

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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Rejoice Ye!

Rejoice, ye sons of Adam's race,
Rejoice aloud, and shout and sing;
Thank God for His redeeming grace;
For Christ is born in Bethlehem!

The angels sang it long ago—
That song of peace, joy, and good will.
It's echo rang around the earth,
Its holy strain vibrating still,

Resounds again in every heart
Redeemed by loving grace divine.
What blessed peace His rapt'rous joy
Is moving in this heart of mine.

Rejoice, ye sinners, and be glad!
I once was bound in sin as you,
But Jesus took away my stain.
I know He came to save you, too.

Lift up your heads, and look and live;
Life evermore your soul shall find.
What wondrous love moved God to give
His only Son to save mankind.

Do not reject the Saviour's love,
But call Him now to be your own.
Do not forfeit your robe and crown,
Because for Him you have no room.

Rejoice, ye ransomed, shout for joy!
The Saviour came to be your King.
Let all the saints their tongues employ
In singing praises to His name!

O Bethlehem! that sacred town
Where Mary's first-born son was laid,
Rejoice, and be exceeding glad;
And be not any more afraid.

For unto you and all the world
Glad tidings of great joy has come,
Good will, and peace to all mankind;
For unto you the Christ is born!

—Ulysses Phillips

A Decaying Nation

This nation of ours that we cherish with all due love! this aspiring, prosperous, wealthy, powerful, nation a decaying nation? The righteous Lord knows I much regret having room to so express it.

One of the most stealthy and far-reaching, morally honey-combing agencies at work today is the demoralized condition of women who are bowing to the mandates of the soul-destroying god of fashion and nakedness, to say nothing of the undermining drinking and smoking habit. The Lord told the prophet Joel many hundred years ago to say to his servants, "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble;..." (Joel 2:1) Whatever other application the foregoing Scripture may have, we feel it is very appropriate as a warning here and now. Sound an alarm! I say in kindness and in the fear of the Lord, is it not time an alarm was sounded in regard to the awful, downward course womankind is taking? We have been telling people for years that with the fall of womankind, down goes the nation. I have been much burdened about it. Since reading the article the other day in the Lord's "Evening Light Watchman," entitled *Inconsistent Jewel*, on page 2, of the October number, my soul is stirred *de novo*. I have been hoping and praying and wishing so long that some of their own gender would rise up to champion a counter movement against feminine nakedness and shame. I hope this article, *Inconsistent Jewel*, will be the starting point of the mustering of a solid phalanx of godly women against the awful moral landslide of their sisters. They can do far more with them than the men can. The above article was God-inspired, weighty, earnest, sincere, to the point, and timely. I hope a million will be printed in leaflet form and distributed, read, and obeyed. It is said that the little Chamois' track on the top of a snow-clad mountain has been known to start a snow slide down the mountain side, which, as it gathered velocity and momentum, merged into a powerful avalanche that uprooted great forest trees and swept everything before it. Oh, that the foregoing, God-inspired article

might be as the little Chamois' track, that would start an avalanche among godly women that would move God's arm to stay the awful, demoralizing nakedness of our land!

We can not wonder if women who know not God, go so naked, tho' it is truly a bad thing (Jno. 8:44); but, when it is taking hold of supposed children of God, it is high time to sound the alarm as referred to in Joel 2:1. The prophet says, "let all the inhabitants of the land tremble." I would the inhabitants of our land were trembling over the nakedness that is in it today.

It is plainly evident that God designed in the creation of womankind, that she exercise a refining influence on the human family; but, oh, how sad to say, that with the exception of far too few virtuous women, she is taking the opposite course today. In Prov. 12:4 we read, "A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones." In Prov. 31:10, "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is above rubies." Oh, praise God, how true it is! There never was a better time to be that kind of woman, and it was never more needed than today, that they may shine their light in the present midnight darkness of their sisters, and all. Lord, raise them up speedily!!

—J. H. Pierson

DEATH

"Behold thy days approach that thou must die." These words were spoken by the Lord to His servant Moses, and here He has reference to natural death, or the state in which the spirit is separated from the body. These words are applicable to all men, for all must die. "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." Eccl. 12:7. There is no discharge in that war. There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit. When God calls, that spirit must take its flight and leave the old house of clay behind to mold and crumble in the dust. Death is no respecter of persons, the rich and poor alike must go; the learned and the unlearned, men of every race, nation, kindred, and tongue, regardless of their business profession, social standing, rank, or class, all must answer the solemn summons, for "the sentence of death fell upon all men." The monster, Death, knows no mercy and takes no bribes; it takes the grandmother from the rocking chair and the little babe from its mother's arms. And, too, dear reader, "Thy days approach, that thou must die." Prepared or unprepared, when the summons comes you must go. The just and the unjust; the righteous, and the wicked; all must leave this time world and face the realities of a world heretofore unknown. Even I must some day, some time, some where give up the ghost, yield, and die. In 1 Sam. 14:43. "and, lo, I must die." Each individual should give this fact serious thought, should pray as one of old, "Lord, make me to know mine end, and the

measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am." "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." What kind of wisdom? "The wisdom which cometh from above" that we may not be as the five foolish virgins; but as the wise who had made ample preparation to meet the bridegroom. God hath no pleasure in the death of the wicked.

Jesus has warned all men, saying, "be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh." So in this life while the blood is flowing through the veins is the time to prepare to meet God in peace. It will be too late when death comes, for Jesus told the Jews who believed not on him, "Ye shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye can not come." Death closes the door of opportunity to find salvation, for in death, "The light of the wicked shall be put out, and the spark of his fire shall not shine. The light shall be dark in his tabernacle, and his candle shall be put out with him." Job 18:5, 6. "The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death." Prov. 14:32. To die in sin and fill a Christless grave is a horror that neither tongue nor pen can describe; but the death of the righteous is something to be desired. "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his." "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Psa. 116:15.

"And I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." Rev. 14:13. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

But we are thankful to know that death is not the closing scene. Praise the Lord for the hope that He has given His faithful ones of a life beyond the regions of the shadow of death, for "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." Job asked the question, "If a man die, shall he live again?" and said again, "And though, after my skin, worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold." Job 19:26, 27 a. Jesus said, "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, unto the resurrection of life: and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." Jno. 5:28, 29. "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death," "But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

—Ulysses Phillips

Beautiful 1946 scripture text calendars and other articles are listed for sale on page seven.

The Old-Fashioned Woman

I suppose I'm an old-fashioned woman,
At least all the neighbors think so;
They say I'm clinging to customs
That went out of date years ago.

I don't care to resemble nudists,
Nor in style my body bedeck,
For my skirt is made long and modest
And my waist comes up to my neck.

I'm still saying grace at the table,
Tho' the bread may be barley or oat;
I simply can't learn the slang phrases,
And I've never been crazy to vote.

I still love my husband and children,
I suppose that's an old-fashioned view;
And I still read my Bible each morning
My faith in God's care to renew.

And so when they say I'm old-fashioned,
It's truth I don't want to deny;
For I love the old creed and the customs
That were born in the ages gone by.

And if the great morning of Judgment
Finds my soul without blemish of sin,
How much do you think it will matter
How queer and old-fashioned I've been?

—oOo—

Christ's Blood Shed in Vain?

Many, many precious souls will find out when it is too late to make amend. that they have not followed on to know the Lord. that they have just been deceived in making a profession of religion but never made a surrender of themselves and really become servants of our Lord. never become yoked in with Him. that God's will might be accomplished in their lives. but simply become. as Jesus said, "BOUND UP IN A BUNDLE TO BE BURNED." "Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers. Gather ye together first the tares. and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into MY BARN." Matt. 13:30.

Beware of the BUNDLES that are being made on earth today. for just as truly as Christ's angels are gathering His honest. obedient saints into God's BARN. just that truly are men gathering souls into bundles to be burned.

If you don't get an experience that cleanses your heart and delivers you from the power of sin. and you go on in such a state and profess over it to be a child of God. you are just letting yourself in for a most terrible awakening when you reach the end of your journey.

