

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



Volume 16, No. 3

Published at

Guthrie, Oklahoma

25c Per Year

July, 1945

Look Straight Through to God

How well do I remember, when I was lost in sin,
That Jesus through His mercy reached down and took me in.
He saved me by His blood, placed me at His own right hand;
I heard His word so simple a child could understand.
True pastors led us safely to tables that were spread,
And then upon His blessed Word my soul was truly fed
With milk and honey, rich and sweet, and also heavenly bread;
The Word of God was meat and drink as Jesus true hath said.

Oh, yes, I'll ever live for Him, the One who died for me
And cleansed me by His precious blood He shed on Calvary.
He took away my load of sin, made my heart clean and pure,
And sent the Holy Spirit in to work a perfect cure.
For years I fed upon the Word—pastors for truth did stand.
Alas! A falling away has come, a famine's in the land!
Hungry souls are starving now, true ministers are few;
They realize a famine's on, but they don't know what to do.

If they could say, "Oh, Soul, be still, and listen to His voice;
Search again for the old paths;" and be quick to make their choice,
It would mean a coming out, and on His Word to stand,
To soar above the man-made rules we see on every hand.
It's not the crowds that we should seek nor worldly friendship crave,
But that the Lord would safely lead this side the cruel grave
That we might have our souls dressed up in linen pure and white
To be the bride of Christ. We must keep walking in the light!

When Jesus comes to catch us up, He'll not make a mistake
And take the wrong one to Himself, but just His bride He'll take.
Christ suffered much, He bled and died this good way to prepare;
So He Himself will catch us up. We'll meet Him in the air.
Among the brethren, people say, "Things have gone wrong we know."
They wander here and wander there, and don't know where to go.
Some folks will still uphold the right, while others will do wrong
And step on to the real broad way to join the great, large throng.

But listen, friends, just set your eyes upon the Word of God;
Gladly suffer shame and loss, as through this world you plod.
Die out to reputation no matter what others do,
And take Jesus for your guide—He'll safely lead you through.
Let's give no heed to what folks think, or what they have to say,
Jesus will help us ever walk the straight and narrow way.
We may suffer many a sneer ere we're placed 'neath the sod.
Let's turn from all the scoffs of man, and look straight through to God.

—Mrs. W. F. Reichelderfer

Diana of the Ephesians

Acts 19:24-41

The people of Ephesus were worshippers of the goddess, Diana. The desire of their hearts was to magnify this man-made goddess. When Paul came preaching that there be no gods which are made with hands, the whole city was filled with confusion. This city of idol worshippers had not been disturbed by the few disciples that lived there, for these disciples had not received the Holy Ghost. Jesus said, "Ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake."

There are many Diana (man-made) religions in the world today. The Jezebel church is the largest one. She speaks as a prophetess, but is an idol worshipper. She claims to be the mother of the Holy Bible; therefore she contends that her man-made rules are SUPERIOR to those written in the Word of God.

The Holy Ghost found a teachable man (Luther) and convinced him "that the just shall live by faith in the Son of God," and not by works of man. The Holy Spirit revealed this truth to many people; but they gave Luther the glory and called themselves LUTHERAN. When the Holy Spirit revealed more truth to other teachable men the people gave glory to man by naming their group directly or indirectly after the MAN God used to bring them the truth.

Each denomination has a manual, and to have fellowship with them it is necessary to be affiliated, identified, and known by its name. People work untiringly to build their organizations. "Unless the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it."

Satan tried to make the Ephesians believe that Diana came from heaven; and the Prince of this world is still a deceiver, for he has many people believing that this man-made program is of God. The bride is HOLY.

All regenerated and sanctified people have been made partakers of the Divine nature, and are the children of the living God. God sets the members in the Body (the Church) as it pleases Him. Jesus prayed that we all be kept in His Father's name.

The Holy Ghost is the Revealer of the truth, the Giver of the gifts, the Comforter. He will tell us what to say, where to go, and what to do if we consult Him. Sometimes Satan will come as an angel of light; so we are instructed to try the spirits to see if they be of God. The Holy Spirit will not teach us anything that is not written in the Word of God. The Holy Spirit and the Word always agree, and there are no non-essentials in the Word of God. The Holy Spirit abides in the heart and He is God in us, and people who have His holy presence have fellowship with every Spirit-filled Christian.

Demetrius gave three reasons for running Paul out of the city: his preaching would cause people to despise the temple, Diana's magnificence would be destroyed, and his occupation of making silver shrines and images of the goddess would cease and he would not be able to make money. Most Evangelists think they are duty bound to build up the organization that

pays them a fat salary regardless of the spiritual condition of its members.

Paul was very bold to tell the saints what to do to please God. Read the exhortation recorded in 2 Cor. 6:14-18, for we are nearing the close of this Holy Ghost Dispensation.

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? and what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

Thank God for the Word of God. His Word is as sure as His throne.

—Erma Reynolds

—o—o—o—

Ministers, True and False

"Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil" 1 Tim. 3:6.

The above text is in the instructions given by the apostle Paul for the New Testament ministry, or perhaps I should say, for the ordaining of ministers in the New Testament Church, which is the Church of God (Acts 20:28), as similar instructions were given Titus for ordaining of elders in Titus 1. The New Testament minister is first called by the Lord Jesus, as are all men, to leave the ways of sin and come unto Him. Matt. 11:28-30. When this is accepted and one is born again, new life begins; and as new-born babes, we desire the sincere milk of the Word that we may grow thereby; and as we present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service (Rom. 12:1), He gives the Holy Spirit of promise (Eph. 1:13) to be our teacher. John 14:15-26. He also gives us gifts for the work which He has for us to do and sets each one in the body as it pleases Him, and not us. See Eph. 4:7-12 and 1 Cor. 12:18. These gifts and callings are without repentance (Rom. 11:29), and a man's gift maketh room for him. Prov. 18:16. "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." 1 Pet. 4:10. "Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain." Prov. 25:14. Many good men have made the mistake of going out to preach and have been enveloped in confusion and trouble because they undertook to run without the call of God. Many others have undertaken to preach for other reasons, some for the money they could get, others for honor of men, others because they wanted to be the leader among men, and yet others for far less honorable purposes. Paul describes them as the enemies of the

cross of Christ in Phil. 3:18. There is a great power that upholds God's ministers, and the source of it is humility. "A man's pride shall bring him low; but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit." Prov. 29:23. It is not always the novice that is lifted up with pride and who falls into the condemnation of the devil, but the one who lets pride lead him away from God. Saul, the first anointed king of Israel, and Solomon, are two examples; and in the gospel day many have followed them.

There is a way to tell when a minister is being lifted up with pride. Those who are spiritual will see signs of it before others. There will be an attempt to lower the standard in order to appeal to the rich; or an attempt to look more like the world so as to gain favor with them and avoid persecution; or that the world might help them financially; or an attempt to bring people under bondage to give them the tenth part of their income; or an attempt to organize those who follow them in order to be like other people. Now when these things happen, and they have been happening in the last forty years as many of us know, those who are lifted up with pride are no more the servants of the Lord, even if they do say they are. Jesus, Peter, and Paul tell us just who they are. Jesus says they are false prophets. By their fruits ye shall know them. They must depart from Him because He does not know them. Matt. 7:13-23. Peter tells us they are false teachers who shall privily bring in damnable heresies, and bring upon themselves destruction, and many follow their pernicious ways by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 2 Pet. 2:1-3. Paul said, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ." Their end should be according to their works. 2 Cor. 11:13-18. But those who are faithful and humble have the promise of a crown of righteousness. 2 Tim. 4:6-8.

—Ray Key

—oo—

Sectarian Meat

Please read 1 Cor. 8:9-13. These scriptures seemingly refer to literal meat, but a spiritual application can be made. May the lesson that can be learned benefit those today, calling themselves the children of God.

