

FAITH AND VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



Volume 16, No. 11.

Published at

Guthrie, Oklahoma

25c Per Year

April, 1946

My Good Shepherd

I have a good Shepherd, so kind and so true,
He is the best Shepherd that ever I knew;
For when I was lost in the dark and the cold,
He found me and then took me into the fold.

I have a dear Shepherd, His voice is so clear,
His heart is so tender, His love is so dear;
His pasture is flooded with sunshine and love,
With peace and salvation from Heaven above.

He cares for His sheep through the day and the night,
For they are so precious, so dear in His sight;
His pasture affords an abundant supply,
His wells of salvation will never run dry.

He brought them from lowlands of sin and despair
To heights of salvation so bright and so fair;
And there He will keep them from danger and harm,
Protect them and shield them by His mighty arm.

Though storms of temptation and trials may rise,
And clouds of affliction may darken the skies;
Yet still the Good Shepherd will near them abide,
And give them His shelter right close by His side.

The sheep know their Shepherd and are not dismayed,
The fury of stormclouds can't make them afraid;
They know when the storm and the clouds are once o'er,
The sunshine seems brighter than ever before.

In spite of their many and dangerous foes,
They follow Him closely wherever He goes;
And thus in His tender compassion and love,
He leads them to mansions of glory above.

Since He is so gentle, so kind, and so sweet,
I ever will follow the path of His feet.
I know He is able to carry me through,
For He's the best Shepherd that ever I knew.

—F. F. Ortmann.

(Composed at Moundville, W. Va., Jan. 14, 1906)

oOo

The Way Of Escape

In the tenth chapter of I Corinthians we find Paul warning the saints at Corinth using as examples those children of Israel who fell by the wayside, being tempted.

The experiences that the Israelites met with in the wilderness are typical of the temptations and trials that we meet with in our Christian life.

Paul goes on to say, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There is no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: But God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape that ye may be able to bear it." I Cor. 10:12, 13.

This is one of the many great and exceeding precious promises that God has given us, that by these we may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (2 Pet. 1:4.)

We should notice that in all of God's good promises, there are conditions for us to meet before we can obtain the promise.

Let us notice the condition God has made with this promise of help in time of temptation. He will not suffer us to be tempted above that we are able, but *will* with the temptation make a way of *escape*. We must take the way of escape that God provides. Any other way will only lead us more deeply into temptation. It is good to endure temptation; but take heed lest ye endure to your own destruction! Any enduring after God has made a way of escape becomes no longer enduring but submitting. When God makes a way out of our temptation it may seem much harder to take than just enduring the temptation. It may take a greater effort than just resisting the enemy. There comes a time in every battle when aggression must be resorted to. Let us be aggressive in the battle against the enemy! When we take the way out that God provides, praise the Lord, we can know that the "way out" is the "way in."

You can't find God's way of escape for you? Be careful lest a tenderness in your heart toward that temptation should blind you. The way out of our temptation may be in death—the kind of death Paul speaks of when he said, "Then death worketh in us, but life in you." 2 Cor. 4:12.

I'm glad that Paul carried about in his body the dying of the Lord Jesus Christ, that the life also of him might be made manifest in his mortal body. (2 Cor. 4:11.)

I have been oftentimes refreshed, strengthened, and nourished by the fruits that Paul bore, haven't you? Paul was daily taking the way of escape. He looked not at the temptation, but away from it and into the beautiful completion of the work and plan of God in his own life.

Look away from your temptation and into a vision of God's perfect plan for you. Are you tempted to slack up a little, give up a little because your efforts have seemed fruitless? Launch out into the deep and let your nets down for a draught. Have you been holding the lines in on your nets? Let them go deep! Don't tie strings onto the power of God. Don't be found guilty of limiting the Holy One of Israel, just because you are a poor, weak man or woman. Recognize God's power. Acknowledge it and give it free reign in you. Are you tempted to let down or be cast down into that awful quicksand of self-pity by sorrow? Look away from sorrow and into the tender mercy of God. Your sorrow shall be turned into joy and that joy, no man taketh from you. Are you tempted by the pride of life and earthly possessions? God has made a way out for you, too. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God."

God has not only given us a way of escape but also gives us a means of avoiding temptation. "Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation." Matt. 26:41.

—Virginia L. Wittenborn

Being His Disciple

In Luke 14:27 we read, "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."

These words which were spoken by the Lord Jesus Christ brings positive truth to our minds; therefore, we who are naming Christ as our teacher, should think seriously upon His positive statement and examine our walk here in this world and see whether we are bearing the cross or shunning the reproach of the cross.

"And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever will lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Mark 8:34-37. Jesus spoke these words, also.

Just before Jesus spoke these words to the disciples he had been telling them how he must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. Peter could not endure the thought of following a man that was to be thus humiliated by prominent religious leaders, because it would mean that he would be despised and humiliated also. He thought Jesus ought to so conduct himself that he would preserve his life. Jesus,

seeing that Peter was being prompted by Satan with such thoughts, had to rebuke him thus: "Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men."

Dear readers, just think of the many preachers of today that are savoring only the things that be of men and need to receive this rebuke that Jesus gave the unsanctified Peter. Amos the Prophet asked, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Amos 3:3. My dear brother, you cannot walk with Christ in this world unless you continually agree with Him. To walk with Him will mean a continued self-denying way, a way that will bring scoffs and scorns from proud-hearted professors of religion, and a way that will separate you from the various synagogues of worldly-minded professors. You will be persecuted in different ways for retaining and walking in His Spirit. Paul says in 2 Tim. 3:12, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." You will not have to do anything more than to simply live and practice the teachings of the New Testament, then persecutions in different ways and manners will follow. Many will speak evil of you and accuse you in different ways with thoughts of justifying themselves. Earthly and sensual religious men have always accused the just unfairly and always will do it. They did Jesus that way, and if you will follow His teachings today they will do you that way.

In the fourth chapter of Galatians where Paul shows the differences between those under bondage and those that are made free through Christ and have the promise, he says, "But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit even so it is now."

Let us read more of Paul's writings in Philippians 3:17: "Brethren, he followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example. (For many walk of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)" Belly is a symbol of "fleshly lusts." Many are hoarding up earthly things and are only self-denying where they see it will be to their selfish gain in earthly possessions. That is why the evangelist will not go and hold the revival meeting unless he has a promise of a certain amount of money and the preacher will not pastor the flock unless he is assured of a stipulated salary.

Recently a brother delivered a message in which he warned God's people against practices which are detrimental to the soul. He compared some people to a pelican, the bird that has a large bill with which he greedily gathers food and stores it in his distensible gular pouch to eat at leisure.

I once read a parable in which the writer desired to illustrate the folly of earthly-minded people. A pelican stood at the edge of a lake where the scum and other obnoxious things had gathered. He was busy looking for snails. A pretty, snow-white swan flew down and lit on the water near him. The pelican

looked admiringly at the beautiful swan and asked where he came from. The swan replied that he came from heaven. He wanted to know what kind of a place heaven was. The swan told him of its beauty, bliss, and comfort. When he told what he could of its grandeur the pelican asked, "Are there any snails in heaven?" When the swan replied in the negative the pelican immediately became disinterested and again dropped his head and continued his search for snails.