Christ's BLOOD was shed that He might have a pure clean Bride, and if we have not gone all the way in becoming purified and cleansed and made

holy by this BLOOD PURIFICATION, we will be found with spots and wrinkles and blemishes. We go through this life but once, and if we don't become redeemed and covered with Christ's blood, then Christ's blood has been shed in vain for us. And no matter which bundle a soul is in, they will all be burned.

Many will claim to be in the Church of God, but even this does not do the work of the Holy Spirit. If Christ's blood has not covered your sins and made you white and pure in God's sight, you will be as they were in the time that God sent His destroying angel thru the land of Egypt, and the houses that were not sprinkled with the blood of the little lamb, even in that house the eldest child was slain, both man and beast. There is no protection to any soul that is not covered by the Blood of Christ. Such a one is utterly lost, and lost with the vilest of men.

Don't let anybody deceive you. Unless Christ lives in your soul, unless Christ has been formed in your heart, you are lost. Unless Christ can see His image in your heart, you are lost. Don't be bound in a bundle to be burned.

Every Christless religion and every empty profession without the Blood of Christ, is the way to destruction. Hear Christ call while you may, heed His call to come out of her. "Come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Rev. 18:4.

One can not read the Bible without knowing that He must be BORN AGAIN, and that he must follow in the footsteps of Christ. One can not read his Bible without knowing that it has been given to us from God, that is God's only way to lead sinners into the way of a holy life. In the name of Christ, I plead with you, don't be deceived with an empty profession of religion. Anyone can have a heathen religion, or any one can have the strictest religion, and be strict with themselves, and with others. but remember, without Christ being formed in the heart you are just as far from God as those who have never heard about Him. He is the SACRIFICE OF GOD THAT TAKETH AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD. Why will ye die in your sins, since Jesus has purchased your SALVATION on the cross of Calvary? Jesus said to religious sinners, "Where I go ye can not come" if ye remain in your sins.

Beware of every religion where Christ is not honored, revered, and obeyed.

By the grace of God, —I. E. Kriebel

—oOo—

Startling Conditions

The harlot on the street, once made her identification easy by her loud dress; but if harlots, a few years ago. had dared to appear on the streets with their bodies exposed. as respectable girls expose themselves today, they would have been arrested. This being the case, no wonder that maternity hospitals for young girls are overcrowded, and hasty marriages, with speedy divorces or separations are

appalling.—The girls, today, by their suggestive and sensual attire, make it almost impossible for a young man to be pure. Loose rein to the sexual impulse, has buried great and mighty nations in oblivion in the past; and the same thing threatens the stability of our civilization. Girls are seeking to win lovers and husbands by their appeal to the physical. Often they are successful. But, alas! the spell is soon broken and there being no real love based on respect and reverence for character, the bond is soon dissolved.

With one marriage in seven ending in the divorce court, and the percentage steadily increasing, one may ask, What will be the outcome?

Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? —Prov. 6:27, 28.

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“FAITH AND VICTORY”

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

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

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

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, 9:30 a.m.; preaching services, 11 a.m.; young people’s meeting, 6 p.m.; and general services, 7 p.m. Mid-week services are: prayer meeting Wednesday, 7:30 p. m.; and Bible study Friday, 7:30 p. m. All are welcome.

The sunset burns across the sky;
Upon the air its warning cry
The curfew tolls, from tower to tower;
O children, ’tis the last, last hour!
The work that centuries might have done
Must crowd the hour of setting sun;
And through all lands the saving Name
Ye must in fervent haste proclaim.

Editorials

In the little town of Bethlehem, in Judah, over nineteen centuries ago, we believe the child, Jesus, to have been born of whom the angel said to Joseph, “He shall save his people from their sins.” In the sixth verse of the 2nd chapter of Matthew we have these words, “And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.” How fitting and consoling are these words today to the real “Israel of God” who are in the world but not of the world. People who profess Christ and have their souls spotted with the world cannot enjoy the Governor and Ruler as do His people, Israel, for by their actions and ways they are saying, “I will not have this risen Christ to rule and govern me;” therefore many of them misapply the Scriptures and speak of Him coming in a literal sense as king some day. Oh, that the blind would cease to follow the blind and separate themselves from the world and die out to their self-life until they could see, know, and realize the ruling and governing power of King Jesus, who is truly now governing and ruling His people Israel.

Those who are “born from above” and have presented their bodies (not in a feigned sense) to the Lord which is their reasonable service, and are not coniforming to this world, are now spiritual Jews or Israel. Paul says, “But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.” Rom. 2:29.

In the sixth chapter of Gal., the 16th verse, where Paul was speaking of the children of God, he said, “And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.” In this Scripture we see that Paul referred to his “called out ones” or those who were born from above as the “Israel of God.” Truly, those who have obeyed the Scriptures in Rom. 12:1 and 2 and the Scriptures found in the last five verses of the sixth chapter of 2 Corinthians, are enjoying the present governing and ruling power of our risen King of kings and Lord of lords.

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As Christmas Day approaches, millions of people will be looking around to purchase and send gifts to friends as a reminder of the free Gift of God to men, which makes their hearts glad and ready to give freely even as He gave. The sad part of it is that many of this number have not the “Gift of God” in their hearts and therefore it becomes just a form and a show with them and they are pulled along by a Christmas spirit of the world which is very popular in these days. Some will even disgrace God and His Son by drinking, dancing, and in other ways reveling on this sacred day. There is more light and heavenly knowledge in these days by the few who keep victory over the flesh, the devil, and the world than there has been since the time of the early morning church, but on the other hand the

multitudes who profess to follow Christ are in great darkness while they claim to be light in the world. It is not so much light and truth that the people need, while light and truth is needed, but the majority are not walking in the light and truth they do have. Jesus says, "If the light that is in you be darkness, how great is that darkness." People who have light and do not walk in it are in *great darkness*.

In the third chapter of Col. we read, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." Paul says, "If ye then be risen with Christ." It seems that there are far too few who have a realization that they are risen with Christ, for they still are walking as men, as earthly beings, and seem not to understand what manner of folks they are or ought to be. Paul says in Phillipians 3:10, "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death." Oh, the depths of the meaning of this verse! How few have willingly followed Christ until they could fellowship His sufferings and thereby know the depth of the meaning of this Scripture! Paul did not want his own righteousness, but to follow Jesus and know the power of his resurrection or his resurrected power working in him.

We read on in the third chapter of Col. and he tells us to "set our affections on things above, not on things on the earth." Actions speak louder than words, and as we look upon the multitudes that claim to follow Jesus, we take note that they spend most of their time and thought with and for earthly things that perish with the using; and a very meager part of their beloved earthly things are used in spreading the gospel to the salvation of souls. Folks who put so little value on salvation will not do much toward the salvation of souls. Their affections are here in this world and they will in a more or less degree look upon a man or woman that spends their full time in gospel work as being not wise and to be more or less pitied. Then in the third verse he discloses the whole secret of the matter and says, "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." Oh, brother, sister, are you dead? Is your life hid with Christ in God? Now be honest with your soul and do not deceive it. One who is really dead and whose life is hid with Christ in God would love God so much that He would be their meditation day and night and they would be using all in their hands to glorify Him and to bring the lost to Christ. Earthly things would fade away, for it is *your* life that gets so interested in the things of earth that you do not take time to be holy nor to help any one else to get holy through Christ.

We read what Jesus says in Luke 14:26, "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." This hate means their worldly, sinful

lives, insomuch that you will not allow them to influence you in the least to do contrary to any known will of God, but you will let the life of Christ be seen and heard in you whether they like it or not. There are many failing God in this, and the last thought in the verse is where the most religious people are failing and going down and that is to hate their own life. If they only knew how sinful and hateful their own life is in the sight of God, no matter if it does put on a religious air, the more religious self is the more hateful you are in the sight of God. It is not you that God wants to see but Christ in you. You are to be dead. The majority of religious people today are like the religious Jews. Pilate found no fault in Jesus and sought to loose him and said he would chastise him and let him go, but they cried out all at once and said, "Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas," who was a prisoner because of sedition and murder. Dear reader, Barabbas represents your self-life and if you keep your self-life alive you are saying with the wicked and murderous Jews, "Loose Barabbas and crucify Jesus." You say you wouldn't murder any body, and you may not do the act, but by letting your life live you are lining up with the crowd that did and does crucify Him. There were many with the crowd when Jesus was hung on the cross and miserably slain, who did not do the act, but by being with them were guilty. They would not bear the reproach with Mary and the few disciples who stood there, and neither will you line up with the despised few followers of Jesus in the world today and bear the reproach of the cross as long as self lives, for he will continually tell you to let Barabbas live and crucify Christ. Your self-life is the enemy of the cross of Christ and will cause you to take counsel with the ungodly, or in other words, preachers who have no God in their hearts, but have religious Barabbas loosed and Christ is crucified.