Verse 10—"For if any man see thee [speaking of folks watching our walk with Christ] which hath knowledge [referring to those that understand by the Holy Spirit that there is one Spirit and one Body and one Church] sit at meat [or listen to the preaching] in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak [the weak are honest-hearted Christians who have not much light] be emboldened [or encouraged] to eat those things which are offered to idols [or listen to the teaching in these places of worship]."

Some weak ones might become interested in some of the honey-coated teaching and continue to go and listen and be poisoned by some deceptive doctrine.

Various things take the place of worship of God in spirit and truth. Many deceived souls give such things as are entertaining (as music) first place in their hearts while in some so-called 'church.' Then styles and fashions have first place in many hearts. With the preachers the praise of man sometimes takes first place in the heart and there is often much thought given to the salary.

Verse 11—"And through thy knowledge [you are supposed to know better as a child of God] shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died." Praise God for His wonderful love. Some weak brother may be watching your life closely, so walk that you will encourage no one to go somewhere where they will imbibe false doctrine and remain in sinful bondage and miss heaven.

In many so-called places of worship souls are taught that they must sin more or less every day, and that they will have opportunity to get saved after death. The Word of God declares that whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin.

Let us consider verse 12 of 1 Cor. 8—"But when ye sin so against the brethren and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ." May all of God's children be very careful how they live in order to set a right example before others.

Verse 13—"If meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend." This is speaking of literal meat but can be applied to spiritual meat, or the things that offend, the false teaching which is meat eaten in the idol's temple. Therefore as children of God, filled with the Holy Spirit, it is better for us not to go to listen to deceptive teaching and thus save our brother from destruction.

Rom. 14:13—"Let us not therefore judge one another any more; but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way."

God has a way for us to live and that is according to every word that proceedeth out of His mouth. When we repent of sin, confess it, and forsake it, we receive forgiveness. Later we understand that it is our reasonable service to yield all to the Lord. As we do so, we are filled with the Holy Spirit; we then fear Him who is able to cast both soul and body into hell and we fear to have anything to do with that which will lead to destruction.

Let us beware lest we are a stumbling block to some brother who has not much light. Let us fear lest we ourselves become entangled with something that is not according to God's Word. Jesus said, "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." May the Lord help us to stay out of Babylon. 1 Cor. 6:17—"Come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord." Jesus means that we come out and stay out. Praise His name.

—Margaret Brant

Have faith in God. Mark 11:22

"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.

(Entered as second-class matter June 30, 1930 at the Post Office at Guthrie, Oklahoma, under the act of March, 3, 1879.)
—SUBSCRIPTION PRICES—

Single copy, one year	\$.25
Single copy, five years	1.00
Five copies to any address, one year	1.00
Twelve copies to any address, one year	2.00

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

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

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

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

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

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

The articles published in May and June issues of the "Faith and Victory" by C. C. Carver of Shreveport, La., entitled "The Image to the Beast" and "An Open Letter to Saints," are now available in tract form at this office.

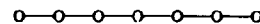
Editorials

Again your editors, workers, and all the saints at Guthrie send greetings to all the fellow-members in the body of Christ who are workers together with God to the exalting of the name of Christ our Lord among men in this devil-influenced world.

The name of Jesus Christ is above all names and is worthy of being exalted in the highest degree. He was born of the virgin Mary by an immaculate conception, and was not tainted with sin; as the scripture says, "whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world" and again, "The only begotten of the Father." He was tempted in every way as we are and yet did not sin, neither was guile found in His mouth. The people were astonished at His doctrine, for He taught them as one having authority. The officers that were sent to take Him witnessed that, "Never man spake like this man." Religious people who said they believed in God sought to slay Him. They slandered Him, and cast His name out as evil. He was a stone that the religious builders rejected. They became so enraged at Him because He was righteous and they were evil that they cried, "Crucify Him!" They spit upon Him, abused Him, and hung Him between thieves and robbers on the cross, as though He were a wicked sinner. His body was laid in a tomb hewn out of rock, but on the morning of the third day, God the Father resurrected Him to life again; and now He is alive forevermore. He tasted death for every man, and all who will believe in Him may be freed from sin and condemnation, and by continually yielding unto Him and thereby retaining His life in their souls, they will inherit a glorified body, for by His life they become "heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ." Rom. 8:17. Read Phil. 3:21 and 1 Cor. 15:51.

After Jesus' resurrection, He said, "All power is given unto me both in heaven and earth." He is now passed into heaven and is at the right hand of God, being our great High Priest; and He tells us to come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Heb. 4:16. Peter says in Acts 4:12, "There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

To them that believe in Him from the heart, He has become their Saviour, High Priest, and present King. They have a "Hope of Glory" in their soul that when He comes, He will change this body and fashion it like unto His glorious body, and take them unto Himself where they will ever be with their Lord and King. What a consoling and glorious thought to the faithful in Christ.



As usual, there will be no "Faith and Victory" paper printed and sent out for August. Most of the office workers will be in meetings during July and part of August, and the writer expects to attend several camp meetings; however, wife and Sister Rosella Slifer will be here at the Print Shop to attend to the needful work in answering letters and filling tract and book orders for the saints and others, and

the "silent preachers" will be kept going out to precious souls.

We will print the Sunday School lessons for August and send them to all who are on the roll list. Those who are not on the roll list and want the August Sunday School lessons may obtain them by writing to this office for the same.



It is amazing to note how few, who say they see the Church of God, the Body of Christ, really see it in its clearness and purity as given to us by Jesus Christ and the apostles, and revealed to us by the Holy Spirit in the soul.

Those who talk about and teach that the Bible Church of God is all mixed up and messed up with the sects and creeds of men are only portraying their ignorance and revealing to the truly enlightened the fog in their soul. It is true that many precious souls are in these dark places, but they do not constitute the Church as taught in the Bible, or that is manifested by those who stand clear from all sects and creeds, separate from the world, and translated into the Kingdom of His dear Son with their faith wholly in the Lord as Governor, Counsellor, and Ruler. Isa. 9:6, 7.

We are living in an age when many blind teachers are leading the blind, and the enemy loves to have it so. Those who follow after blind leaders will go into greater darkness as time goes on unless they look to God, individually, for grace to obey the Word of God and "Come out of her my people and be not partakers of her sins." When you affiliate yourself with the blind you become a partaker of their sins and will fall into the ditch with them.

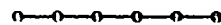
The fullness of the Gentiles is about complete, as most of the Gentiles who have turned down Jesus Christ in spirit have built gods of their own way in the way of images to the beast, and they worship other gods in place of the true God. When people just will not walk in the light that God is giving them, let it be ever so little, they will go in even deeper darkness. In this evening time some of the Jews are walking in the light they have, and a good many are believing on the Lord Jesus Christ as the Messiah; and as time closes up, there will be a remnant of the Jews and a remnant of the Gentiles which will make up all Israel (Rom. 2:29, 29), the bride, the Lamb's wife, which will be caught up with the resurrected righteous at His coming, and the wicked and unbelievers will be burned up together with the earth and all things therein.

Jesus says, "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matt. 24:44. There were ten Virgins, five were foolish and five were wise. The wise had oil (the Holy Spirit) in their earthen vessels, but the foolish had none. The wise entered in and the foolish were shut out.

Hear again what Jesus says in John 5:28, 29, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, un-

to the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation."

Brethren, let us keep yielding to His will and pleasure and thereby retain the Holy Spirit in our souls and be ready for that great Judgment Day which will come as a snare upon the whole world.



In Psalms 8:4 we read these words, "What is man that thou art mindful of him?"

In meditating upon this scripture, I thought, What is man anyway? Surely man has no right to make any boast before God. Job says, "Thou hast made me as the clay; and wilt thou bring me into dust again?" Job 10:9.

In the beginning God made man out of the clay of the earth, and though he was made in all parts as a man, yet had not God breathed life into his body, he would have remained a lump of dirt or clay. God has power to give us life in the body, and He has power to remove life from the body. When He chooses to remove life from this body we shall be only clay or dust as before He gave life. In what way should any of us boast? The only way that we could truthfully boast at all would be to make our boast in the Lord and give glory to His name.