The world is filled with preachers and religious teachers who are disinterested in religion unless they can see some personal honor, fame, praise, or filthy lucre in sight. They scorn the true ministers who teach the crucified way that Jesus trod—and this teaching of the crucified way condemns and is definitely against conformity to the world (Rom. 12:2), men or women dressing in immodest apparel, the wearing of pearls, gold, and costly array or anything that is needless and for show or to conform to worldly customs. (1 Peter 3:3-5; 1 Tim. 2:7, 10). In the face of plain scriptures many religious people love their own lives and the world so much that they will covet after land, houses, and money, and conform to the world in wearing a neck-tie, gold watches, chains, and pins, and costly array. The women will bob their hair, paint their finger-nails and faces, and dress in the vulgar styles of the world. Preachers and teachers often fellowship them in these things and many do the things themselves in one form or another and in that way become the "enemies of the cross of Christ." Any minister, teacher, or editor that indulges in worldly ways and covetous practices and does not cry out against such things becomes and enemy to the cross of Christ. They will not bear the cross themselves and so teach others that they also are kept from bearing the cross. In that way they all become the enemies of the cross of Christ. It is quite popular in these days to make a profession and belong to one of the many religious synagogues, but it is very unpopular to really teach and practice and to follow Christ in his sufferings and live a self-denying life. Therefore man, in order to preserve his life, will shun to bear the reproach of the cross, making excuses and intellectually wresting the scriptures from their proper meaning to justify himself and others in worldly conformity.

If there is no sufferings and no cross for you in this world, there will be no crown awaiting you over there. John the Revelator was instructed to write about the sufferings of the saints. He said, "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life." Rev. 2:10. Peter, writing to the elders, said, "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." 1 Peter 5:4. Paul said, "I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, and not to me only, but unto all of them also that love his appearing." 2 Tim. 4:8. Who will love His appearing more than those that are suffering in this world for His name's sake? James says,

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptations: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." James 1:12. Ministers, teachers, editors, and other professors of religion that do not follow the teachings of the New Testament in separating from the world and bearing the reproach of the cross, suffering with Jesus in this world, are proving day by day that they do not love Him. It is very satisfying to the fleshly self-life to join up with one of the many religious synagogues in this world and float along with a profession, but if one will step out from them and by his life and the scriptures show up the evils of these institutions of men, he will soon receive persecutions and will begin to know what it really means to suffer with Jesus. Our dear Saviour received practically all of his persecutions from the religious Jews that belonged to the synagogues. If one will follow in His steps and practice what He taught and practiced, he will be reproached, despised, and persecuted also. They looked upon Jesus as one that was despised, stricken, smitten of God and afflicted (Isa. 53:4). In the third verse it is written, "He is despised and rejected of men: a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him: he was despised and we esteemed him not."

In 1 Peter 2:21, we read, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that we should follow in his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: who when he was reviled, reviled not again: when he suffered, he threatened not: but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously."

Brethren, let us walk with Him and not in any degree or manner with the religious world or fellowship in any way the present day synagogues that we may find ourselves suffering with Christ and having a real love for His appearing. —Fred Pruitt

Michigan,—Dear Brother Pruitt,—I have thought much about salvation and religion. We find in James 1:27, "Pure religion . . . is to keep himself unspotted from the world." The way religion is today, a lot of people say that they are saved because they have religion and have joined a man-made church, but they sin every day as long as they live. The fruit of their lives is just as the world. Some dress as the world, or you might say undress. The life of the world is in them and they go to the dance, the card party, bowling alley; women dress in men's apparel, smoke, and drink. We see by their lives the kind of religion that they have doesn't take sin out. Salvation does not work that way. Salvation takes all of sin out and off.

I was thinking of the man in Luke 19. He sought to see Jesus and when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him and said unto him, Zaccheus, make haste and come down; for today I must abide at thy house. Jesus said, This day is salvation come to this house. He did not say religion, but salvation.

For myself, I can say that when I got salvation, not religion, all that was in me unlike God had to go. Thank God for all that He means to me. I want my life to be what God wants it to be. —C. Brandt

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

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

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

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

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

This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanc-

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma

Joe S. Fuller was born in Trenton, Illinois, November 4, 1871, and passed away at his home in Bovina, Texas, March 1946, at the age of 74 years, 4 months, and 15 days. He leaves to mourn their loss his wife, Mrs. Edna Fuller; two children, Louise and Roy Fuller, all of Bovina, Texas; a sister, Mrs. Katie Steinhart of Springfield, Mo., and many other relatives.

He was united in marriage to Miss Edna Milholland, April 3, 1895, in Carthage, Missouri.

He was converted when a young man in Oronogo, Missouri, and united with the Methodist church. Since 1914, he has been affiliated with the church of God.

Mr. Fuller came to New Mexico in 1908 and lived in this state until a few years ago when he moved to Texas.

Funeral services were held in Steade Undertaker Parlors on March 21st. The services were conducted by Fred Pruitt of Guthrie, Oklahoma. Text: Prov. 16:33. The remains were laid to rest in the Clovis Cemetery.

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, 7:30 p.m. Mid-week service prayer meeting Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. All are welcome.

SERVICES AT BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

The chapel where the church of God meets in Bakersfield, California, is located on the corner of South Brown and Virginia Streets.

Regular Sunday services are: Sunday school, 10 a.m.; Preaching services, 11 a.m.; Children's meeting, 4 p.m.; Young People's meeting, 5 p.m.; Evening service, 7:15 p.m. Prayer meeting, Wednesday 7:15 p.m.

Brother I. C. Chandler, Pastor

Editorials

The printing work at the Lord's Print Shop is going on nicely as He leads the way, supplies, and encourages our hearts. The books, papers, and tracts are going out to all parts of the country in a steady stream, and the saints everywhere are encouraged and edified thereby, and the lost are hearing the gospel by the printed page. The large amount of testimonies in this Issue of "Faith and Victory" paper is a witness to the fact that good is being done through the working power of God by His Spirit.

One of the Print Shop workers, Sister Rosella Slifer, was united in marriage on Feb. 24th to Bro. Richard Scott, whose home is at Milan, Mo. Sister Rosella has been saved and living for God for many years, and also has Bro. Scott whom she married. She has been a faithful worker here in the print shop and many have been blessed by her labors.

February 23rd wife and I, Willie Murphey, our son-in-law, and May Belle Pruitt, our daughter-in-law, drove to Milan, Mo., a distance of 544 miles from Guthrie. On Sunday morning we had preaching service in the home, and the marriage ceremony was performed in the afternoon by the writer in the presence of fifteen or twenty guests, mostly relatives of the bridegroom. They will make their home on the husband's farm near Milan, Mo., and expect to do all they can in those parts for the cause of God and in behalf of all interested souls. The office force here at Guthrie joins together in wishing them well and the enjoyment of many years of happiness together in the Lord.