It is no wonder that religious America is in such a deplorable condition, for nearly all of her preachers have Barabbas loosed in their souls and Christ crucified. They have a life here and are losing eternal life, and in this way become the enemies of the cross of Christ. The blind are leading the blind and in time they will all fall into the ditch together. It is a sad state, but Jesus looked upon the same scenes in His earthly career and wept over the "Barabbas people" who by their self-righteous deeds and belief darkened their own souls and the peace and eternal life that they could have had was hidden from them. So it is today. Let each one of us ask ourselves the question, "Is it I?"

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Obituaries

Delilah Almira Bryan was born Nov. 30, 1867, near Coon Rapids, Iowa, and departed this life at the home of her daughter in Los Angeles, Calif. on October 15, 1945, at the age of 77 years, 10 months, and 15 days.

In 1887 she was united in marriage with C. S. Forbes. To this union seven children were born, two of whom died

in infancy. Her husband preceded her in death March 21, 1940.

She is survived by three sons: Charles A. and Louis S. both of Chandler, Okla., and Robert H. of Hawthorne, Calif.; and two daughters: Russie M. Evans and Hazel Blanche Forbes both of Los Angeles, Calif.; 16 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Bro. Forbes was a minister in the church of God for more than 45 years and Sister Forbes was a faithful and worthy helpmeet and companion to him in this work throughout his ministry. After his death she continued to serve and trust in God, and was faithful unto death.

She was confined to her bed for 8 weeks prior to her death, during which time we visited her very often and always found her encouraged in the Lord and ready to enjoy some good songs and prayer. Her testimony was always very definite and positive and left no doubt of her trust in God and his presence with her. She died in the triumphs of the living faith.

Funeral services were conducted by O. B. Wilson of Shawnee, Okla., O. B. Wilson, Jr. of Los Angeles, Calif., and I. D. Stover of Pomona, Calif.

Interment was at Burbank, Calif.—O. B. Wilson, Jr.

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Mrs. Georgia (Franklin) Carter was born in Paris, Texas December 4, 1871. She was married to Iseral Dyer in Clarksville, Texas Nov. 7, 1893. To this union seven children were born, two sons and five daughters. Later the family moved near Boley, Okla. where Iseral Dyer passed away in the year of 1925. Later she was united in marriage to Judge Carter.

In the year of 1938 she moved to Bakersfield, Calif. where she often met with the saints of God and accepted the truth of God's Word in 1944. She testified at different times of how God kept her peaceful. Her one request, that she would not linger long, was granted. She was ever ready to lend a helping hand. She was a wonderful help to the young sisters in teaching them how to train their children. She will be greatly missed by all.

She departed this life Oct. 17, 1945 at the home of her son, Isaac L. Dyer, Bakersfield, Calif.

Bereaved are: two sons, Isaac Lorenza Dyer of Bakersfield, Calif. and George Dyer in the U. S. Army overseas; three daughters, Gertrude Francisco and Mrs. Cecil Key of Bakersfield, and Mrs. Mary Webb of Boley, Okla.; 26 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; one sister, two nieces and a number of other relatives and friends. Two daughters preceded her in death.

The funeral sermon was delivered by Bro. Manly Spears of Oklahoma City, Okla. Text: Luke 16: 19-31 and other scriptures. Interment was in Union Cemetery, Bakersfield, Calif.

—Isaac Chandler.

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SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

If you have not yet taken advantage of the SPECIAL OFFER ON "ONE YEAR" SUBSCRIPTIONS, act now. It expires January 1, 1946. You may subscribe for your friends and neighbors for one year in order to spread the gospel. Single subscription, one year for 25 cents; ten one-year subscriptions for \$2.00. Books and other valuable articles will be given to those who send ten subscriptions and \$2.00 to this office before Jan. 1, 1946. Following is a list of premiums. Take your choice of ONE of the six premiums listed below when you send your subscriptions.

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Be sure to state the premium you desire.

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Louisiana—Dear saints scattered abroad—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. It has been some time since I have written, but I am glad I can say that I am still saved, sanctified, and satisfied in this wonderful way. I wanted to go to campmeeting this year at Midway, Louisiana. At first there didn't seem to be a way; but, thank God, He made a way. I was there only two days, but I enjoyed being with the saints of God and hearing the good old truth as it is in God's Word. If we measure our lives to the Word of God, we shall never miss heaven. We can afford to believe the Word of God rather than the changes that are taking place in the world. It is a solid foundation for our faith and it settles every question in these awful days. People have neglected the teaching of the Book. They say in word and action, "Away with the old time religion of our fathers." They have taken up something that they call newer, more scholarly, more refined, more cultured, and more educational. But we praise God for the old time religion that has power to transform men's lives and to rebuke the powers of darkness and drive them out and to break shackles and set souls free, causing them to live in harmony with the teaching of God's Word. "The power of God unto salvation" was God's way when Christianity first began, and it is still His way. God's people can have the same gospel today that Jesus preached when he walked the shores of Galilee. He gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, and salvation to the sin-sick soul. People do not like to hear that they are lost and that there is a burning hell awaiting them; so they hire ministers to preach to suit them. So they profess religion without repenting of their sins. They try to modernize the religion of Jesus Christ. They have removed all the old landmarks and have substituted a sham religion. Thank God, we can put on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:11) and stand on a firm foundation. "Above all, taking the shield of faith wherewith ye shall be able to quench the fiery darts of the wicked."

The camp meeting was a wonderful blessing to me. I had been bothered with high blood pressure for a year or more and had bad headaches. I was annoyed at the campmeeting and prayed for and I haven't had any headache since. I thank and praise the Lord for His wonderful healing power.

Please pray earnestly for my boy. He is across somewhere but I cannot hear from him.

Your sister in Christ, Mrs. A. A. Wiles

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The State Assembly meeting of the Church of God will be held at Guthrie, Okla. in the saints' chapel on Sixth St. and W. Warner Ave., beginning on Friday, December 21st and continuing ten days. This Assembly meeting has been held at Guthrie more than thirty years, and, as usual, we are expecting a glorious meeting. All people are invited to attend this meeting to enjoy the good, wholesome spiritual food from Father's table.

Ministers from this state and other states will be present to proclaim the truth of the Bible and to show the people the way of salvation. We are expecting God to save souls, sanctify believers and to heal the sick and to unify enlightened souls.

This meeting will be run on the free-will offering plan. Meals will be served at the dining hall, free to all. The saints will do all they can to care for all who attend the meeting. Bring your pillows and blankets, if you can.

If you have canned or fresh vegetables and fruits or money which you desire to give to be used in the meeting, send same to Faith Publishing House, 920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Okla., or bring it to the dining hall.

The saints here extend a hearty welcome to all.

CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY MEETING NOTICE

The annual assembly meeting of the church of God will be held at the chapel on the corner of Walnut & Naomi Sts., Los Angeles Calif. beginning Dec. 21st and lasting ten days. All lovers of the truth are invited. Pray much for the meeting.

For further information write to E. E. Forbes, 4250 Perlita Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

CALENDARS, CHRISTMAS FOLDERS, CARDS

The following articles are now in stock at this office ready to be mailed when your order arrives. You should order now or as early as possible because last year our supply was soon exhausted and we could not obtain enough to fill the orders of all our customers. We believe that we have enough on hands now to supply as many or more than we received orders for last year. Please order early.