Job says in the 15th verse in the same chapter, "If I be wicked, woe unto me: and if I be righteous, yet will I not lift up my head." If we become wicked in rebelling against our Creator, then a great woe is pronounced upon us. If we yield to Him in righteousness and have His favor upon us, we dare not lift up our heads and boast of any thing that we have done, for it is only right and just that we should yield to our Creator and give glory to His name. We have no right to complain against God or to think that our counsel or judgment may be as good as His. God does not live in a flesh and blood or clay house as we do, and is not looking through eyes of flesh as we do; but God is a spirit and His eyes are as a "flaming fire." He sees clearly and is never mistaken.

In the ninth chapter and the thirty-second verse of Job we read, "For He is not a man, as I am, that I should answer Him, and we should come together in judgment." It is folly in us to reason against the Word of God and think to change His mind and lower the standards of truth that God has given us in order to harmonize it with lustful, fleshly desires. God has His revealed Word before us and it is for us to look to God with humble hearts for power, grace, and strength to obey it. Men who think to change God and the meaning of His Word often reason themselves astray and all those that hear them. Man has absolutely no right to reply against God or to think of himself as somebody.

God says in His sacred Word, "Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?" Rom. 9:20.

Jesus says, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Card of Thanks

We thank each and every one for the offerings sent me for the building of our house. I have received about \$105.00 from "Faith and Victory" readers. We still lack at least \$200.00 to pay for labor. We have a permit to build and must start in sixty days or the permit is liable to cancellation. We ask every saint to pray the Lord to provide in this matter. Please pray earnestly for the Lord to give me the spiritual strength and help in my soul that I need, and to heal me. I would be so thankful if I could just be able to get on a rolling chair. I pray that the Lord will do some things for me; I want more faith and I want to be perfectly settled in the Lord to serve Him at any cost. If the Lord has any work for me to do for Him, pray that He will make it plain to me and make me perfectly resigned to His will and ways. I want the saints at every camp meeting to pray for me on every day of fasting and prayer. Mother and I fast too, on these days.

A brother needing more of God's grace,

—Bruce Jones

Dear Brethren in Christ,—To the saints near Seattle, Washington. The Lord led me to resign as pastor in Tillamook, Ore., Church of God. I would like to hear from saints here or near. Sis. Alta Mead, 5517 39 N.E., Seattle.

Obituary

Eli J. Chappell was born in Hardin County, Texas, March 28, 1861, and departed this life May 22, 1945, at the age of 84 years, one month, and 21 days, at his home five and one-half miles southeast of Guthrie where he resided for the past 31 years.

He accepted the faith of the Church of God, the one-ness of God's people, several years ago.

He was stricken with paralysis about 10 months ago. Since then he had been confined to a wheel chair most of the time, until God saw fit to take him from our midst to his heavenly home on high. He was very patient and kind, and tried to make everyone around him happy.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary Chappell, seven sons, two daughters, and twenty grandchildren, ten of whom are serving in the armed forces.

Funeral services were held in Guthrie, conducted by Fred Pruitt and assisted by others. Text: Phil. 2:10, 11.

TENT MEETING

A tent meeting will be held at Capulin, New Mexico, beginning the 19th of August, 1945. We are expecting able ministers to be present to preach the heart-searching truth of the Bible. All are invited to attend. Capulin is in Union County, the north-east corner county of New Mexico. The three Weir brothers and others there are extending to you a hearty welcome.

Notice sent in by Edwin Weir

Campmeeting Notices

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, sancti-

fying 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.

Practically no 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 is 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 joint ration books. If possible, bring one pound of sugar each; and 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 Brother 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

California State Campmeeting

The California State Campmeeting of the Church of God will be held in Pasadena, August 17 to the 26th inclusive. The camp ground is located at 323 Washington Ave., on the corner of Washington and Mentone Sts.

We are trusting and praying the Lord to bless in a wonderful way, and give us another good camp meeting, that His presence by the Holy Spirit will lead and direct for the salvation of the lost, sanctifying of the believer, and the unity of His people of the Church of God here in the earth.

Time is short for us to labor and work in the great harvest field of the Lord. What we do, must be done quickly.

A special effort will be made to care for all who come. Any one sending free-will offerings or wanting further information, write to Sister Willa Turner, 105 W. Bellevue Drive, Pasadena, California, or Brother Earle E. Forbes, 4250 Perlita Ave., Los Angeles, California.

Oklahoma State Campmeeting

The Oklahoma State Campmeeting at Guthrie, Oklahoma, will be held under the large tent just east of the saints' chapel at Sixth and West Warner Streets. Meals will be served at the dining hall in the same block. The meeting will begin on August third and will continue ten days. It will be run on the free-will offering plan as usual. Bring or send food supplies as the

Lord may direct. Each one coming should bring a pound of sugar if possible as that article may be scarce and hard to get. Send means and food supplies to Fred Pruitt, 920 West Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma.

The saints will do all they can to care for all who may come, but please bring pillows and other bedding and cots to supply sleeping needs if possible. The saints here extend a hearty welcome to all to come and be with us in this camp meeting. There will likely be fifteen or twenty ministers here to preach all the truths of the Bible under the power and authority of the Holy Ghost. Those ministers who are not in harmony with the saints at Guthrie and the general body of saints and with God will not be allowed any pulpit privileges.

All those who want to be saved, sanctified, or healed, should by all means attend this meeting. The saints are looking forward for God to pour out His Spirit upon the assembly of saints in this 1945 camp meeting. Come one and all. Please bring ration books.

Oregon Campmeeting

The campmeeting in Oregon this year will be held in Jefferson, one block south and one-half block east of the bus depot, on highway 99, August 2 to August 12 inclusive. God opened up the way and the saints have purchased a large building to use for a pavilion for camp meeting, and a chapel for all year worship of the saints. Consecrated brothers have donated work and we have built a dining hall. There are saints' homes near the ground where a number can be taken care of, some of the saints have tents, and we can rent all needed for \$3.00 each. Meals will be served in the dining hall, financed by the free-will offering plan. All that can, bring bed covers, straw ticks, and pillows. Straw will be furnished on the ground. All saints come praying and every one who can, come. God has ordained this work and we know He will bless. Owing to the conditions on materials, etc., we could not fix up the camp ground north of town, so we arranged for this house for all saints. God made it plain He wanted the Church to have this chapel. As far as we know, it is the only chapel in Oregon, that belongs to God and His true saints. We all thank God and His people for the free offerings that have been sent in. More than two-thirds of the expense to prepare it for the camp meeting has already been received. We know God will bless us all for our sacrifices made for Him. Everyone who possibly can, plan to come.

—Sam Wilson, Box 41, Jefferson, Oregon

Boley, Oklahoma Campmeeting

The Boley campmeeting of the Church of God will be held from August 17 to August 26 inclusive. Be sure to bring your straw ticks, pillows, and bed covers. Straw will be furnished. Please bring your sugar and other point ration books and any thing that you can to help in the meeting.

We need your prayers very much for we want this to be a glorious meeting with God.

Yours for the gospel of our blessed Saviour,

—M. J. Phillips, Box 294, Boley, Oklahoma

Northern Missouri Campmeeting

The Northern Missouri campmeeting near Langdon, Mo., will begin Sept. 14 and end Sept. 23. We are trusting the Lord for singers and ministers to come and help us.

All who come by train, come to Langdon, Mo. by the Burlington Route; and those who come by bus, come to Rockport, Mo. For further information write to Egbert Allen, Langdon, Missouri.

Alabama Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Church of God saints starting August 10, 1945, to continue through August 19, Lord willing, four miles north of Gordo, Alabama.

All who feel led of the Lord are invited to come. Come prepared to care for yourselves as much as possible, as we are few in number; but we mean to obey God and do what He says at all times.