Sometimes it is quite absurd how religious men who are not led of the Spirit will strain the scriptures and twist them from their proper meaning to prop up some of their false ideas. I once talked with a preacher who had the idea that followers of Christ should keep the Jewish Sabbath (Saturday) as though we are yet under the law. When I told him of the scripture in the 20th chapter of John where the disciples immediately began after His resurrection to meet on the first day of the week, then after eight days met again, he put the emphasis on the word "after" in order to make it appear that the second meeting was more than eight days, therefore would not be on Sunday, the first day of the week. I notice this Scripture in "Weymouth" New Testament which is translated into modern speech, has it, "A week later the disciples were again in the house." In Acts 20:7, we read, "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached to them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight."

It is plain to see that after His resurrection His true disciples began to meet on Sunday, the first day of the week. The Jews that did not accept Christ continued to meet in their synagogues on the Jewish Sabbath and Paul often went into their synagogues on the sabbath and preached to them, as that was his only chance to have them together to preach to them.

The fact is, when Jesus came, he fulfilled the law and the prophets (Matt. 5:17). The literal rest day that was given before is typical of the soul rest that believers have in Christ. Believers in Christ are not under bondage to keep the regulations as given for the seventh day under the law and before the law, for Christ in them fulfills the law and the prophets. We honor the resurrected Christ by meeting together for worship, or breaking of bread, on the first day of the week, as the apostles also did after his resurrection and as Paul and the disciples did thirty years later. You can read about this rest that true believers have in the fourth chapter of Hebrews. In the eighth verse it is written: "For if Jesus [the word "Jesus" should be "Joshua." See margin.] had given them rest, then should he not afterward have spoken of another day." He is referring to Joshua leading the Hebrews over into the Canaan land. Many of them died in the wilderness and failed to enter the Canaan land because of unbelief. In the tenth verse he makes it plain that we who enter into the rest in Christ have ceased from our works as God from his. In other words, God ceasing from his works on the seventh day typifies the rest we have when we get in Christ and cease from our works and just let Him live in us and work through us both to do and to will of His good pleasure (Phil. 2:13).

When the law keepers were finding fault with Jesus (Mark 2nd chapter) for breaking the Jewish sabbath, he told them plainly, "The sabbath was made for man and not man for the sabbath." In other words, it was made for man to point him to Christ, the soul rest giver; and when Christ came He fulfilled its purpose and gives the true believer a continual sabbath of rest in the soul. The believer is careful not to pollute it by doing his own works, but he yields to God and lets him work through him both to do and to will of his good pleasure. He is not blind any more to think that he must keep a certain day in a literal sense to get into heaven, for Christ has fulfilled that in him. Praise God! If the Son shall make you free, ye are free indeed. He told them also that the Son of man was Lord also of the sabbath. Therefore, when He is allowed to live in our souls, he is our law, our governor, and ruler. He directs us, making us know what to do on the sabbath and on all other days. Being "His purchased possession" (Eph. 1:14), we esteem every day alike, and not one day above another. In letting Him have His way we become great sabbath keepers, for we have a continual sabbath of rest in our souls in ceasing from our own works as God did from his when He gave the literal sabbath which points to Jesus his Son, the soul "Rest Giver." The law and the prophets were as a school master (Gal. 4:24) pointing, teaching, and leading us up to and preparing us for the coming of Christ who would become "All and in all" to true believers. Yes, the scriptures are indeed true that the sabbath was made for man and not man for the sabbath and that the Son of man is also Lord of the sabbath. Praise God for redemption! "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

Paul says in Rom. 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." The law with literal sabbath keeping was for the flesh. Man did that keeping in his own fleshly strength. They that are truly spiritually enlightened on the scriptures see the keeping of the literal sabbath just like Paul teaches concerning circumcision which is of the flesh; for it was typical of the circumcision of the heart when Christ was believed in. In Gal. 6:15 Paul says, "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature." In other words, just because one was literally circumcised it would profit him nothing, but that thing which would profit one would be the "New Creature," Christ, in the soul. Just so, one might be a strict literal sabbath keeper and it would profit him nothing; but if one had Christ, the New Creature, in his soul, He alone would profit. One might believe that literal circumcision and literal sabbath keeping was done away in Christ but if he failed to believe in Christ to the saving of his soul, that would avail him nothing. One must have Christ, the New Creature, in his soul. The spiritually enlightened saints of God are not under bondage to literal circumcision or literal sabbath keeping, but the Spirit in them may sometimes lead them under certain circumstances to refrain from being offensive to weaker brethren until they have teaching and are enlightened by His Spirit.

Paul said to these Galatian brethren who were being turned from grace to law keeping by law teachers, "Ye observe days, months, times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed labor upon you in vain." Gal. 4:10. "Let no man therefore judge you in meat or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath: which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ" Col. 2:16. Brethren and sisters, do not allow these many law teachers to judge and condemn you for not keeping the literal things of the law. Keep Christ in your soul by yielding to Him and being led by His Spirit and you will remain a member in His Body, the church, and be ready for the judgment and heaven. Paul says in Rom. 8:14, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." And again in Gal. 3:26, we read, "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

— oOo —

NOTICE

Dear Saints,—If any ministers or saints pass through Vasalia, California, please stop and see me at 412 South Locust Street. I am isolated.

—Mrs. Nora Barker

BOLEY MEETING

The spring meeting which has been held annually at Boley, Okla. for several years will begin April 19th this year. Pray that the Lord will bless. All are invited to come. M. J. Phillips, Box 294, Boley, Okla., pastor.

SERVICES ON EASTER SUNDAY

As usual, the saints at Guthrie, Oklahoma will have an all day meeting on Easter Sunday, April 21st. We welcome all the saints and others who are interested in their souls to come and spend Easter Sunday here at Guthrie. Sunday School will begin at 9:30 and preaching service will follow at 11 a.m. Dinner on the grounds. The ordinances of feet-washing and the Lord's Supper will be observed in the afternoon. We urge all to come.

DINING HALL

The saints at Guthrie are now working on the new dining hall which they are building for the need of the yearly state campmeetings and assembly meetings. Bro. Lawrence Sneed of Capulin, New Mexico and Bro. Manly Jones from Colorado are here working, together with some of the saints at Guthrie. They have the trench dug for the concrete foundation to be put in, the sand is on the ground, and they are expecting a car load of rock to arrive any day and the work on the building will go forward as God supplies in every way. The building will be 30 ft. wide and 74 ft. long, with rooms above for sleeping quarters. It will be made modern throughout. This building is being put up by free-will offerings, both by means and labor. The material in the building is estimated to cost \$3,000.00. There was only about \$500.00 in the treasury with which to start. Those who cannot come and help do the work can send their offerings to the treasurer, Bro. George Lounds, 312 N. Phillips St., Oklahoma City, Okla. Or, if it is more convenient for you to send it here to Faith Pub. House, Guthrie, Okla., just send it here, making your postal money order and checks out to Fred Pruitt, and I will see that it is used in buying material for the building as I am taking care of the checking for material here at Guthrie. We are in need of a man to come and lay the concrete blocks. They will begin that part of the work soon. The cooperation of all the saints in erecting this building in any way that God leads you will be accepted and appreciated. It would be good for all the congregations of the saints to set aside a Lord's day offering to be used in buying the material. We also need money to give to those who work on the building. We also need your prayers that the Lord will so supply that there will be no hinderances in the erection of this needed dining hall.