De Luxe Scripture Text Christmas Folders, twenty-one folders with envelopes to match, \$1.00 per box.

Sunshine Christmas Folders, scripture text. 10 folders with envelopes. Price, 50 cents per box.

Post Cards with scripture text for Christmas, other holidays, birthday, sympathy, etc. 20 cents per dozen.

Beautiful 1946 Calendar, scripture text. 30 cents each, four for \$1.00, nine for \$2.00.

"Bedtime Prayer Reminder," a cross which glows in the dark. 15 cents each or eight for \$1.00.

"Stories of the West" by Pauline Sass, a book of true stories for children. 10 cents each or 12 for \$1.00.

Above articles are postpaid at prices quoted.

Egermeier's Bible Story Book for children contains 642 pages, 234 stories, 200 one color pictures, 17 full-page multi-colored pictures, and 4 one-color animal maps. The cover is strong maroon cloth with a colored picture of Christ blessing children on front. (Style "A").

Price post paid, \$2.50.

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Dear saints,—Please pray for my husband, who knew the truth and taught it, but now is lost in this dark world of sin. Your sister in Christ,

Alta Mead

God Requires a Sinless Life

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh, shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit, shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Gal. 6:7, 8. "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." Rom. 6:12. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Rom. 6:16. I beg of you, dear ones, to be not deceived concerning sin, for many false prophets are abroad our land today who would deceive you and tell you that we can not live above sin; but God prophesied through Ezekiel saying, "Because with lies ye have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad, and strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, by promising him life." Ezekiel 13:22. Dear ones, that is what these false teachers are doing today. They are telling us that we can continue in sin and have life. Let us read what Paul says in Rom. 6:1. "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" And let us hear what John said in 1 John 3:4-8, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth, hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." We can not please God and sin every day. If that be true then Jesus died in vain. Paul again says in Gal. 2:17, 18, "But if while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid. For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor." Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." As sure as God's Word is true, that sure it is needless for us to try and live for God and continue to sin. We can not serve God and mammon. Again Jesus says, "If you love me, keep my commandments." That doesn't mean just the ten commandments, but all that he has admonished us to do. We shall know you by your fruits, for the fruits of the flesh are these: "Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envying, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such

things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." Gal. 5:19-23.

I beseech you, loved ones, by the mercies of God, that you live humbly and obedient to the Word of God, holy and blameless before Him, that you might reach that eternal home. Again, let no man deceive you, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:23. Praise his holy name.

—Mrs. H. M. Cones

Prayers for the Dead

The whole world in the mortal and sinful state is dead concerning their spiritual relation with God. Is it not downright stupid and ignorant to ask God to have mercy on lost souls beyond the tomb?

Such appears as an abomination to God, or an attempt of mockery to Him, as though one should declare it was futile, vain, and foolish to make the supreme sacrifice of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to redeem mankind from a state of death in sin, to a life of righteousness. The idea of purgatory, so called, is not God inspired, but a baseless deception, propagated by man as the agency and mouthpiece of Satan, the arch enemy of God, who seeks to boast or challenge God that the finished work of Christ is all in vain.

The deceptive idea of purgatory originated with Judas Maccabees, the great leader and deliverer of the Jews from their enemies (175-160 B. C.), who referring to his slain soldiers on the battlefield, said he HOPED that they MIGHT be delivered from sin.

There would be no need of a Saviour if those who pass on to the spirit world void of full salvation could be set free by the prayers of mortal man. Such a one would possess no heart-felt change of life or knowledge, experience, and love of God that characterizes the happy, joyful soul that Christ hath set free from sin in the mortal state. Luke 16:19-31 explodes all deceptive ideas and vain imaginations of deluded man. In the light of God's Word, so clearly understood to all who have been made new creatures in Christ, or born again, there is no provisions made for anyone's salvation or deliverance who died without Christ. How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation? Heb. 2:3.

How foolish for anyone to think that God is so merciful and loving that He will in some supernatural way consider and offer the lost soul another chance to be reconciled to Him.

Shall the guilty, condemned criminal say to the judge who passes sentence upon the guilty, deserving death, "Judge, won't you please annul that decree and set me free? I have been lawfully obedient in some things, won't that count for something?" Does the Christ-rejector deserve any clemency in the world to come?

A Catholic worker insinuated to me that the good deeds one has done will merit the approval of God by hearkening to the prayers of the living that the dead may be released from a so-called purgatory. I Cor. 13:3 answers for all time in these very inspired words, "Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity [divine love], it profiteth me nothing." "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend [sin] in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2:10.

Multitudes of people and church members have ideas that they can be reconciled to God by certain moral standards of living, without conviction leading to repentance and heart-felt salvation and without being cleansed from their sinful nature. The soul must here be trained in godly ways of living. Stupid would it be to give an illiterate or untrained person a graduating diploma without any training or instruction. The happy saint in glory will need no one to pray for their peace and contentment over there. This mortal state can not conceive the unspeakable glory and eternal peace that the dead in Christ will possess in a perfect state of freedom, rest, and happiness as promised by the Lord in His sacred Word. God has made such a marvelous, unspeakable sacrifice of His beloved Son to redeem man in this present world, but so many show no sense of appreciation and concern, being blind and ignorant to their own peace and welfare, by foolishly and vainly thinking there is mercy and hope for their soul beyond the tomb. "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy [hope] under two or three witnesses: of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye shall he be thought worthy [deserving], who hath trodden under foot [rejected] the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite [scorned] unto the Spirit of grace?" Heb. 10:28, 29.

The many religious people who offer prayers for the dead display misinformed minds and a lack of proper intelligence concerning the workings of God. It would be more sensible and pleasing to God for them to have heart-felt, undying zeal and interest in praying (not out of a prayer book, but fervently, deep down in the inmost depths of their soul or heart) for the lost who are dead in trespasses or sins, that they may sense the first resurrection (John 5:25) by passing from a death in sin to a life in Christ Jesus, that the power of the second death (doom of the lost) shall have no power over them. Rev. 20:6.

—John H. Griffith

South Carolina—Dear saints—I surely have enjoyed having the "Faith and Victory" paper in my home. It has been much help to me. I thank every one who has prayed for me. Saints, I still need your prayers. Please pray for me to talk better. It would mean much to me if I could talk plainly. God only can enable me to do it. Jesus means all the world to me. He keeps me saved, pure and true. Remember and pray for me.

Yours in His name,

Miss Leona Ellenburg

Young People's Section

CHRISTMAS

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind,
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

"To you, in David's town, this day,
Is born, of David's line,
A saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign:

"The heavenly Babe you there shall find,
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels, praising God, and thus
Addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good will, henceforth, from heaven to men,
Begin and never cease."

—Nahum Tate

Editorials

At the time our foreparents were driven from the garden of Eden, God promised to send a Saviour, and on down through the annals of time the prophets foretold of Christ's birth and mission in the world. Even many of the ordinances and commandments which the children of Israel observed were but shadows pointing forward to the coming Messiah. The annual feasts of the Passover lamb and the blood sacrifices for sin were signs of the approaching deliverance for mankind. The Apostle Paul declared that the Mosaical law served as a schoolmaster to bring or lead the people to Christ. "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." Gal. 4:4, 5. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Jesus Christ is God's most precious gift to man, "neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

Although it has been more than nineteen centu-

ries since Christ came into the world and perfected the plan of salvation and redemption for man, He is still the mediator between God and man, and is now seated at the right hand of God making intercession for us. We can approach God only through Christ, and though it has been so many years ago since His blood was shed on Calvary's cross, yet even now "He is able to save them to the uttermost that come to God by him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them." Heb. 7:25. The Apostle Paul declared, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

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At the birth of Jesus, the multitude of angels proclaimed to the shepherds of Judea, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Christ is the Prince of peace, for He came to make peace between God and man by blotting out their sins and giving them a new heart and a new Spirit. This heaven-born peace in the heart will in turn make peace between people and nations, and this only is the perfect cure for the ills of a troubled world.