For information write to Alx Mullin, Route 4, Box 73, Gordo, Alabama, or George Hood, Route 2, Box 40, Reform, Alabama.

Campmeeting in Eastern Texas

The new campmeeting in the Maple community, fifteen miles south of Clarksville, Texas and fifteen miles east of Bogota, Texas and four miles south-east of Cuthand, Texas, will be held from August 10th to 19th. This is a needy field. Write to Sister Nellie Lovell, R. 2, Clarksville, Texas for information.

Midway, Louisiana Campmeeting

Write to Bro. J. E. Mitchell or to Sister Cassie Price R. 1, Trout, La., for information concerning the new campmeeting which is to be held at Midway, La., which is midway between Jena and Goodpine, La. It will convene from August 24 to Sept. 2.

—oo—

CORRESPONDENCE

Louisiana—Dear Saints,—Greetings of love in Jesus' name. Tonight finds me saved and kept by power divine. I am thankful that I ever learned to trust in Jesus. I find Him a present help in every time of trouble. He truly has been good to me. Most of the saints remember that I sent in a request for fasting and prayer in February. I was truly suffering in body. I had asthma so badly it did not seem as if I could live. I was benefited that day, but the Lord did not see fit to heal me. A few Sundays after that, Brother Carver came by my home. He anointed and prayed for me, and the Lord touched my body; however in a short time I took sick again. The saints came and prayed for me at different times. The affliction became so severe that we decided we needed to move from our home to another place. We moved to Midway, Louisiana, near some dear saints, but I continued to suffer even worse. They kept holding on to God for me. Brother Carver and family came and we had service here. They laid hands on me and I was relieved at once and began to amend from that time. I could scarcely eat any thing, for it would smother me; but I began to eat by faith, asking God to take care of the results. I can truly say I am as free from asthma now as I have ever been. I feel better than I have in a long time. I feel the effects just a little at times. I truly am thankful for all He means to me. I wish to thank all the dear saints for their prayers.

There is nothing in the pleasures of this life for me, only to try to live for my Lord. I have no treasures in this world, they are all far above this world of sin and trouble. As time seems to be drawing so near the closing, people go on unheeding the Word of God, and they do not seem to think or consider where they are going to live in eternity. We as the children of God need to live a close life so others might see Jesus shining through. If there ever was a time when we needed to watch and pray, surely it is now. There is so much trouble and suffering in the land today. The saints are suffering much in different ways. We need to pray for

each other that we shall be drawn closer together in the love of Jesus, that we shall be able to stand.

I have unsaved loved ones I would like to have remembered and I have other afflictions in my body that bother me at times. Please pray for me that I shall live a close life, and that I shall always put Jesus first in my life in every thing I do and say. I want to be able to resist this affliction.

Christian love,

—Millie Esters

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

Louisiana—Dear saints of God,—For some time I have felt the leadings of the Lord to write my testimony, but Satan hindered.

I must have had something like a sun stroke about a week ago. I had severe pain in my head, such as I have never had before. Husband prayed for me, but I got no better. It seemed as though I would lose my mind and I could not exercise faith. About midnight, I promised the dear Lord to write a testimony if He would ease my head. He did, but that was eight days ago. Now I am being chastised for my neglect. I have an infected thumb. It is so painful I can hardly write or do anything else. I do thank the Lord for it all, for we need to learn to be diligent to do what the Lord wants us to do.

Dear ones, please take time to do God's will and do not be neglectful as I have been.

Myrtle Savoie

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

California—Dear Brother Pruitt,—We greet you and the workers in the name of our God. We pray continually for all at the Lord's print shop.

We are still at the battle front with victory. The Lord keeps me busy helping those who are isolated.

Many dear souls have only a head knowledge of the truth of God and they are easily confused. Such are likely to think there is confusion in the church of God, but not so. James 3:16, "For where envy and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work." God pity poor, confused souls.

Rom. 5:1, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Some say they cannot stand this or that, but the Bible teaches we have access to standing grace. Those who refuse to go through with the Lord with the peace of God ruling in their hearts make plain to all that they have lost the grace that enables men and women to stand for God, or they have never entered into that grace. We need to glory in all our tribulation, but if we fail of the grace of God, we cannot do so. I am glad for the way of the cross.

There is a way that makes us brothers,

None so this way alone;

All that we put in lives of others,

Comes back into our own.

—Brother L. E. Davy

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

California—Dear saints of God,—Greetings in Jesus' name. I feel as if I should write to all of the wonderful workings of the Lord. Many worldly folks say the Lord does not do great things in answer to prayer any more, such as we read of in the Word of God; but we, the people of God, know that the Lord has not changed at all. People are bold in sin, which brings about a change of conditions, but Jesus is always the same.

My son and I started to drive 180 miles with a truck load of household goods. We had only driven about 10 miles when we noticed a queer noise, apparently about

the driving gears. We stopped to try to locate the trouble, but could find nothing that was causing it. The farther we drove the worse it became. It seemed as though we would surely have to stop at a garage. We thought of the delay and expense and wondered if we could get it fixed. We were tested for a while, for it seemed the more earnestly we prayed, the worse the trouble became. Finally, after stopping many times and not being able to do anything, the Lord worked for us and caused everything to work all right. We could hear no unusual noise after that and we finished our trip safely, which was over a mountain road a part of the way.

Praise the Lord, in whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. James 1:17. I thank Him for His dealings with me. While poor souls in sin have no faith in God, we know that Jesus saves, sanctifies, and heals, and does wonderful things for us.

Yours in the one true way,

—N. F. Severs

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

Nebraska—Dear saints of God,—We wish to send greetings of love to all, through the "Faith and Victory" paper. May God bless you and keep you in the hollow of His hand. The end of time is drawing near.

The Lord has been so good to us and blessed us in many ways. We trust Him for all things and He fills us with His glory and keeps us day by day. We feel as if we should tell you about His goodness to us. The Lord knew that we were to go through a trial this spring so He sent our dear Brother Allen from Anthony, Kansas, to be with us. While he was with us, Ella Mae had an attack of pneumonia. We held on to the Lord until He filled the room with His glory, and my dear companion was instantly healed. Little David was healed, too, during Brother Allen's stay with us. We thank the dear Lord for sending our dear brother to us in the time of need. Praise His name, He always does that which is best for His little ones.

Dear ones, we are few in number here but we meet together in His name and God blesses us with His presence. Pray for the work here. We are praying that the Lord send some of His ministers to be with us in a meeting this summer. We believe the time is ripe for a meeting here.

May God keep all of you diligent in His service.

Your brother and sister in Him, A. P. & E. M. Huskey

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

Ohio—Dear Brother and Sister in Christ,—I have been thinking that for some time I would send in my testimony. I have enjoyed the testimonies in the "Faith and Victory" paper very much. I enjoy all the paper, but most of all I enjoy full salvation. I'm glad we can know we are freely saved and sanctified. I am glad there came a time in my life that I was willing to surrender my all to Him. A few weeks back I would compromise with the devil, but thank the Lord, I am through compromising and more determined to fight Satan today than I was yesterday.

I have much to thank the Lord for. Four weeks ago my husband was reclaimed, and in two weeks he was sanctified. We and family of five small girls, have good health and happiness. We don't have much of this world's goods, but God supplies our daily needs. I would rather live in want in this world and know my name is written in the Lamb's book of life, than to have all the world's wealth and miss heaven in the end.

Remember me in your prayers that I may fight sin and win more souls for Christ.

Your sister in Christ,

—Mrs. Thomas Park

Young People's Section

Not Hard Enough

So long as men can chew and puff
Their nicotine and poison stuff,
Then times are not yet hard enough.
One might concede
Hard times may be a test or trial
To make us put our best on file,
And live a life of self-denial
For other's needs.

So long as some abuse the times,
And yet commit the foolish crime
Of burning up their nicks and dimes,
Since naught prevents,
"Hard times" to them is but a school
To help them bathe in wisdom's pool,
And learn to use the golden rule
Of common sense.