Obituaries

Charlie Andrews was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 17, 1920, and departed this life February 11, 1946, at the age of 25 years, 5 months, and one day. In his early childhood his parents moved to Oklahoma. He lived there until 1941, then moved to Bakersfield, California, where he resided until shortly before his death, when he was taken to Keene, California.

His mother preceded him in death in April of 1935. He leaves to mourn his departure a father and step-mother, Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Andrews; eight brothers, Obie, Ellis, Brownie, Luvel, Alvin, and Windell, all of Bakersfield, William of Los Angeles, and Daniel of Long View, Texas; five sisters, Gladys Williams, Velma Gaines, Mildrene and Barbara Jean, all of Bakersfield, and Juanita of Wichita, Kansas, two aunts, one uncle, seven nephews, five nieces, and a host of saints and friends.

He gave his heart to God at an early age and lived faithful unto the end. He became ill in February of

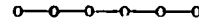
1944. He trusted in God and was patient through all of his suffering.

Brother Chandler and other saints visited him a few days before his death. He said that he was living every day, every hour, and every minute for the Lord, and if he should get well, he expected to keep on doing so. He said that he wanted to live only that he might warn other souls to turn from their sins, but desired rather that the Lord take him home.

He was conscious unto the last. As he spoke his last words, a nurse in the sanitarium wrote them in his Bible: "I have lived every day, every hour, and every minute for the Lord and now I can face death calmly. Bless my brother, dear God."

Scriptures were read by Z. E. Francisco and sermon by Isaac Chandler. Text: Rev. 4:12-13.

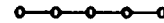
Internment in Union Cemetery, Bakersfield, California. —Robena Francisco



Elihu Key was born in Indiana, December 24, 1858, and departed this life March 4, 1946, at the age of eighty-seven years, two months, and eight days. He was united in marriage early in life (1881) to Lucy Hatfield, to which union seven children were born. This companion departed this life in 1907 and in 1910 he was united in marriage to Mrs. Flora (Hilton) Miller, to which union three children were born. One son has preceded him in death.

He spent several years of his life in preaching the gospel of Christ in the hope that men would prepare to meet their God.

Funeral services were conducted by Everett Hilbun; text, Job 3:17.



Sister Jessie Steele was born December 13, 1887, departed this life at her home in Phoenix, Arizona, December 20, 1945, at the age of fifty-eight years and eight days. She has been in failing health for the past three years, and though God touched her definitely and miraculously many times in answer to prayer, yet He saw fit to take her home from all earthly sorrows and suffering. She spent several months of the last year of her life in Los Angeles, in the home of Sister Dessie LeMelle, her twin sister, at which place the saints and ministers gathered many times to sing and pray with her and God manifested His love and power in blessing her in soul and body. Sister LeMelle stayed by her bedside the last few weeks and during that time she transferred her thoughts and interest from this time world to heaven and expressed a desire to go on. After she had ceased to talk of other things she continued to repeat the twenty-third Psalm, and gave much assurance that she was ready and waiting for the summons to come up higher.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother N. T. Knight of Phoenix, Arizona.

Campmeeting Notices

To the dear Saints scattered abroad, we greet you once again in the name of our dear Lord:

We want to tell you a little about our coming camp meeting which is to be held here at Hammond, Louisiana, on the general Southern Camp Ground from June 28 to July 8, 1946, inclusive, which will be the 39th annual meeting, if God permits. These camp meetings have always been run on the free-will offering plan, and we find that the Lord always bountifully supplies both spiritually and temporally. We are praying the Lord to

send such ministers as would be an uplift to His work, preach the truth in all of its fullness—all the Bible doctrines, holy living, etc.—and who practice the truth in their own lives. The Lord wants a full-rounded gospel preached and practiced—we must be first partaker of fruit. It is easy to get on one line and stay there, but the Lord wants us to preach on all lines. We find that the longer we live, the more it means to us to be faithful ministers of the New Testament: "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." 1 Cor. 9:27.

We invite all the saints, and especially the dear isolated ones to attend this camp meeting. We would like to see quite a gathering of dear ones who have little opportunity of attending services. Come and enjoy this meeting.

Bring sugar or sugar stamps with you, straw ticks, bed linens, and towels. Straw will be furnished free. Sleeping quarters are provided on the ground or in homes near by, and we assemble together like one large family to eat in the dining room on the camp ground. If any of you have a donation to send—money, provisions for the table, towels for the kitchen (both hand towels and dish towels), aprons for cooks, knives and forks, dishes, pots or pans, bed linens, straw ticks, or anything else that can be used in carrying on a campmeeting—send to Max Williamson in care of Post Office, or Ray Key, Box 370, both of Hammond, La.

This camp ground belongs to the saints and anything you put here will be used for this one purpose of carrying on meetings. And particularly to the saints in the South we want to say that this camp ground belongs to all of you—not just to the saints here—and there is a continual expense of upkeep. Repairs are needed on the camp ground all the time. At present a few things need to be done and added to the ground in order to be able to carry on the campmeetings from year to year. Feel free to send your means and put it with ours here to be used for that purpose.

MICHIGAN STATE CAMPMEETING

The Lord willing, the saints expect to have a campmeeting beginning July 12 through July 21, 1946 at Kalamazoo, Michigan. This meeting will be held in trust that the saints might be encouraged, sinners saved, and bodies healed by divine power. All coming should bring their bedding as much as possible. If anyone has camping equipment, such as cots, tents, etc., bring them. It is very necessary for everyone who plans to come to let us know four or six weeks in advance. Please bring your sugar or ration stamp with you. Send offerings for this campmeeting to the undersigned, also canned goods or any other thing the Lord might lead you to send. All are welcome. For further information write to E. W. Hilbun 516 Howard St., Kalamazoo, Mich. Phone 4-2872.

CORRESPONDENCE

Louisiana,—Dear saints in the one body,—Daughter and I are led to write to the saints abroad how God has wonderfully blessed in this place.

We had been praying for the Lord to send us a minister when He saw fit. Bro. and Sister Williams from Hennessey, Oklahoma, came and oh, what joy and strength it brought to us. We had a glorious meeting night and day. From the beginning to the end we re-

ceived much strength and encouragement from the Lord. Their coming meant much to us. One soul was saved. We enjoyed the ordinance of feet-washing and the Lord's Supper.