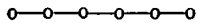
Jesus, just prior to His ascension, said to His disciples, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Jno. 14:27. Jesus is here speaking of the heart-experience whereby the soul of man is at peace with God and man. The peace that the world manufactures is only superficial and temporary, which is like cutting branches from trees that will soon grow out again when the roots are allowed to remain. In a short time the cancerous sore of trouble, greed, and dissatisfaction breaks out again in furious strife and wars.

The records will show that the early church which Jesus built was not militaristic, but rather it was extremely peaceful and non-resistant as to the use of carnal weapons, for it possessed the same Spirit as its Founder. In contrast to this position of the morning church, we have before us the statement of a leader of a so-called Church of God movement which reads: "I think the records will show that we have not been extremists either as pacifists or militarists [during World War II]." We agree that the statement is true in regard to his movement but is it according to the New Testament pattern for God's church? It is impossible to serve two masters who are exactly opposite. We can not take man's ways and God's ways at the same time.

Quoted from the remarks of an army psychiatrist to a C. O. in the army, "If Christ were alive to-

day, he would realize that the religion he taught 2000 years ago was inexpedient, and he would probably be a lieutenant-colonel in the United States Army." Do you think He would?

—L. D. Pruitt



California—To the young people everywhere,—I am thankful that I can say that I am saved, sanctified, and encouraged to live for God. I have been saved for three years only by the help of the Lord. I have had many tests and trials since I was saved, but I have made them stepping stones. I have found that in this way we have to be careful, watchful, and prayerful at all times in these evil days. I am the only saved young person in Fresno that I know of. I am sixteen years old. I have had much to endure in school, but the teachers have confidence in me. I am not ashamed of the way I dress, no matter where I go. I want to make the way attractive. I am thankful that I have the Lord with me. He said He would resist the proud but would give grace to the humble. I want to be humble. Pray for me that I make the way attractive and be sincere at all times, for we have no time to lose. I want to be the cause of some soul coming to Christ.

Your sister in Christ,

Vivian Trotter

CORRESPONDENCE

California—My dear Brother and Sister Pruitt,—Greetings in the precious name of our Lord. Today finds me saved from all sin and walking in the light of God. Praise His name! Although I am happy in Jesus, yet my very soul is burdened for lost souls. There are very few of us in Fresno standing up for the whole truth. When I came here two years ago, I found six, but they were not all established. Last year the Lord sent us a minister. We purchased a rented place for worship, but we have only baptised one. There are some scattered around here who need to come to Jesus who know the way, but have forsaken it.

We are planning a meeting sometime this month. Brother E. J. Trotter is pastor, Brother Lewis Williams is assistant. There will be other ministers as the Lord will send. Brother M. Spears was with us a few Sundays ago, and our hearts did burn while he talked with us. Praise our God! I am asking the prayers of those who know the worth of prayer to pray for the meeting and the work in general in Fresno.

The Lord ever bless thee and keep thee on the increase in all good wisdom and knowledge in Him. Amen.

Your sister in Christ Jesus,

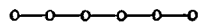
—C. M. Taylor



Missouri—To the saints scattered abroad in this sin-cursed world,—Greetings in His precious name. I feel like I should send in my testimony once more, as I am now well past 86 years of age, and according to nature, I may not be here long, but up till now I have had perfectly good health, for which I give God all the praise and glory. I can truly say that I am still saved and sanctified. This old world has no attraction for me, and I'd rather enjoy this great salvation for one hour than all this world has to offer for a lifetime. Praise God for His wonderful blessings. I am fully decided never to forsake this blood-bought way from earth to Glory.

Your born-again-brother in Christ,

—E. M. Wood



Washington, D. C.,—Dear saints,—Letters which I have received from some of you dear saints recently have been a great encouragement to me. I have not been very well for some time. I did not leave my room for three weeks after I came home from the Louisiana campmeeting. Then

I was out for a few days, then back again for three more weeks. Something was wrong with my legs and it was all over me, but I am some better now. During the past six years I have had some close calls. At different times my loved ones have stood by my bedside, thinking the chilly hand of death would soon take me from this world. But my trust was in God and He always came to my rescue in good time. I am very thankful that I have learned to put my trust in Him. Praise His name.

I lived a backslidden life for about twenty-two years, and went far away from God in the depths of sin. Oh, how sad it makes me to think of the many things I have done that I should not have done, and the many things I left undone that I should have done! But my dear Saviour found me so far away in sin, and in His love and mercy saved me, and still keeps me saved.

When I got saved, I began to retrace the trail I had left behind for those twenty-two long years and found many things that I must make right. In many cases, without the grace of God to help me, I would have gone down in defeat. Before I would go to see those to whom I must make restitution, I would ask the dear Lord to talk to them and have their hearts just the way that would please Him best. When I would meet them and ask them to please forgive me for treating them wrong, almost without exception they would say, "I will gladly forgive you."

When I owed them something, some would take part of the old debt and forgive the rest and some would urge me to forget it entirely. In one case, several years had passed since a doctor had operated on my baby girl and I had not paid him. I went to the town where he practiced at the time when he operated on her, but could not find him. As I continued the search, I was informed that he had moved to another town. I got on the bus and went there to find him. I found him there at a hospital. I told him who I was and explained that I wanted to settle the old bill, and ask him to please forgive me for the way I had wronged him. He asked me several questions and wanted to know if I had come to that town on any other business. When I told him that that was all the business I had there, he said that he was glad there were a few honest people left. He told me that I could give him something if I wanted to, or he would just forgive it all. He didn't want to take anything if it would handicap me. I gave him a large bill of money, shook hands with him, and left his office with tears running down my face, and with my heart thrilled with the glory of God. I went rejoicing on my way because I had made another wrong right.

I lost my first wife in 1931. She was good, and I do wish I could ask her to forgive me for the many unkind things I did while living in sin. But "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." A little over two years after she died, I married again and got another good wife who helped me to rear my little children. She has been very faithful and kind to me during my years of ill health, and has made many sacrifices in order to help me make some restitution and pay old debts that I made before I knew her.

I have learned by experience, that if it takes your farm, your automobile, or even the butter off your bread to straighten up your back life, it pays. It has not been revealed yet what it will mean at the Judgment Day to hear the blessed words, "Well done." I am praying each day that if there is anything left undone which I should do that it will be made known to me that I may make it right while I am still here. I want to do unto all men as I would have them do to me.

I want all of you to pray that I may be able to help some one to see the truth. I often think about how it was with me when I was reclaimed. I was with the people who had the truth when I first got saved years ago, the Gospel Trumpet people. They still had the name "Church of God" but I could see a change and knew that they were not the church. The preacher who was preaching for them told me, "This is not IT." He said that he came from the "Burning Bush" sect and it was more spiritual than the Gospel Trumpet. I rejoice that God has called me out of it and has brought me into contact with people who teach and practice the Bible. Bro. W. D. Lemonds

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Minn.—Dear saints of God scattered abroad, and to all the readers of "Faith and Victory" paper. Greetings in the name of our loving Lord who tells us that we are His witnesses. He wants us to tell what He has done for us. "Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy." Jude 24. Are we enjoying the blessings of the perfect peace that we can have by keeping our minds stayed on the Lord? Are we dwelling in the secret place of the Most High? Are we abiding under the shadow of the Almighty? If not; why not? What about it, dear saints?

I am sure that the saints can live above the clouds if we will take enough time to be alone with God. Clouds are composed of doubts, fear, and distrust; so let us take a bold stand like Isaiah did, and declare, "Behold, God is my salvation: I will trust and not be afraid." Bless the Lord. How many clouds would gather in our spiritual sky if our hearts and souls were rilled with perfect love that casts out fear? There is no fear in love. So I say in love and sincerity that if we have enough of this perfect love in our hearts, it will keep our spiritual sky bright and cloudless. When our sky becomes cloudy and we know the sun is shining on the other side of our clouds, then we should move over on the other side of our clouds where the sun is shining, and just see how quickly our clouds will disappear. Many of the saints are living far below their privilege in the Lord. Isaiah said of the Lord, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee." Oh, that more of the saints would learn the secret of dwelling in the secret place of the most High, and abide under the shadow of the Almighty!