Bad habits are but binding sin,
Like webs they snare the souls of men;
And this is true of thousands when
They chew and puff.
Hard times may cause many to quit
With Godly sorrow and regret.
Since this is true, then times are yet
Not hard enough.

—G. W. McMillan

—oOo—

Bible Advice to the Young

I feel impressed of the Lord to write a message, which I believe will be of great importance in the lives of young people. May God help people to read this thoughtfully and prayerfully. I quote from the American standard version.

The extent of divorces in the United States is a disgrace to a so-called Christian nation, and could be lessened to some degree if all professed Christians would follow these scriptures given.

2 Cor. 6:14, "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? or what communion hath light with darkness?" Matt. 19:6, "They are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Read verses 7-9. In the light of these scriptures, young people should be very careful about the keeping of regular company with unsaved people, for the ones that they keep company with are usually the ones they marry. I have seen such sad results with those who marry unsaved people, that I want to warn them before they get into such a condition. It very seldom works out for happiness and if they are reasonably happy, their purposes are not the same so they are more or less handicapped in their Christian life,

To those who are keeping company with, and are thinking of marrying an unsaved person, I say with Jesus in Matt. 5:29, "If thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell." The loss of an eye might be quite comparable to turning away and refusing one with whom one is really in love, but far better do that than to tie up and then suffer a life time as I have seen some do, not to mention the fact, which is really more important, as I have already shown from the scriptures, that it is disobeying God's Word which you cannot do and still retain your integrity with God. You may be tempted to think, "If I can't be happy, I can get a divorce." 1 Cor. 7:39, "The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; **only in the Lord;**" which is another scripture against marrying the unsaved. Matt. 5:32, "But I say unto you, that whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery." It unquestionably would be the same with a wife putting away her husband. May God bless the young and help them to live up to the Word of God, and help those who are not saved to get saved before taking the important step of marriage.

—Mrs. W. J. Baldwin

—oOo—

California—Dear Brother Pruitt,—Greetings in the name of Jesus to all the young saints scattered abroad. I am glad to report victory over sin and the devil. Though the powers of the devil may rage and roar about me, my trust is in the Lord. I am thankful that the Lord has seen fit to keep me from the Army. Being only 23 years old and single, I truly give Him the praise. It means so much to trust in the Lord and walk godly in this present world. My heart goes out to poor lost men and women seeking for that which satisfies not.

May the Lord's richest blessings be yours is my prayer.

Your brother in Christ, Edward V. Davenport

—oOo—

Comments on April Supplement

Much correspondence was received in regard to the April supplement entitled, "A Challenge to the Church." Unfavorable comment was surprisingly lacking. The following comments speak for themselves and indicate the feeling and reaction in general of those who wrote. Names are withheld since permission of their use were not secured.

National Service Board for Religious Objectors, Washington, D. C.—In April the check for \$231.21 was received, and the money sent to the Mennonite Central Committee, which is the agency that immediately administers units in which Clifford Wilson, O. Clark Porter, Jr., and Hyrum Ray are located. We also wish to thank

you for the reprints from your monthly publication, entitled "A Challenge to the Church." One copy was sent to Dr. Dakin and the other circulated among the staff at this office and was found interesting and enlightening. We are glad to see this sort of thing published in your paper.

Camp Crowder, Mo.—I am a soldier in the U. S. Army. All that you said in your clipping is true.

Calif.—I appreciate the message of your article and we need to remember it. May God help us to do what we ought to do. Many have not thought of this in that way. May we stand by the old paths and never depart from them.

Minneapolis, Minn.—I want you to know I have a hearty amen to every word of your article. The door has been locked after the horse has been stolen; this article should have been published not less than four years ago. Brother Lawrence, speaking for myself, I belong to the Lord both soul and body. When I gave myself to Him, my allegiance was sworn to Him and I have no right to sign away myself to another. When I took my stand against war over twenty-five years ago, they shamefully mistreated me; but I must be true to the Lord, even if it takes my head off. —Geo. Stephenson

Mich.—We read and re-read your article and rejoiced and praised God for the wonderful encouragement it was to us.

Ore., C. P. S. Camp 21—I surely agree with your statements with regard to consenting or aiding in war in any way whatsoever. I am sure that God won't sanction an individual or a church with any other stand. The "killer's uniform" and all that goes with it (even in the Medical Corps) certainly has no place with the real Christian. I sincerely hope and pray that the Church will stand behind you wholeheartedly.

Ind.—Glad to say that I agree with you heartily on what you say regarding the duty of a Christian toward service in the army, etc. Thank God for giving you grace, and spiritual courage to lift up the Bible standard on this very important subject that concerns quite a few real, honest, God-fearing Christians who don't know just what to do, and can get but little or no true advice from their leaders. As for myself, ever since the Lord saved me forty-four years ago, I have had no desire to fight or quarrel with any man, men or nation, but have done my best to live at peace with all men and follow holiness. —A minister

Mich.—We enjoyed your article so much. So many (so-called) Christians read over and over the fifth, sixth, and seventh chapters of Matthew, and ministers read them aloud in the meeting house yet they don't seem to understand or take heed.

La.—I, for one, am with you one hundred percent because the writing is based according to God's Book. —A minister

Ore.—Brother Lawrence, I have read your supplement three times, and I thank God for it, and some one who is willing to face the powers that may arise against it. Let us pray much and stand for Jesus and His gospel. —A minister.

La.—I really enjoyed reading the article and heartily endorse it because it is Bible.

Wisc.—Your supplement was timely and Biblical. I thank God for those who set forth Christ's teaching. Now with this peace-time conscription coming up, I wondered what I should teach my fourteen-year-old son.

Mich.—I read your supplement and thought you gave it the right kind of heading. Our honor roll is not the young men in U. S. uniforms like you see nowadays in

the Church of God (so-called) meeting houses, but it is all the men and women who are born again and as lively stones are fighting the good fight of faith—messengers of peace, love, and mercy.

Colo.—Our home is loaded up with religious papers, but the "Faith and Victory" is the only one denouncing the crime of men killing each other. Most of the religious papers are teaching that war is a necessary evil, and the more we help in it the sooner it will be over. Your article is the best I have ever seen. I wish it was in tract form.

Calif.—I do heartily endorse your supplement and believe the Lord is well pleased with it. It also gave me an answer to something I did not clearly understand.

Iowa—I have read your supplement a couple of times already, and I want you to know I certainly do appreciate every bit of it. Not only because I am a C. O. do I say it, but because I believe in it with all my soul and am sure the entire article is according to the Word of God. Keep courage in your heart and let the truth roll. People need to know the truth even if the majority are refusing to accept it.

Conn., C. P. S. Unit—Your supplement is in my opinion an excellent dissertation on what the Church's attitude toward carnal warfare should be. It expresses my own belief on what the Word of God teaches in regard to this subject. My wife and I receive the paper every month and enjoy it immensely.

Calif.—I have read your article. In the first place I want you to know that I very much appreciate the courage you have shown by the grace of God in coming out in the open with a frank discussion of this topic in such a time. It may be that others have had the same convictions but for various reasons and for lack of the facts such as you produced in your treatise on the subject have not come as frank, bold, and open as you have in your article. Some may have been a little short in courage, but it may be that your frank discussion of the subject may encourage and embolden others to rally to open and bold support of this view. We trust God to give you a sufficiency of grace for any emergency.

This is certainly a vital question which faces the Church, and it will be a continuing problem. We cannot play the ostrich, stick our heads in the sand, and say "everything will come out all right." Saints and ministers, what are you going to teach your children and young people on this subject? It is only by walking (moving) in the light that we can retain fellowship with God and His people.

Anyone desiring to see the "Challenge to the Church" in tract form, may send your free-will offering to this office.

Yours for the whole truth,

L. D. Pruitt

—oOo—

Can God See His Image in your Soul?