Pray much for us. Your saved sisters,

—Effie and Carrie Washington

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Oklahoma,—Dear saints,—Greetings in Jesus' precious name. I am thankful to God that I can say I am still saved and walking on the King's highway. It's been some time since I wrote my testimony and I believe it will be to the glory of God to let you saints hear from me through this little paper.

I want to thank you all for your prayers for my daughter and my grandson. The Lord has wonderfully blessed them.

Continue to pray for me and my family.

Your sister in the one body, —Lizzie Murdock

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Oklahoma,—Dear brother and sister in Christ,—I have enjoyed the testimonies in the "Faith and Victory" paper very much.

I enjoy full salvation and I am glad we can know we are freely saved and sanctified; I am glad there came a time in my life that I was willing to surrender my all to Him. I love to do things for the Lord and His children, He has done so much for me. I love Him with all my heart, soul, and mind, and by His grace I shall spend the rest of my life doing His will. He is all and in all to me. He is my friend in trouble and He is my victory in death. He has healed me many times. Praise His dear name. I have left all the world to follow Jesus. I am going all the way with Him no matter what the cost may be.

May the blessings of our heavenly Father be with you at all times I pray.

Your sister in Christ,

—H. J. Hiebert

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Orland, California,—Dear readers of the little paper,

Truly the Lord has answered our prayers in giving us a meeting house in which to worship Him. We thank God for it. It seemed like it was just dropped right down from heaven. God always gives to us more than we ask. I was expecting God to give us some kind of a building that we could convert into a meeting house or a piece of land on which we could build a meeting house and God gave us this building all ready for services, with nothing to do but to sweep out a little dirt. Praise God, He is surely an omnipotent God, One who knows our needs even before we ask. Within three weeks time after we first inquired about the building, God put it in our hands, so we have much to praise the Lord for today. We feel God has His hand on someone for the work here. We are having Sunday school and prayer meeting. God is richly blessing us. Two souls were saved during the week's meeting and God sent forth some messages that surely stirred up our zeal in serving Him. Time is short; eternity is drawing so near we surely must be at our best for God if we expect to make heaven our home and glean out those who are willing to take the way of the cross. How glad I am that God showed me the way of holiness and that He gave me a willing heart to take up my cross daily and follow in His steps. Surely it means much to follow the Lord. We must die daily to self. God is showing me how I can measure up. If possible the devil will cause us to slacken up and become careless but we know we must not let the enemy creep in along that line if we

want to receive the blessings of God. If we do not keep at the foot of the cross He cannot bless us like He wants to. Thank God for this blessed way. It gets brighter all the way and it surely is a pleasure to serve Him. He is teaching me each day more about His precious love to us and our hearts surely burn within us as we rejoice on the divine love He instills within these hearts of ours. We only ask for more of that love that we might be more like Jesus.

Everyone who knows the worth of prayer, pray for the work here in this place. Several are under conviction. If any of God's children are passing through this way, don't fail to stop and worship with us.

—Mrs. I. W. Terry

o—o—o—o—o—o

Oregon,—Dear saints,—Greetings in our dear Saviour's name. I feel it is pleasing to the Lord for me to tell a few of the many things the Lord has done for me. First of all, I want to thank Him for salvation. The most precious thing the Lord has done for us all is to save our souls. All these other blessings are just secondary, but I truly thank Him for them all. The Lord has done much for me in my life. I have never taken a dose of medicine and have reared a family of nine children without giving one of them a dose of medicine. About thirteen years ago the Lord completely healed me of gallstones. I was very bad with it when the Lord healed me; but praise His dear name, He removed it all, and I haven't had one symptom since. Many times the Lord has touched my body. Just recently the dear Lord healed me of broken metatarsal arch. My toes hurt so badly that the natural sense of feeling was gone. At times it seemed those toes were going to drop off. Even running the sewing machine hurt it so badly I would suffer much with it. I had prayed many times but it seemed the Lord wasn't ready to heal. Two weeks ago the Lord touched that foot and I can sew or walk without pain. praise His dear name. Oh, I have much for which to praise Him!

Dear saints, did you ever think of comparing God's power with all the other powers combined? They are less than the smallest thread compared to God's unlimited power. There is nothing He cannot do where power is needed; yet for all His greatness, think of His love and mercy showed to the children of men.

We are still rejoicing over our assembly meeting. The truth really went forth with the anointing and power; all the saints really felt we had a wonderful meeting. We heard the Word preached straight but it never is preached too straight for me. I really did enjoy the meeting.

Pray for me and my unsaved children. Some of my children are saved. Your sister in Christ, Emma Busch

o—o—o—o—o—o

Louisiana,—Dear saints,—I am a reader of the "Faith and Victory." I pray God to help me to measure to all of His Word. I know God answers prayer. I was sick about three weeks ago. I called upon the Lord and He touched my body. The day I read your letter I felt a change. I have gained more faith in God. I know I must humble myself, have faith in God, and He will answer prayer. Pray much for me that I receive more faith and power and be everything God requires me to be.

In Christ, —Mary Williams

o—o—o—o—o—o

Oklahoma,—Dear ones in the Lord,—We are rejoicing in the Lord. He becomes nearer and dearer to us

each day. Oh, I truly praise God for the good, old truth and the one true way, the strait and narrow way. He saved my soul from sin's control the Bible way.

Sunday night, February 25th, I had a bad heart attack, but I prayed and trusted the Lord. On Monday night about midnight I awoke and was thinking about my sickness. I was praying and thinking about the ways of the Lord. I knew the saints had been praying for me. In sweet quietness the Lord spoke to my soul—it was heavenly—and told me that He had taken the weakness of my heart and body away. Oh, I praised God. I haven't had a touch of it since and am strong enough to do all of my work. I feel good, especially in soul. Truly, we sit together in heavenly places. As I walk and talk with the Lord each day, He becomes more precious. I enjoy His service with my whole heart, and live for Him alone.

Continue to pray for us. We are here nearly alone all the time. People are turning their ears from the truth more each day and still think they are right.

Yours in Christ, —Brother and Sister Dave Haas

o—o—o—o—o—o

Kansas,—Dear saints,—I am glad I have the victory in my soul and I am thankful for the way even though it is the way of the cross. I find it a sweet way since I got the victory. I wouldn't take anything for my journey. I am learning more about the way and the more I learn the better I love it. The dear Lord is very good to me and my family even though my husband is not saved. The Lord's blessings to us are so great I just cannot thank Him enough. I want to give all of my life to the Lord for Him to use as He wills. I surely mean to go on deeper and deeper in the Lord's will and way. My trust is all in the living God.

I shall never forget the experiences that God has taken me through. As I look over the past I see how God took care of me when I was a poor sinner. I told the Lord that if He had a people in this world to let me find them. When I was with the sect people I could not understand the confusion they were in. The Lord surely did talk to my heart and lead me out from them. If we will be honest before God, He will lead us and make the way plain.