Our loving Lord has many precious things hid away in the good old Book, and as it is in a gold mine, so it takes much deep digging to find these treasures which the Lord knew we would need to make us happy and to keep the clouds away. Many of the saints are not digging deeply enough to find these precious treasures which mean so much to the ones who do dig deeply and find them precious to their souls. "Whosoever cometh to me and heareth my sayings and doeth them, he is like a man which built an house and digged deep and laid his foundation on a rock." All the wind and storms and floods could not shake it, for it was founded on a rock. The one who digs deep and lays his foundation on THE ROCK will not be bothered much with clouds in his sky. If we know and understand that ALL things work together for our good and we learn how to glory in tribulations and to count it all joy when we fall into divers temptations, where would the clouds find room? As the poet said:

"Have you reached this abiding place in Jesus,
Are you grafted to the true and Living Vine,
Have you peace that the devil cannot shatter,
Is the Spirit your companion all the time,
Have you reached his abiding place in Jesus,

Are you grafted to the true and Living Vine?

There is rest from every care

In the secret place of prayer;

There is victory for you all along the line."

Sometimes when I used to travel on my motorcycle I would ride away up on top of a mountain where the sky was so bright and clear. I could look down on the clouds and could see the shadow of the clouds in the valley away below. Many times in my early Christian life I wandered around in the valley where the clouds cast their shadow; but I have been climbing and climbing until I have reached the top of the mountain where I can look down on the clouds. The clouds are so pretty and bright when we look down on the top side of them where the sun is shining on them.

Dear saints, let us keep on climbing, climbing, climbing and keep looking up, looking up. Lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh. —Bro. Geo. Stephenson

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Mo.—Dear saints,—In the name of Jesus I ask you to pray for my son-in-law for healing. He has sugar diabetes. I know the Lord can heal him, but he is taking medicine.

The Lord has been very good to me both before and after I trusted Him. I am 69 years old. From the time of accountability I served the devil until I was almost 67. I swore, chewed tobacco, and drank some. By the help of the Lord, I have overcome all these habits. Praise His name forever! I have good health and am strong. Pray for me, that I will ever live closer to God. I don't often do much talking or writing, but thought you might be interested because I have found some of your tracts and the little paper valuable. Orville Rainey

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Minn.—Dear readers of "Faith and Victory,"—I have been a believer in Jesus for many years; but, like many others, was a follower of the wrong church. Last winter I found the real way to serve Jesus. I am saved.

I would like some good Christian literature. I read the Bible and the "Faith and Victory" paper. I get much good out of the paper.

I praise Jesus every day. I have prayed for the safety of my brother and brother-in-law in this war. They will soon be home. Jesus is good to all, and especially those who love Him. Praise His name! I mention all the requests in my prayers. I know He will bless all of you. A sister in the Lord, Mrs. Gladys Brown

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California—Dear saints scattered abroad,—We send greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus. We are praising the Lord for the victory He gives us, and for the way He causes us to triumph in His dear name.

We desire to give a report of the wonderful revival meeting the Lord permitted us to have in Pasadena, which closed last Sunday, Oct. 28. Bro. and Sister Williams of Hennessey, Okla., and Bro. Manly Spears of Oklahoma City were with us. The Lord surely blessed these ministers in the giving of His Word, which went forth with the power of the Holy Spirit. Every service during the entire meeting was owned and blessed of God. The saints and ministers gathered in from different places around, showing the divine love of God that binds our hearts together, fulfilling the scripture: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." The last day of the meeting our chapel was almost filled to its capacity. We had a high day in Zion with singing and praises to our God. We feel better equipped for the duties and battles on before us against sin, deception, and worldliness. There are others to be

gleaned from the world: "Two or three berries in the top of the uppermost bough, four or five in the outmost fruitful branches thereof."

The spirit of worldliness is against the truth, but the Word of God is just as true today as when Jesus said. "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world the world would love his own: But because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." John 15:18, 19. We should be encouraged to be counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.

Your sister in Christ, Emma Holden

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Mo.—To the saints of God everywhere,—We send you greetings in Jesus' precious name. We are rejoicing to know that our dear Redeemer still loves us. What a wonderful Saviour He is to me this morning! My heart is rejoicing with thanks and praise to God for the way He has been working with us here at Neosho. I am glad the God whom we serve still hears and answers prayer.

We felt sure the Lord would be pleased for a revival meeting here, so we began to pray the Lord to send us some ministers, the ones He wanted and the ones whom He could use to His glory. On Sunday morning of Oct. 14th, when the saints began to gather in for meeting, we found the Lord had directed three ministers to come that way: Bro. Murphy Allen and Bro. Clyde Stroud of northern Missouri and Bro. Orr of California. The meeting continued two weeks. The truth was preached in its fullness under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and the saints were much encouraged to live for the dear Lord. Two were saved and baptized, and 21 took part in the ordinances. We mean to live for the Lord, by His help and grace.

Any true minister coming this way will find a hearty welcome with the saints here. Do not pass us by.

The little chapel here is greatly in need of some repairs. It needs a new floor, a new porch, and painting. The saints here do not have much of this world's goods; but are rich toward God; so if any one who reads this feels like sending a donation, little or much, it will be greatly appreciated by the saints here, and it will be used for that purpose. Send all donations to Mrs. Artie Bowers, 600 Pearl St., Monett, Mo.

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Kans.—Dear ones at Faith Pub. House,—This is to let you know we are still on the way that leads upward, and praising Him who died for us. We shall never be able to praise Him enough.

We are always glad to get the little paper and read the good articles and testimonies. We hope the Lord will bless each of His workers there, and keep your hearts encouraged to work on until the Lord says, "It is enough."

We know these are trying days for all of God's children, but there certainly is nothing to go back to; so the thing for us to do is endure to the end and we shall receive a crown of life.

We feel good since we had the meeting here. It looked discouraging during the meeting because the people would not come out, but we realize there are not big crowds seeking the Lord now. There are only a few who want Christ. But we can see some good from the meeting. A few heard His Word and are very zealous to learn more about the way; and this encourages us to press on.

We have Sunday School every Sunday and prayer meeting every Wednesday night. The Lord does richly bless our prayer meetings. Also, on the second Sunday

of each month Bro. Barton will be with us. We had a glorious day in the Lord this last second Sunday. Other children of God from different places came, and we enjoyed every one. We hope the Lord will permit them all to come back again.

We desire your prayers for the little work here, that it might enlarge and reach out to every true, honest soul here, that God's children might all be gathered into one.

Yours in Christ, Albert and Margaret Eck

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California,—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—Greetings to you, the family, and gospel workers. May God richly reward all for their services, is our sincere desire and prayer. We have been doing what we can in the service of the Lord, and with some success. After the campmeeting in Pasadena, Calif., we went to a new field in Fontana, Calif. where the brethren: O. B. Wilson, I. D. Stover, F. Doolittle, and I, and Sisters Emma Cage and Nellie Poulos labored among strangers. God blessed our labors. These brothers and sisters, including Bro. Isaac Chandler of Bakersfield, were continually supporting the meeting. Each night one or two of them were there and some had to drive many miles. Some said it was like a camp meeting. Truly the Spirit worked. Every night crowds of saints came from Ontario, Pomona, Glendale, San Bernardino, and Bakersfield. All these came in crowds, supporting the meeting with their presence, prayers, and means, for which we thank the Lord and saints in other places who were in agreement that God would save souls and open a way for His truth to be established in the hearts of men in new fields. We need the prayers of people everywhere, from every community, that the Lord will continue to bless in this new field.

The California saints have been enjoying Brothers Spears and Williams from Oklahoma. They were with us in Bakersfield and after that they conducted a meeting in Pasadena, bringing forth the deep truth of God's Word. It shall be long remembered by many.