The word says that God is searching for souls whose hearts are perfect toward Him. We read, "For thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains

of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel. I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord God. I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment." Ezek. 34:11-16.

God is searching for those who have a desire to be right with their Lord; those who will be glad to sit at His blessed feet and be willing in their hearts to love and kiss His wounded hands and feet, that were wounded and torn and bled that we might become what we should be in order to be like our heavenly PRINCE. The blood that flowed from those wounds was the price of our REDEMPTION. Nothing short of that was able to restore our soul to RIGHTEOUSNESS. Then, why will folks desire to be like the world, the flesh, and the devil, when such a price has been paid for their REDEMPTION, seeing that God has done all that can be done for our REDEMPTION? Why will souls sell out for the empty, vain things of this life? It is so easy to give up Christ, for a little praise of this vain world.

Many have done as Esau, who, because he was hungry, sold all his right to his inheritance as the first-born, even for a mess of pottage—just something that satisfied his hunger for the moment, caring nothing about his soul. Many seem to say, "Just so I have a lively time while I live here, that is all that I care about." So they continue to go to all places of amusement, no matter what they see, or hear, or do. Just so that while they live, and breathe they are amused and entertained, seems to be all that they care about.

Their life and time slips away; their years pass away like a weaver's shuttle with head and heart filled too full of the husks of this world to ever stop and think about the real things of God. They seem never to think that their body should be God's temple, and that bodies are gifts from God that souls may have a place to live, in which God gives all a chance to come back to Father's house. What do they care about their heavenly Father, the One who gave them life and breath, the One who longs to gather them unto Himself as a hen gathers her chicks under her wing and are safe? They stand off and refuse to come unto their Creator who longs to restore them to righteousness and true holiness. Our health, our body, our all, everything good that we have to enjoy is a gift from God. Our sight, our hearing, everything we eat or drink, to keep our bodies alive are from the Father of lights, but man loves evil rather than good. Many would rather have "fire-water" (as the Indian called whisky); they would rather have dancing and gambling, and worldly pleasures, than to humble their hearts before God, and plead for mercy.

Unless one does see Jesus and forsake all evil, he can never taste of the Lord's great supper; for we must taste and see for ourselves that the Lord is good. We find Christ spiritually, through repentance and godly sorrow. Would you enjoy the pleasures of life for a season, or would you rather enjoy life ETERNAL, and dwell with Christ forever and forever?

Which do you choose: Christ or Barabbas; heaven or hell; God or Satan? You make your choice while you are here in this life. So, I plead with you, come to Christ while you may, and be ready for ETERNITY, for there is no end to eternity, and the soul of man exists for ever either with God or with Satan.

Some day every soul must have to stand before Christ, and He will judge every one by the deeds of our bodies while we lived here upon earth. Come and give your heart to Him.

—I. E. Kriebel

————— oOo —————

REASONS AND EXCUSES

"No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Luke 9:62.

The transfiguration scene of our Lord had shortly occurred when a certain man, presumably one who claimed to be a disciple, said to Jesus that he would follow Him whithersoever He went. This professing disciple is very typical of multitudes of today who join church or make a profession of salvation, and who are likened to those mentioned by our Lord in Matthew 13:20-22.

Jesus, the Saviour, is a faithful friend who will go with you always, so long as you keep your hands firmly clasped to the plough handles with a God-given, determined will-power to not stop a moment to look back to consider compromise with evil; but keep steady going, which insures perfect victory over this sinful world at all costs, even at the price of one's natural life.

Some converts or Christian pilgrims put their hands to the plough handles and go well for a while, but when gospel light on some or many things they must sacrifice or give up to grow into the stature and fullness of Christ is preached, they begin to make excuses and look back. This message of gospel truth is directed to such people.

Says one, "I never thought or knew that the use of tobacco in any form was wrong, but I am told that smoking, dipping snuff, and chewing tobacco are dirty, filthy habits that place the user in bondage to Satan, which the Word of God condemns." If that one should love such more than he does Christ, then that becomes his excuse for looking back and rejecting Christ. See 2 Cor. 7:1. The use of tobacco in any form is not food and cannot be substituted for such. Its use only satisfies a slaving, ungodly habit. Only genuine heart-felt repentance unto full salvation can set the user free from its filthy use and

make the mouth and breath pure and clean so God may be glorified.

Many are they who declare, "If I have to give up wearing jewelry, fine, costly, fashionable, superfluous apparel, which makes me socially popular, then I stop." See 1 Peter 3:3 and 1 Timothy 2:9.

There is no question about jesting, joking, or foolish talking working harm to a saved person; for such indulgence will surely help Satan to overcome anyone who tries it out. Titus 2:8. Yet many excuse themselves for such indulgences by saying, "I see no harm in it."

There is no sensible reason for anyone to block his way to eternal life. Many excuse themselves for joining a certain church or religious organization that does not teach holiness of heart and life in its fullness, but that gives liberty of non-essentials and even indulgences to a sin-you-must, deluded, deceived people, by saying, "I can do as I like." Many are the excuses Satan can find to discourage pilgrims from ploughing on into richer fields. All of those Jesus speaks of in the 9th chapter of Luke had different excuses for first consideration. There is no sensible or just reason for anyone to have any excuse for consenting to loosen their firm grip on the plough handles and look back to the beggarly elements of this sinful world. Most stupid and ungrateful are they who say (inspired of Satan), "Wait a little while till I feel more like repenting and to get saved, even at the 11th hour." How little concern for the unspeakable treasures of salvation, and what little regard you have for God's great, supreme sacrifice of His beloved Son to save you from the wrath to come. This is compared to one who owes you a sum of money and says, "Wait until just before I die and I will settle up the debt, though it should be 50 years or more."

Your excuses have caused you to forfeit and miss much peace, joy, and happiness of a loyal, faithful Christian life.

The Lord is most worthy of all our time and talents and more too. A life spent in His service is more worthwhile than one spent in sin, even to our own personal welfare. We could never honor, serve, and praise God enough for the priceless gift of salvation by Christ Jesus should we remain here a thousand years or longer in His service.

Set your heart or love on those superfluous, slaving elements of worldliness for the sake of vain, foolish, personal popularity and modern fashion whims; and then search your heart and see if you are satisfied. Worldly elements in your heart dishonor God and make your life worthless for Christ and the salvation of mankind. Your heart and life will be found formal, cold, and void of heart-felt prayer, testimony, and praise or love for the truth of God's holy Word that makes full salvation so great and appealing.

Satan cannot compel any to stop and look back against their will. Psalms 125:3. Christian growth stops at once when one turns to look back.

—John H. Griffith

Missouri—To the Children of God, Greetings. We feel impressed to send in our testimony. The Lord has done so much for our family.

Our little boy fell and broke his arm about six weeks ago. We took him to the doctor and had a plaster cast put on it. In about four weeks the doctor took it off. He had only had it off a few days when he fell and broke it again. We felt that if we would leave it all in the hands of the Lord this time he would be completely healed. We wrote a letter to the saints at Guthrie requesting prayer for our little boy. About the time the letter reached the saints there, we noticed a big difference in his arm. Two weeks have passed since we requested prayer and no one could tell which arm has been broken by watching him play or use his arm in any way.

We truly thank the Lord for healing his arm.

We desire your prayers. —Sis & Bro. Lawrence Allen

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

Oklahoma—Dear Brother Pruitt,—Greetings to you and family, and to all the Lord's dear print-shop family. In much holy love I write you.

I am yet saved and all on the altar for my precious Saviour with a decision in my heart to stand until Jesus comes, and there will be no giving up or going back; no, never. I can say in the name of our dear Saviour, we are on the winning side. The Lord is working and we have the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We were truly glad to have dear Bro. Willie Murphey with us last Sunday. It was quite a joyful surprise. I know the Lord sent him to cheer us and to help us. We really enjoyed the sweet message. We know it was from the Lord. We give Him all the thanks and praise and glory. Amen!