I have found the real saints of God that have prayed through and helped me to get help from God for my soul and body. The Word of God is sweet to me and I want all the dear saints to know I am cut loose from everything but the Word of God.

My little boy was very sick in January with the "flu" and whooping cough. He coughed and vomited all of one night. I had had the "flu" and was hardly able to stand on my feet. but had to be up all night with him. By morning I felt that I must have some help so I sent a telegram for prayer to Faith Publishing House. I received much help that day. He ate a bowl of soup and it stayed on his stomach, and I was able to do all my work. I thank the Lord for real blood-washed saints who can get a message through to God.

Your sister in Christ, —Jettie Davidson

o—o—o—o—o—o

Michigan,—Dear saints of God,—In Jesus' dear name I am writing to say I am still serving the Lord with all my heart, although I have no encouragement only the little paper, "Faith and Victory" and the Word of God. It all brings rejoicing to my soul. Pray for Wife and me that we will be true to Him and not be led astray by false teachers, but that we will "prove all things, hold fast which is good." Yours in Christ, —Wm. Colegrove

Young People's Section

The Second Mile

Stern Duty said: "Go walk a mile
And help thy brother bear his load."
I walked reluctant, but, meanwhile,
My heart grew soft with help bestowed.

Then Love said: "Go another mile."
I went, and Duty spake no more.
But Love arose, and with a smile,
Took all the burden that I bore.

'Tis ever thus when Duty calls;
If we spring quickly to obey,
Love comes, and whatsoe'er befalls,
We're glad to help another day.

The second mile we walk with joy;
Heaven's peace goes with us on the road,
So let us all our powers employ
To help our brother bear life's load.
—Stephen Moore.



Notice to the Young People

The Lord has been burdening our hearts for the Young People's Section of the "Faith and Victory." How often we have scanned through the testimonies, articles, poems, and other manuscript that comes into the office, looking for pieces to be put in the young people's columns. How disappointing to find only one testimony perhaps, sometimes not even one. Have you ever felt, when you looked through the section of the paper that is supposedly for the young people, that it was somewhat neglected, that the young people were maybe just about left out of it all? Have you wondered why the heading, "Young People's Section" when many times you fail to see a poem, article, or testimony written by a young saint? It has not been meant that these columns be neglected at all. Oh, would that they were filled with inspired testimonies and burning words from our young folks—words given from God that would encourage the hearts of other young saints, isolated, scattered one here and one there.

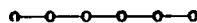
We think of those who are dotted around over the different states who need strength and help, some here in Oklahoma, others in California, Missouri, New Mexico, Louisiana, Michigan, Oregon, Iowa, Colorado, and many other states. Even though we are all far from each other in distance, we can be brought near to each other through the word of our testimonies, etc., voiced on the printed page. That precious fellowship Christ has given to His saints, to us the young people, can flow out from written words if they have been sent and inspired from

heaven, just as sweet as if we were near to each other speaking.

If you feel the Lord leading you to write your testimony, an article, or a poem, or to send other material for the young people's columns, submit yourself to the Lord and ask His help in writing. Eternity can only tell the good that may be done, the help you may give to some one. When the Lord is working and we obey Him, wonderful things can be done.

Young People, let us get behind this undertaking, let us get under the thing with God, that it might move and that this section may be made a source of encouragement for all of us. This page belongs to us, and this section of the paper is just what we make it.

To bring the young people closer together, to get more personally acquainted with each other, and to let all the different congregations of young saints know the things that are being accomplished and carried on in different states and localities, we think it good to ask that at each place where there is a group of young people where there is enough to have regular young people's meetings, that you choose some one from your group to send in a monthly report of your activities. You might give the number you had in attendance, their names, the number who are saved, the scheduled time of your meetings, and the results and blessings received. This report should be mailed sometime during the middle of the month, around the fifteenth. We are expecting better things of and for the young folks, and let us remember that with God helping, this section can but be a blessing to the Lord's saints. —G. C.



Dear Young People,—We have exhortations in the Word of God to continue steadfast in the faith. This we can do only by living a life of trust and obedience. Nothing will bring peace and calm assurance in hours of need like the knowledge that we have wholly followed the Lord and can leave results of all that concerns us from day to day with the dear Lord.

We are made to thank the Lord for the steadfastness of those who were persecuted unto death, and we praise God for His grace which is all sufficient to carry all through who will determine to go all the way regardless of the cost.

Following are some words of a young husband to a wife. He was in bonds for Christ's sake with death awaiting, but continued steadfast unto the end.

"My dear and much beloved wife, greetings. The Lord be praised forever for His great grace and mercy. May you be content with what the Lord has ordered in regard to you, for He knows what tends to your salvation. Please pray the Lord in my behalf that I may be an acceptable offering to Him.

"I am ready to go on in what I declared and confessed before the rulers of darkness in this world, and I trust by the grace of God to seal the same with my blood

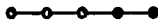
so that I, unworthy one, may obtain the promise. Christ has said, 'Whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's the same shall save it.' Mark 8:35.

"Do not grieve too much on account of the work and will of the Lord. 'He worketh all things after the counsel of His own will.' Eph. 1:11. Be patient and resigned to the will of God. True we are poor but we shall have much wealth if we fear the Lord and keep His commandments.

"I do thank the Lord for His great grace and compassion toward you. May He comfort, stablish, and always guide you into all truth. Be of good cheer, Jesus has told us that since they persecuted Him they will also persecute us.

"I commend you to the Lord and pray that you may always do the best with our two dear little children. Instruct them in obedience of the truth. Now I commend you to the Lord and the Word of His grace. Amen."

Rosella (Slifer) Scott



Ohio,—Dear saints,—Greetings in Jesus' name. Today finds me still saved and encouraged to press on to the end. The Lord has wonderfully blessed since I gave up the pleasures of this world and came to Him. He has healed several different times in our family. We give Him all the praise for it.

I was called to go to the army. As I was on my way to be inducted, I was reasoning what I would tell them. Immediately the Lord gave me the Scripture in Matthew 10:19, 20. I was satisfied. They were very wroth with me when they found out I did not approve of military training in any form. They told me I had to go. They inducted me into the United States Navy February 22, 1944. I was to report back to them in twenty-one days. I came back and told the saints, and they called upon God mightily for me, and I was delivered. I didn't hear a word from them for five months. To Him I give all the praise. I was called to report again and the Lord delivered me. Then around the 13th of March, 1945, I received a very threatening letter from Eufaula, Oklahoma, requesting that I go to the nearest draft board and volunteer or they would send the F. B. I. after me. I did not go any place but to the saints and upon my knees before God. It was revealed unto me I was delivered. To Him be all the praise and honor for everything He has been and has done for us.

He is still blessing us. We know if He is for us, He is more than the world against us. We desire the prayers of the saints for soul and body that we keep true to God until death.

Your brother in the Lord, —J. A. Bruner



Oklahoma,—Greetings to the dear saints everywhere, I am still saved and glad I can report victory in my soul over the works of the devil. Truly I can say from the depths of my heart I am encouraged to press on in the Lord. I am enjoying this blessed way. I haven't seen anything I would rather have than salvation.