Wife joins me in sending love to all, L. E. Davy

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California—To all the dear saints and readers of the "Faith and Victory" paper,—I believe the Lord would have me add my testimony of how I was wonderfully healed of a Black Widow spider bite. I awoke one morning with an awful itching on my back just above the waist line. I never had such itching before, and it was annoying. I asked my daughter to look at it and see what it looked like. She looked and told me it was just a small ridge and was very red and looked irritated, and no doubt, I had scratched it. I thought lightly of it, but the itching continued and the place began to swell. I thought maybe a boil or carbuncle might be forming as I had had one just before this. The place got larger and more fiery looking and began to burn a little. The next morning I was deathly sick. I got ready for Sunday School and meeting and went on to meeting still sick. My daughter-in-law said that maybe something bit me but I told her I didn't think so. I stayed for Sunday School and services and by that time I was so sick I didn't know whether I could make it home or not. I showed the place to a sister (minister) and she said she just didn't know what it could be, that she had never seen anything like it. I had them to anoint and pray for me, and the dear Lord wonderfully touched my body and kept me from becoming unconscious. Yet I was still very sick, and went home and to bed. I had a high temperature for two or three days. No one could imagine what it was. I had no pain, but the place got larger and more angry looking. On Tuesday my daughter said it looked like it had pus in it—just two or three little white spots that

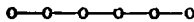
looked festered, and was the worst looking place she had ever seen. I told her to open those festered places. She did, and such a large stream of pus came pouring out it excited her. She said, "Mama, I would like to know what this is. It surely can't be a boil or carbuncle."

I said, "The Lord can heal it, whatever it is."

The pus kept running by cups full. It didn't seem possible that there could be so much. The place had swollen as large as my hand and had spread. The children became alarmed and wanted to know what it was. They asked me if I would go to a doctor and find out. It looked terrible but I told them that I had no pain and the fever was gone and the Lord was able to heal it regardless of what it was. However I decided to go to a doctor and find out what it was. As soon as he looked at it he said it was a Black Widow spider bite, and asked how long it had been since it bit me. I told him it had been two weeks. He marvelled that I had gone that long without medical aid and said that it was very close to my lung and could have gone to my lung and I would have been spitting the pus out instead of it running out like it did. He said he would clean it out and give me some penicillin. I refused it and told him I did not take medicine. He asked me what I did and wanted to know if I was Christian Scientist. I told him that I trusted the Lord and He healed in answer to prayer. Of course he did not like that, but all of you know how hateful they talk to us when we testify to the healing of our bodies.

I wish to say my trust is still in God, the One who has promised to heal us of all our diseases. I am the mother of eleven children and have never had a doctor in our home but twice during forty-five years of married life, and only once after we found the truth. If I live another forty-five years, I shall still be trusting the Lord. I write this that it may be a help and encouragement to some precious soul. I love the Lord. He has done much for me. Dear ones, let us live what we profess. Some say they trust the Lord, but when sickness comes they call a doctor. I am glad I can recommend a great Physician to you, one who has never lost a case. Try Him.

Mrs. W. I. Miles



Ind.—Dear saints everywhere,—Greetings to all in the precious name of Jesus. I am thankful I can still say I have victory in my soul. I love the dear Lord's way above all this morning. I enjoy reading the little paper, "Faith and Victory." It contains so many good, helpful truths. Oh, that everyone would turn to the dear Lord and serve him and let Him have His way!

I have been reading from the 26th chapter of Exodus. It would be good for the young people everywhere to read this chapter and study it carefully.

Pray for me that I will be closer drawn to Him who died that I might live and that I might be able to help someone see their need of salvation. The Lord has done many good things for me. Your sister, Stella Lee.



BIBLE STUDY

THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Sunday, December 2, 1945.

Daily Readings and Meditations

November 26 to December 1.

M. The source of our wealth Deut. 8:11-13.

T. God the owner Psalms 50:7-11.

W. Commercializing religion Acts 19:23-29.

T. Dealing honestly with God Mal. 3:8-11.

F. A Christian's possessions Luke 12:13-21.

S. The rich young ruler Luke 18:19-24.

Printed PortionDeuteronomy 8:17, 18; Luke 12:13-21.

Deut. 8:17. And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.

18. But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

Luke 12:13. And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.

14. And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?

15. And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

16. And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

17. And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

18. And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

19. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

20. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

21. So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Golden Text: A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. Luke 12:15.

Practical Truth: In the earning, saving, and spending of money one should think of his obligations to God and to his fellow men as well as of his own personal interests.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The Lord alone can give health, wisdom and the ability to get wealth, and people should remember Him after they get it, but they seldom do. The world seems to glory in self-exaltation. The headlines of prominent papers often honor some "self-made man"—that is, some man who has advanced from poverty to fame and fortune and boastfully takes all the credit for the rise to himself and his own efforts. This is a God-dishonoring attitude. God has left on record some instances where His wrath was kindled against people with this attitude and He humbled them (Dan. 4:30 gives one case). But people are failing to take the warning contained in these cases. Because He does not immediately punish everyone who is guilty, they seem not to fear God's wrath. "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil."

We cannot expect people of the world to do right and have right thoughts, because they are under Satan's control; but God's people need to take heed and beware of a covetous, boastful spirit which the devil would like to give them.

It is written that the early church did not consider anything that they possessed as belonging to them, and they brought their possessions and laid them at the apostles' feet. God may not require the latter act; but a saint cannot prosper in soul unless he completely surrenders.

his possessions to God and does not consider them as belonging to himself. The desire to have worldly possessions for selfish gain is just as bad as the desire to keep for self that which one already has in his possession. Some think that if they had wealth they would be free to give to the cause of the Lord and to the poor; but if they are not free with the little that God has entrusted to them, they would not give much if they had great wealth.

One dear old saint, who was considered wealthy in this world's goods would not even buy a pair of shoes for himself without first praying about it. He gave generously to others who were in need. He gladly considered himself as only a steward over this earthly wealth that he might have the true heavenly riches.

The class should make a list of scriptures which deal with covetousness, God's warnings against it, and the fate of those who do not heed the warnings. You will notice it is placed in the catalog of sins along with other things that we consider bad sins. Test yourself and see if you are completely free from a covetous spirit.

The man in today's lesson, whom God called a fool, made several mistakes: He put the wrong value on life, for he only valued his days by the wealth he could accumulate in them. He had more than he needed, but did not make good use of the surplus. He had the wrong idea of how to make his soul merry, for a soul could only be ill at ease and unhappy being fed on worldly gain. And he was deceived about the length of his life for he thought in terms of "many years," but he only had that one day.

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THE CHRISTIAN'S PLACE IN THE LIFE OF HIS NATION

Sunday, December 9, 1945

Daily Readings and Meditations

- M. A righteous nation Prov. 14:27, 28, 31-34.
- T. Keening the law Matt. 5:17-20.
- W. Christian love Matt. 5:43-48.
- T. Citizen's duties 1 Peter 2:13-17.
- F. Civic righteousness Titus 3:1-8.
- S. The Christians' heritage Isa. 54:11-17.

Printed Portion Matt. 5:13-16, 43-48; 1 Peter 2:13-17

Matt. 5:13. Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

14. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Golden Text: Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. Psalms 33:12.

Practical Truth: Christians should reflect the light of their Master.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

True Christians are the salt of the earth in different ways. By their influence and examples they help to purify and preserve it from moral decay, and their intercessory prayers cause God to withhold the deserved destruction a little longer.

The "first love" in a Christian is like the savor in the salt. When divine love leaks out of the heart, love of the world takes its place, leaving one a Christian in name only. Such are good for nothing, for they can be of no use to God and they cause the world to regard Christianity with contempt—in other words, trample it under foot.

Light is a type of deity and holiness; darkness is a type of Satan and sin. When Christ was on earth He was the light of the world. He imparted that light to others, so Christians are light-disseminators. We have no light of our own, so if we desire to shine for Jesus, we must let Him have full control and live in and through us. That which does not shine is not light. "Jesus will shine if within you." The chief end of a Christian is to glorify God, and He is glorified when His ideal is realized in us. When we are living in touch with God as we should, others will see and be drawn to God. When we can, from the heart, obey verse 44, we can be assured that Christ's light is shining through us. Jesus loved his enemies, and He has grace for each one of His disciples to refrain from any spirit of retaliation and private-revenge.

