

33. When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them.

34. Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space;

35. And said unto them, Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men.

38. And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought:

39. But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.

40. And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

42. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

Golden Text: Ye shall be witnesses unto me, both in Jerusalem, and all Judea and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8.

Practical Truth: As the early Christians witnessed for Christ the church grew.

Comments and Application

In the beginning of today's lesson Peter is speaking to the Sanhedrin on the morning after the angel released the apostles from prison where they had been put for preaching Jesus and performing miracles in his name.

God spoke to the church through the prophet Isaiah in reference to the time when Christ would come: "Arise, shine; for thy light is come." This was fulfilled when Christ came but the fulness of the divine light did not break upon the church until He was crucified, then arose

from the dead and ascended to heaven and sent the "promise of the Father" upon them, which was the Holy Spirit who filled them with glory and endued them with power to witness for the Lord. Then they were able to "arise and shine." After God had come into the hearts of men, they naturally reflected the glory which had risen in their hearts, and bore witness of the light which had pierced and transformed their souls. The devil tries to get God's children to yield to a so-called refined wisdom (man's wisdom) and refrain from speaking of the wonderful things which God does for them; but God's plan is that His church witness for Him by the "word of their testimony," even though the devil rages about it through his subjects. The devil tried very hard to silence the early church, but all of his attempts only made them bolder to witness for the Lord.

Civil government is ordained by God for the purpose of keeping law and order in the temporal and material, social and political world, but it is out of its God-given sphere when it begins to intrude in spiritual matters which God alone has a right to govern. God's people are duty bound to obey and submit to "the powers that be" in matters they are ordained to govern, but in matters of conscience and duties toward God, they must obey God rather than man. If God had wanted them to keep silence about spiritual matters in obedience to the commands of men. He would not have sent his angel to deliver them from prison after they had been placed there for disobeying man.

God is always faithful to the righteous and will not let them suffer more than they can bear. Notice how He made a way of escape for them through the influential Gamaliel. What do you think of Gamaliel's advice? Consider the severe testings that Christianity has had since then. Surely it has been as "gold tried in the fire," or as the bush which Moses saw—burned but not consumed.

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THE NEW CHURCH IN THE PAGAN WORLD

Sunday, June 24, 1945

Daily Readings and Meditations

June 18 to 23.

- M. Stephen helps the apostles Acts 6:1-8.
- T. The church grows larger Acts 11:19-26.
- W. Missionaries to the Gentiles Acts 13:1-3.
- T. The gospel in Europe Acts 16:9-15.
- F. Rules for leaders 1 Tim. 3:1-13.
- S. Suffering for the gospel 1 Pet. 4:12-19.

Printed Portion 1 Tim. 6:11-16; 1 Peter 4:12-16.

1 Tim. 6:11. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

12. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

13. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;

14. That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

15. Which in his times he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of Lords;

16. Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power everlast-

ing. Amen.

1 Peter 4:12. Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13. But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

14. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

15. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evil doer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

16. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

Golden Text: Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness. Matt. 6:33.

Practical Truth: The spirit of the true church has always been contrary to that of the sinful world.

Comments and Application

1 Tim. 6:11-16 is a lesson in practical Christian living. Read the first part of the chapter to learn what the man of God should flee from. It takes no effort for a man to desire and follow after earthly gain, for such temptations are ever before him; but it takes effort to resist them and follow after divine things. Righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness are not riches that the multitudes are coveting, but they are the true riches which the Father desires His children to seek after and hold. After one enters the conflict on the Lord's side he has a continual conflict. It takes strenuous and persevering effort to gain God's treasures, and there is never a time when it is safe for a Christian soldier to relapse into unwatchfulness and ease.

Last Sunday's lesson dealt with the church of God in its infancy. The title of this lesson suggests a study of the church after it had grown to the extent that it included many Gentiles. When Jerusalem was captured the Jews were scattered and could no longer be successful in organized efforts to persecute the Christians, but the devil who is the enemy of Christ and anyone who possesses His spirit continued the persecutions through the Pagans.

It is quite natural for people who love the sins of the world to persecute Christians who renounce such things by word and manner of living. People are always ready to defend their idols, whether they be images or not. In these days people make idols out of pleasures and fashion, and they become very angry when the Christians renounce these gods. If the Christians at present were not protected by the laws of the land many of them would be killed for renouncing some loved idols. But since they are protected by law, the idol worshippers persecute in other ways besides physical persecution, and it seems they are wise in doing so, for the present modes of persecution seem to be more effective in getting Christians to sacrifice to idols than the methods of the Pagans in the time of the early church. Christians are warned all through the New Testament that they will be persecuted. "Yea, and all who will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." Sin is popular and those who are bound by a love for it are "despisers of those that are good." Though the devil is the author of persecution, God permits it to come upon his people to try them. Peter calls them fiery trials. Fire consumes the consumable and purifies the unconsumable.