The Lord is a present helper in every time of need and I am glad I have learned to trust Him for soul and body.

The Lord bestowed a great blessing upon my brother in answer to prayer. At his birth in September, 1945, his knees were in the back. He could not bend his legs backward. He had to bend them forward and his feet would hit his shoulders. He was normal otherwise, only his knee bones were in the back.

When I heard of him being born in that condition I was very sorrowful, but I thought over it and thought maybe the Lord had a purpose in it.

A lady told me if she were me she would pray for God to take him, but I disagreed with that. I know his life is as dear as mine.

Shortly after his birth I became burdened for him. I prayed days and days asking God if it was His will to change his knees around like they were supposed to be. I really believed he was going to change them, but didn't know when. When the baby was about three months old, the Lord changed his knees around and they don't look like anything was ever wrong with them. Truly my heart was made to rejoice. I am still thanking God for that great blessing. It has brightened my hope in the Lord. It means much to have faith in God. I desire all of the dear saints' prayers that I will go all the way with the Lord. —Annie Bell Allen



Iowa,—To the dear saints of God,—We send greetings of love to you in the precious name of Jesus. How our hearts are made glad at the sound of His name for He has redeemed us from a life of sin and eternal destruction.

Tonight I was reading the "Faith and Victory" that just came—the testimonies of the different saints telling what Jesus has done for them—and it greatly encouraged my heart. As I put it down, the song came to me, "Tell What He's Done For You," so by God's grace, I shall endeavor to tell some of the things He has done for us. It would be impossible to tell it all.

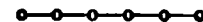
The Lord has been immeasurably good to us since the day we first met Him, and even before. He has cared for us up to the present time and supplied our needs in marvelous ways. He has given us a little home on wheels where we can honor Him as the Head. Health He has supplied in abundance. It is truly a marvel to me the way He has kept us through the winter here in Iowa, the coldest we've ever experienced. Colds and "flu" were all around us yet He kept His hand over us in a truly wonderful way. Clifford did have one light touch of "flu" and we both had colds but considering the low temperature we experienced, we can say it was only the work of the Lord and truly marvelous in our eyes.

At times when we would get discouraged, He often sent along a letter from some dear saint to give courage. Or there came letters from a number of the saints combined in one in the dear, old "Faith and Victory." How we are made to thank the Lord for these blessings. We realize that we do not deserve them but through His mercy and love, He bestows them.

We know some of what it means to be separated from the saints of God and to miss their presence, but thank the Lord, we have found One who will never leave or forsake. Although there are only the two of us here, and often we have been separated by miles, the Lord did not forget where we were. Indeed, we would be afraid to face life without Him.

To all of you who need the Lord (and who doesn't?) may we say, He is trustworthy in all things. Pray for us.

In Jesus' name, —Clifford and Dorothy Wilson



California,—Dear saints,—Greetings in the name of Jesus. I thank the Lord that I am saved and sanctified. I'm very much encouraged to follow Jesus.

I feel led to let the saints know what the Lord has done for us. I am thanking Him and praising His holy

name for healing my baby. On December 26, 1945, my baby took very sick with his throat. He had high fever and a large knot on his neck. For four days he was unable to eat. All our trust was in the Lord. Different saints came and offered prayer with us. At that time the ministers were at the assembly meeting. After the meeting was over we had him anointed. He was able to eat, but the knot remained and he could hardly get his breath for two months. Every day he would have fever and some days he was very sick. We had to be up with him at night. He was losing weight until February 24, 1946. The Lord touched his body and caused the knot on his neck to burst and he could get his breath with ease. We truly give God all the praise and thank the saints for their prayers and kindness to us. Our baby is doing fine now and is gaining weight.

Your sister in Christ, Geneva (Newton) Norling

o—o—o—o—o

c. o. Fleet P. O., New York, New York,—Dear saints, Holy greetings to you in the name of Jesus. I am still saved and living for God, and am very much encouraged to live for Him. I live at Dover, Oklahoma and attended services where Brother Ulysses Phillips is pastor. I am in the Navy now, but I get the "Faith and Victory" sent to me. By the help of the dear Lord I am expecting to get out soon. Pray for me. I am living for God to the best of my knowledge.

Yours in Christ,

—Leroy McCray

CORRESPONDENCE

California,—Dear children of God everywhere,—Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus. I am so glad I have victory in my soul over the powers of darkness. I am rejoicing because my name is written in heaven and because He that redeemed me is with me still. No tongue can tell of the love I have found in Christ. He is all to me. I love Him with all my heart. All that my heart longed for I have found in Him. Bless His name! "He is the fairest of ten thousand to my soul."

We (the saints at Orland) surely are rejoicing over what God has done and is doing for us. He has done great things, yea, marvelous things, whereof we are glad. The saints from the south have come up at different times and we had meetings in the homes. The Lord blessed us; but, oh, how we desired a place where we could have Sunday school and meetings regularly. On the corner of Colusa and A Streets we found a chapel formerly used by a group of people that called themselves "God's Tabernacle," and we thought how very nice it would be if we could rent the building and have a revival, as the saints in the south had written the last of January that they were coming up. We inquired about the building and found that the two men who owned the building wanted to sell it for \$2,000. We prayed about the matter and told the Lord if He wanted us to have the building to make it possible for us to get it. The down payment (\$600) was loaned to us without interest; the balance (\$1,400) at 6 per cent interest. We are paying it out in monthly payments. We desire to pay the \$600 back as quickly as possible so that it may be used in God's work again where and as it pleases Him. The unsaved around here are interested and are helping us pay for the building. If any of God's children desire to help, you may rest assured that every penny sent here will be used to pay on the building and every penny sent here is going down in a book to be read by any

of God's children who desire to do so. We here at Orland are few in number, so very few, just ten, but we have our trust in the true and living God that made this world and hangeth it on nothing. God said in His Word, "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro through out the whole earth to shew himself strong in behalf of those whose hearts are perfect toward him." Our hearts can not be perfect toward Him if we tolerate wrong and fellowship bad spirits. We must always shun the very appearance of evil. This is a precious little flock here and I believe every one says, "Lord, send the ones that you see best to help us." May God send some one here who will preach the Word and nothing but the Word, one who will reprove and rebuke. If the Word cuts off, we say amen. It is better to be cut off here where people have a chance to repent and get right with God than to go on to judgment just professing and be shut out of heaven forever. May they be so filled with the Spirit of God that they will have boldness enough to say to the people as Paul did to Elymus and as Peter did to Ananias. Some have said they hope no wolves in sheep's clothing come here. I say God is still on His throne; His eyes are over us and His ears are open unto our prayers; but we must live ever humble if we are to be led by God's Spirit.

My whole desire is to keep low at the foot of the cross, keep hid with Christ in God, just to be clay in God's hands. I thank the Lord for His dealings with me. He deals so kindly with me.