Hoping this may find you enjoying the rich blessings of our dear heavenly Father. Your brother in Christ,

—M. J. Phillips

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

Louisiana—Dear Sister Pruitt and workers,—Greetings of love in Jesus' name. I have thought much of my stay in your home last winter—how heavenly it was. I appreciate homes like yours. It was wonderful to see how happy the girls were about the work the Lord gave them to do. Your work there and the spirit of each one proves there are heavenly places in Christ Jesus. But, not so in the world. People of the world are carried away with the cares of this life—no time for heavenly things. If the saints do not watch, the cares of this life will drag them down. I see so many too busy to do the little things around them. There are many things we could do that would help others and prove our love for the Lord. I will mention just one instance of one I have seen. The Lord has blessed some of His children with cars and many times they could pass by some one's home that has no car and take them places. The one without a way would be glad to even share expense, but people forget and some child of God has to walk or stay home. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." There are times we could take Jesus some place or visit Him by doing for His little ones. We might not be able to do a certain thing perhaps but could give the means to one that could do it. There is much that could be said. Saints, let us watch that—watch for our opportunities to do what we can.

Yesterday, the third Sunday, Sister Lottie Joiner and I went to Magnolia, Mississippi, and had service with the saints there. We had a nice meeting and the saints were encouraged. Brother C. Lea and family were

there. The second Sunday night we were in Kentwood, Louisiana, and enjoyed being with the saints there. The faithful few there are an encouragement to us.

God bless His children everywhere and help each to fill their place in the body of Christ. There is much to hinder if we will let it, but we can fight the good fight of faith. "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

Pray for me. Your sister in Christ,

Catherine Simpson

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

BIBLE STUDY

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

GOD'S JOY IN CREATION

Sunday, July 1, 1945

Daily Readings and Meditations

June 25 to 30.

- M. God's joy in creation Gen. 1:1-5.
- T. The Creator of all things Acts 17:24-28.
- W. Thanksgiving to the Creator 1'sa. 100:1-5.
- T. The majesty of the Creator 1'sa. 93:1-5.
- F. God's thought of man 1'sa. 8:1-9.
- S. Our faith in the Creator Heb. 11:1-3.

Printed PortionGenesis 1:1-5, 10-12, 16-18, 26, 27, 31.

Gen. 1:1. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

2. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

3. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

4. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

5. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

10. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.

11. And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

12. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind; and God saw that it was good.

16. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; he made the stars also.

17. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth.

18. And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

26. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

31. And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Golden Text: God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. Gen. 1:31.

Practical Truth: God created all things for his own satisfaction and for the joy that would come to his intelligent creatures.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Man naturally desires an account of the world in which he lives. Unbelieving man troubles his brain and wastes valuable time trying to solve the mystery of the origin of the material realm, leaving God out of it; but the believer accepts God and is happy in the knowledge that the mystery of creation is open to him. Oh, the folly of atheism! Atheists can be compared to a man who desires very much to enter an iron door which is locked; but, lest his fellow creatures think him simple-minded if he should use the key, he throws it down and tramples it underfoot while he spends a life time trying in vain to figure out a way to open it. The Bible is the only key to the knowledge of what we are, where we are, and why we are here. Man tramples the key under foot because he thinks one who uses it appears to be simple-minded; but in reality he appears much more simple-minded for not using it.

No greater faith-inspiring message could be preached or written than the account of the creation of the universe. God made the world out of nothing and hung it upon nothing but His word. People are so prone to put their trust in things of an earthly nature and to doubt God's word. Remember, these things were "nothing" until God formed them by His word. Is it not safer to trust His word which formed them than to trust the things which were formed by His word? If you are unwilling to take God at His word and trust in His promise—whether it be for food, shelter, clothing, finances, healing, or anything needful—and worry and fret because you see "nothing" ahead, you are no better in faith than the atheist. He does not believe that God could make the world out of "nothing" but His word, and you do not believe God can help you with "nothing" but his word.

The earth is now resplendent with things that are useful, but we can learn a lesson from the fact that it was once "without form and void" until the Spirit of the Lord moved upon it. If the Spirit of the Lord has never moved upon your soul, then it is without form and void (desolate) and darkness enshrouds it. It is no more capable of producing anything useful than the world was at the time of creation. As the Spirit of the Lord removed darkness from the earth and gave it life and beauty, so also does He for the soul. The 35th chapter of Isaiah, in symbolical language, describes the wonderful change that the Spirit of God works in a soul.

If your time is occupied with the vain pursuits of this world, if you seek pleasures which gratifies the flesh in-

stead of the joy of being filled with God, if you are concerned about the comforts of a home here more than your eternal home, or if your heart is anchored to transient things in any way, your soul has either never heard God say, "Let there be light," or if it has heard those blessed words, you, in some way, have failed to love and walk in the light and darkness has come upon you.

MAN'S FAILURES AND GOD'S PROMISES

Sunday, July 8, 1945

Daily Readings and Meditations

July 2 to 7.

- M. Man's failure to obey God Gen. 3:1-6.
- T. Disobedience brings fear Gen. 3:8-13.
- W. God's promise to Noah Gen. 6:17-22.
- F. God's promise of forgiveness 1 John 1:5-9.
- F. God's promise of the seasons Gen. 8:20-22.
- S. God's promise of a Saviour Micah 5:2-4.

Printed PortionGenesis 6:5-7; 8:1, 4, 18, 20-22.

Gen. 6:5. And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

7. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

Gen. 8:1. And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters assuaged;

4. And the ark rested in the seventh month, in the seven-and-twentieth day of the month, upon the mountain of Ararat.

18. And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him:

Gen. 8:20. And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

21. And the Lord smelled a sweet savor; and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of Man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

22. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

Golden Text: While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. Gen. 8:22.

Practical Truth: In spite of Man's grievous failures, God's promises are gracious and sufficient to meet man's needs.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

When God finished his work of creation He saw that it was all very good; but man, the crowning glory of His creation grievously failed to live up to God's expectation of him. His yielding to the luring voice of the tempter, and his subsequent fall in the garden is not recorded in this lesson, but it is necessary to bring it in as a connecting link between last Sunday's lesson and this lesson.

Adam and Eve probably would have been horrified if they could have witnessed the degraded moral condition of the people of Noah's day, but it was their one little act of disobedience that started the decline. If you indulge in sin in any degree, do not consider it lightly and think it will harm no one else, for it is impossible to estimate the number of lives one little sin will influence. It will not stop with your life any more than a fire would stop at your line fence if you would start it on your own property.

Jesus described conditions before the flood in this way, "they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage." Eating and drinking are necessary for the sustenance of life and marriage is honorable and ordained of God; but, as one has said, "That which is the purest when corrupted becomes most corrupt." It was the way in which man had corrupted these practices to satisfy their lusts that grieved the heart of the holy Father.

The extent of man's wickedness was then and always has been greater than human beings have any conception of. Some people appear to be good, but if the thoughts of their hearts could be known as God knows them, how different it would be. Man's heart has been so corrupted by sin that he often thinks there is no harm in some practices and attitudes which are prompted by the devil and are evil in God's sight.

A young lady once desired to please God; but, being ignorant of God's righteousness (the only righteousness which cleanses the heart) she tried to be righteous by doing good deeds to others and by refusing to indulge in the things which she considered wrong. The Lord dealt with her soul until at last she realized that in spite of all her efforts she did not have the peace of soul which she desired. She began to seek God and as light broke upon her darkened soul she called upon Him to save her. The Spirit of the Lord revealed her heart to her as God saw it. Before this time she had felt like she was "good," but when she saw herself as God saw her, she exclaimed, "Oh, the imagination of the thoughts of my heart have been only evil continually!" If this was the experience of this girl whom others called "good," what would be the condition of a person's heart who continually does wickedly! The natural heart of man is "deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Who can know it?" The only way he can have a good heart is to give it to Jesus to cleanse.