Verse 48 instructs us to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect. This means to be perfect in love. In many places the New Testament mentions Christian perfection. This does not mean that a human can be infallible or perfect in knowledge and understanding as God is. One can have a perfect heart (by the grace of God) and be perfect in love to God and his fellowmen and perfect in obedience to God. In this state of heart perfection there is still need and room for growth. A little tree could be a perfect little tree, but it would not remain perfect if it did not grow.

God requires His people to be law-abiding citizens of their country except in cases where law-makers over-step their God-given authority and enact laws which conflict with God's laws.

EXALTING CHRIST IN THE LIFE OF THE NATION

Sunday, December 16, 1945.

Daily Readings and Meditations

December 10 to 15.

- M. Christ the light Isa. 9:2-7.
- T. Christ the divine leader Jer. 23:5-8.
- W. The kingdom of Christ Luke 1:26-33.
- T. Preparation for blessings Luke 1:76-79.
- F. Christ's glory and work Heb. 1:1-4.
- S. Christ's dominion Eph. 1:15-23.

Printed Portion.....Isaiah 9:2, 3, 6, 7; Luke 1:26-33.

Isa. 9:2. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

3. Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

6. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Luke 1:26. And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

27. To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

28. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

29. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

30. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God.

31. And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.

32. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

33. And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Golden Text: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, the Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isa. 9:6.

Practical Truth: Exalting Christ will contribute to the highest welfare of any nation.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world, was promised many generations before He came. The Prophet Isaiah had prophesied that His coming would be marked with great joy and rejoicing, that He would also be rejected. He told us also that this coming Saviour would be marked with five symbolic names: "Wonderful," making the whole earth wonder at His incarnation, His divinity, His wonderful words—"Never man spake like this man."—His acts, and His mighty power. Next, "Counsellor," meaning the wisdom and knowledge given unto Him to teach, to lead, and to guide. Third, "The Mighty God," which relates Him to the God-head. "Everlasting Father," means He is the eternal One, without beginning or ending of days, from everlasting to everlasting. Then the fifth, oh, what a name, and how very much it did mean in that dark and tragic hour of Judah's history! God's last word to Israel was not to be one of destruction, but a word of hope after a long night of gloom. Those in darkness saw a great light. Glory to God! The fifth name was "The Prince of Peace." What a comfort it is today to this sin-cursed, war-torn world of ours. Then the Prophet realized that what God had promised to bring about would be done. No

matter how dark the night nor how the storm in its fury rages, God cannot fail. At times it seems to us that He works slowly, but He never comes too late. We sometimes become impatient and want God to hurry and bring things to pass, yet our unhurried Father moves on in His eternal purpose.

This time a baby must be born, grow to manhood, and be rejected. Even before he was born, he encountered his first rejection—closed doors and hearts. He came by humble birth in poverty. He had no place to lay his head. He became poor that we might be rich; yet He was King of kings and Lord of lords. In many ways we see an element of paradox in His life. Angels in heaven came to announce His royal birth, yet he was cradled in a manger. He was the creator of all things, yet lived in poverty. The Son of God with all power in His hands was hung to die between two thieves. He was the one and only hope of Israel, yet they missed Him completely when He came. Thus we find a paradox at the heart of His redemptive ministry from the manger to the grave. —Bessie Metcalf.

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THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS TO THE WORLD

Sunday, December 23, 1945

Daily Readings and Meditations

December 17 to 22.

- M. Good tidings Luke 2:8-15.
- T. Meaning of Christ's coming 1 John 4:9-14.
- W. The prophecy by Simeon Luke 2:25-32.
- T. God's beloved Son Matt. 3:12-17.
- F. Oneness with the Father John 14:8-14.
- S. The pre-eminence of Christ Col. 1:9-18.

Printed Portion Luke 2:1-14.

Luke 2:1. And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

2. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

3. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

4. And Joseph also went up from Galilee out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, (because he was of the house and lineage of David,)

5. To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

6. And so it was, that while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

8. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

10. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12. And this shall be a sign unto you. Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger.

13. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Golden Text: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:14.

Practical Truth: The message of Christmas to the world is that peace and salvation from sin and joy await those who accept Christ.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Years before the birth of Jesus it was prophesied that "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come." The decree that the Jews should be taxed to support another government, meant that the sceptre was about to depart from Judah, so it was time for God to fulfill the prophecy by sending His Son (Shiloh, which means "rest giver").

It was also prophesied that Christ would be born in Bethlehem, but Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth. Notice how God worked to fulfill that prophecy.

The revelation that came to the shepherds in the field had a more lasting significance than any other good news the world has ever heard. When the announcement was given from the lips of God's angel it brought the glory of God with tidings of great joy from heaven to earth. This, indeed was a world-shaking event—Good news, a Saviour, Christ the Lord! The name Jesus was not mentioned here, but He was called, "Saviour," a title that has precious significance to every soul lost in sin. He was also called "Christ," which means anointed one.

"Peace on earth." When Jesus was with his disciples shortly before he was crucified, he said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you." The peace that the angels sang about was a different kind of peace than that which the people of the world talk about and desire. When nations are not fighting with carnal weapons, the worldly people think they have peace—and indeed that is one kind of peace that everybody with a sane, humane mind enjoys—but the peace which Jesus gives is a peace of heart and soul, the peace that passeth all understanding. This peace flows from the throne of God into a heart and causes one to be at peace with God and all mankind though all the nations of the world may be engaged in a bloody war. Jesus came to save people from their sins and redeem them back to God. When one seeks God for the pardon of his sins through faith in the shed blood of Jesus, God sends the assurance of sins forgiven. It is then that the heavenly peace floods the soul, and will last so long as the person conducts himself according to the known will of God. Man's sins had caused enmity or a separation between him and God. There was need of an armistice, and God planned one. The gift of Jesus was God's signature to the armistice, but each individual must sign it (accept the gift by real, active, living faith) before it can be put into effect in that individual's behalf.

WORLD FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIANS Sunday, December 30, 1945

Daily Readings and Meditations

December 24 to 29.

- M. The gospel for all Matt. 28:18-20.
- T. Universal worship Ps. 72:1-11.
- W. The vision of Cornelius Acts 10:1-8.
- T. The vision of Peter Acts 10:9-16.
- F. A Gentile believer Acts 10:44-48.
- S. Children of God Gal. 3:26-28.

Printed Portion Acts 10:34-43.

Acts 10:34. Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

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

36. The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

37. That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;

38. How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

39. And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:

40. Him God raised up the third day, and showed him openly;

41. Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

42. And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.

43. To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

Golden Text: The same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. Romans 10:12.

Practical Truth: Christianity furnishes a practical basis for a world-wide Christian fellowship.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Peter was one of the disciples to whom Christ gave the commission, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," but it took a thrice-repeated vision on a house top, a voice from heaven and another command to cause him to grasp the meaning of that commission. Human minds are slow to grasp spiritual truths, especially if they have been trained in a certain way and have become biased. When people are willing to give up their pre-conceived ideas and let God reveal truth to them, they will find, to their surprise, that they shall begin to perceive some things, such as Peter did. So long as people say, "I think it is this way," and refuse to seek God with an open heart, they will keep themselves shut out from light which God desires to give for their good, God's glory, and the upbuilding of His cause in the earth.

When dealing with men, God is not moved by such things as their nationality, birth, rank, wealth, power, or other temporal or material circumstance, but only regards the condition of hearts and acts accordingly.

For some people it is not hard to believe that God is no respecter of persons, but it seems hard for them to understand that He expects His people to bear His image in this respect. God's Word plainly instructs us that if we have respect of persons we commit sin. We must manifest love and good will (the spirit of Christ) to all men regardless of nationality, race, or rank. Many professed Christians imbibed and manifested the spirit of the world during the war, and permitted themselves to be deceived into believing that God did not require them to love the Germans and Japanese.

To Peter's Gentile audience he gave a brief summary of the facts and doctrines of the gospel. It included the earthly ministry of Jesus and its end at the crucifixion, the resurrection which was witnessed by the apostles and others, and the second coming of Jesus to judge the quick and the dead. (Peter did not preach a Millennium doctrine.) The application of the message was that whosoever would believe should receive remission (forgiveness) of sins.