The ark which Noah built was typical of salvation through Christ. Both were planned and given by God for the purpose of saving those who have faith in Him from the destruction awaiting the wicked. God has promised to never again destroy all creatures with a flood, but they shall be destroyed by fire. (2 Pet. 3:7). "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of man." Read Matt. 24:35-39. Notice the good promise in the last verse of this lesson.

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ABRAHAM

Sunday, July 15, 1945

July 9 to 14.

Daily Readings and Meditations

- M. Abraham called to be a blessing Gen. 12:1-5.
- T. Abraham worships God Gen. 12:6-8.
- W. Abraham a man of faith Heb. 11:8-10.
- T. God's purpose for Joshua Joshua 1:1-9.
- F. Prayer for God's guidance Psalms 25:1-5.
- S. Prayer for God's presence 1 Kings 8:57-61.

Printed Portion Genesis 12:1-9.

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

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

3. And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

4. So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

5. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran: and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

6. And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land.

7. And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him.

8. And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the Lord, and called upon the name of the Lord.

9. And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.

Golden Text: In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. Gen. 12:3.

Practical Truth: God had a purpose for Abraham's life, and he has gracious purposes for the lives of us all.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

This lesson is practically the same as the one which we studied April 15th. With this lesson we are starting a study of Abraham's life more in detail. In that lesson we studied about Abraham as a "pioneer of Faith," and in this lesson we are to discuss God's purpose for him.

God's purpose for all men is that they come to a knowledge of Him that He might show himself strong in their behalf; but man must be willing to obey God before He can fulfill His purpose in their lives, and not many are willing because it means suffering and denials to the flesh though it is the way of greatest blessings to the soul. This is the reason men like Abraham have been so few in number.

We have been studying about the human race as a whole and have noticed their downward tendency. Now we are to turn our attention to one whom God chose to be the channel through which He would work to bring hope to a world which was ready to perish in the ruins of its corruption. This hope was Christ, who was Abraham's seed.

Abraham's act of faith in leaving all that was dear to him in an earthly sense would not only enrich his own life, but would cause him to be a blessing to others. As Adam's and Eve's one act of disobedience had plunged the world into sin, Abraham's act of obedience was the first great step toward redemption from sin.

Faith in God meant more to Abram than just to believe in his mind that what He said was true. If he had been like many who claim to believe God in these days he would have answered God's call by saying, "Yes, I

know that's right," but would have gone about his own business and remained in his own land and would not have received the blessing himself and could not have been a blessing to others. When one believes with his heart, he acts upon that belief. "Abram departed as God had spoken." He did not go just to try it out to see how he would like it either. He went to stay where God wanted him. The knowledge of God's word is great in the world today, but living active faith is hard to find. God requires separation from sin and a life lived in devotion to Him, but most people do not seem to realize that God means what He says and that He really requires them to leave things which the flesh holds dear. Some leave the land of sin to try the way of holiness, but because of a lack of determination to go all the way with God, they turn back to their old habits when it seems easier and more pleasant to do so.

ABRAHAM'S PRACTICE OF BROTHERHOOD

Sunday, July 22, 1945

Daily Readings and Meditations

July 16 to 21

M. Abraham's unselfish spirit Gen. 13:1-9.

T. Lot's selfish spirit Gen. 13:10-13.

W. Abraham helps Lot Gen. 14:13-16.

T. Spiritual kinship Mark 3:31-35.

F. Duty to neighbors Mark 12:28-34.

S. Duty to enemies Luke 6:27-35.

Printed Portion Genesis 13:1-12.

Gen. 13:1. And Abram went up out of Egypt, he and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.

2. And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

3. And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai:

4. Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the Lord.

5. And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.

6. And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.

7. And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.

8. And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen: for we be brethren.

9. Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.

10. And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt as thou comest unto Zoar.

11. Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan: and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

12. Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.

Golden Text: Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee. . .; for we be brethren. Gen. 13:8.

Practical Truth: Wherever true brotherhood is practiced, strife ceases to exist.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Abraham went from Canaan to Egypt at a time of famine, but after getting into trouble with the king, he returned to Canaan. Egypt in Bible history is a type of the world, and Abraham and his descendants, a type of God's church—his chosen people. Abraham encountered its worldliness and pride, but fled from it all for the blessing of peace.

God blessed his literal people in a temporal way, but in this dispensation He gives spiritual blessings, the riches of his grace. This is often obtained in furnaces of poverty and affliction.

Notice verse three. Abraham returned to where he had known God "at the beginning." This is typical of the "first love," in our spiritual experience. Sometimes through lack of communion with God, one begins to experience a spiritual famine and his soul wanders into Egypt, but he will find no peace and happiness until he returns to the place where "his tent had been at the beginning"—Bethel, his first love. Read 2:4, 5.

In Abraham's dealings with Lot he set a worthy example for children of God to follow. Abraham was older and it was he whom God had called to the new land, and it was to be his inheritance; so if he had cared to do so, he could have asked Lot to leave. But he took the way of humility in order to keep peace between brethren. "Charity seeketh not her own." God blessed him for the sacrifice. Lot learned by bitter experience that "a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things which he possesseth," for his selfish and worldly choice brought ruin to him. Later he suffered the loss of all his property, while Abraham continued to prosper. May we learn from this the value of putting God first when we make choices in life.

Sodom is a type of all that is worldly and abominable in the sight of God. Notice that greed for gain first caused Lot to "pitch his tent toward Sodom," but it was not long until he was "living in Sodom" (Gen. 14:12).

GOD'S PROMISE OF A NATION

Sunday, July 29, 1945

Daily Readings and Meditations

July 23 to 28

- M. God's covenant with his people Gen. 17:1-10.
- T. God's covenant with Noah Gen. 9:8-17.
- W. God's covenant of peace Isa. 54:7-10.
- T. God's new covenant Jer. 31:31-34.
- F. God's covenant offered to all Isa. 55:1-5.
- S. Man's covenant with God Josh. 24:22-28.

Printed Portion Genesis 17:1-10.

Gen. 17:1. And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

2. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.

3. And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,

4. As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.

5. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.

6. And I will make thee exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.

7. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

8. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger; all the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

9. And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.

10. This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.

Golden Text: I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. Gen. 17:7.

Practical Truth: God fulfilled his promises to Abraham, and he will fulfill his promises to us.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

When Abraham left his country to go to a strange land, God promised that He would make of him a great nation. Twenty-four years had passed and still he could not see any signs of the promise being fulfilled for he and his wife were both old and they had no children. Surely this was a great test for his faith. Once he tried to make a way for the promise to be fulfilled—a way which was not God's way. Thus it is often that God's people take things in their own hands to help God. They believe God's promises, but sometimes feel that God is too slow in fulfilling them and that it will be too late if he does not hurry so they endeavor to help Him work faster. Instead of helping Him they just get in His way. God never gets in a hurry, as man does; but He is never too late to perform that which He has promised. God will never fail nor forsake His own, so when we feel impatient we should sing, "Oh, be still, thou soul of mine, Thou art not forsaken."

In spite of the long test of faith, Abraham "staggered not at the promise of God," and ever walked before Him in integrity and uprightness, as we have noticed in other lessons. This appearance of God to him was to reward him for his patience in the long trial and to strengthen his faith by renewing the promise and covenant with him.

When a man is perfect before God, it does not mean that he is perfect in knowledge and infallible, but it means that he loves God supremely and desires to please Him at any cost. This Abraham had done and God's request was that he continue this walking before Him in uprightness.

God gave circumcision as a seal of the covenant which He made with Abraham. Abraham's literal children were distinguished from people of other nations of the world by this outward mark on the flesh. Circumcision had a spiritual meaning. After the coming of Christ (Abraham's seed who blessed all nations), Abraham's children by faith were distinguished from children of the world by the work which Christ wrought in purifying the heart—circumcision of the heart.