On February 2, Sister O. B. Wilson, Jr., Sister I. D. Stover, Sister Bonnie Wells, and Sister Helen Gatkey came up from Los Angeles and we had meeting one week. Sister Mead was with us the latter half of the meeting and Brother F. E. Doolittle was with us over the week end. We had a precious meeting. Two got saved. The Word came straight from heaven just like we are going to meet it at judgment. We had meeting in our home six nights, as we did not get possession of the chapel until February 9. We feel the work has just started here and we surely need help. May the Lord send whom He will, for He knows our needs. February 24 was our third Sunday to have Sunday school at the chapel and thirty-seven were there.

May the blessings of God be upon you all.

Yours in the narrow way,

—Tammie Severs

Route 3, Box 55, Orland, California

o—o—o—o—o

Kansas,—Dear saints,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I thank the Lord for saving me, and for the victory I have in my soul. Sometime back I began to feel very cold and indifferent, seemingly discouraged on every hand, could hardly testify. I knew I was losing ground and fear came upon me with much power. I knew the Lord was warning me. Just when it began to look so dark, the Lord gave me complete victory. The Lord sent one of His true ministers here. The Word of God came forth with power. While the message was coming forth, the Lord told me this was my trouble. I went to the altar. Thanks be unto God for complete victory. What was the matter? The cares of life and accusations of Satan. I am sending this testimony to the glory of God, that it might be a help to some other dear soul. Dear saints of God, let us be on fire for God that the devil can not find a place to light on us.

I am burdened for lost souls. The enemy is sending false teachers and deceivers through the country, right here among our neighbors, teaching them once in grace, always. One of our neighbors did not agree with

them. He asked them if he killed a man would he go to heaven. These deceivers said, "yes." We know the devil is a liar. He was from the beginning. The Word of God teaches us that sin can not enter heaven. I thank the dear Lord for the precious Word of God, for the precious ministers of God who preach the pure, straight, unadulterated Word of God. I thank the Lord for the dear saints everywhere. Please pray for me that I will be sure and be where God wants me. We thank the dear Lord for sending us Brother Huskey and his precious family. It has been a real encouragement to the saints here. Your brother in Christ,

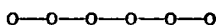
—Kenneth Underwood



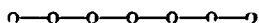
California.—Dear Brother and Sister Pruitt,—I have much to praise Him for tonight.

I do love Jesus with a full heart. He is a wonderful Saviour to me. I love to follow the humble way which He leads. There is no room for self in any form. Christ only must shine out to meet the needs of precious souls. How blessed it is to abide in the Lord and have the victory He gives. Being around folks every day who are in their lost, helpless condition, is making a deep impression upon my heart and life. How I long for a close walk with God, so when my life work is ended I will have no regrets to see the body crumble. It is precious to be able to praise His holy name.

Your sister in Christ, —Mrs. Alice Hawthorne



Ohio.—Dear ones in Christ Jesus.—I thank Him this morning for victory in my soul, and for His healing power. Last week I was very sick with my throat all swollen and very sore. I told Husband to send a telegram for prayer to you folks and when the telegram had time to reach you, the swelling just went all at once. The family could see what the Lord had done for me, praise His dear name. It is wonderful what a friend we have in Jesus. Your sister in Christ, —Iva Evans



Nashville, Tennessee, 291½ Hermitage Avenue.—My dear brother in Christ, Greetings in His precious name,—I am well in body, happy in spirit, and still enjoying the blessings of our kind, loving, heavenly Father, and the sweet fellowship of His true, Spirit-filled saints. My paper came day before yesterday. I can truly say it is good. The Lord said, "I will bring you to Zion: And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." Jer. 3:15. Dear brother, when I first began to read your messages I was living up to the teachings of the church, (so-called) of which I was a member. I was "sinning more or less (most of the time more) every day." But I can truly say your writings and the writings of the other saints in the paper caused me to seek the Lord for a deeper experience of holiness, with power to live a victorious life over Satan and all his wicked ways. I can never tell you dear ones how much your good paper has done for me. I long some day to meet you face to face—if not in this world, then in heaven—and look you straight in the face and tell you that your work was not in vain in sending papers, tracts, and letters to me. I have given out thousands of your tracts and papers as your records will show if you keep a record. If you do not keep a record I know God does.

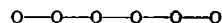
I have been running a mission for some time, but feel that God would have me go out into the evangelistic work, so if you feel that the Lord Jesus leads you to do

so, will you please print a notice in the "Faith and Victory" that I will go anywhere the Lord might call me to preach the message of full salvation, sanctification, healing of the body by the prayer of faith, and the unity of all the true, Spirit-filled saints of God. I wish to hear from isolated saints who are not able to pay a preacher but want to hear the truth preached. I prefer calls from Alabama, Kentucky, or Tennessee, but will go anywhere the Lord Jesus leads.

I am one hundred per cent for the teachings as in your papers and tracts for it is the true Word of God.

I will close by saying may God bless you saints at "The Lord's Print Shop." Please pray for me. I beg to remain your humble born-again, blood-washed, Spirit-filled brother in Christ's body which is the church of God.

—Colonel Pendleton



California.—Dear saints everywhere,—I have been out of harmony with the Lord and the saints for some time. A sister preached on moving up for God and it never got away from me. The Lord had been dealing with me for some time, but I rebelled and refused to obey God.

The Lord gave me a dream or vision. It came to me two nights during the meeting the same way. I will try to give it as the Lord gave it to me:

I was in meeting with a few saints. A lady preached on moving up for God and the unsaved moving to God. She said she was moving and was going to move more. She said we would all have to get out of this place for saints did not live down here. I was the only one that was not saved. It seemed to be a desert, dry, dirty place. (The Lord showed me that was the condition of my heart.) The preacher left us. Another preacher, a sectarian holiness preacher, came and said he would take us out of that place. We left, going up a flight of stairs (The stairs represented sectism, as I had been dabbling around in sectism.). He said, "This is the way." It did not look good to the saints, neither to me. I was looking for the Highway as the Lord had shown me, yet wasn't willing to pay the price. I decided to go back to the place I had left, but when I went down the flight of stairs to return to my friends and associates, I found no one—no one to lean upon and no one to encourage me. I was forsaken. As I wandered around I heard some far-distant voices. As I wandered toward the voices conditions became worse, and I realized if I went to them my destiny was sealed: so I turned back. I climbed upward and found the saints again. We traveled a little way and came to a road which was very dry, dirty, and dusty. This was the highway which the sectarian man was to show me. As we were there among the multitude of people saying, "This is the way," I looked upward and saw the Highway. Someone asked where the lady preacher was and I answered that she was on that Highway and if we saw her we would have to get on it. Here the saints left me and were out of the scene. The sectarian preacher and I traveled this lower road for a distance, but the farther we went the worse it looked to me. I said it was not the Highway which the Lord had shown me. He tried to tell me we had to travel this road until we came to a by-path and then go up to the Highway. I answered that we could not get on the Highway by the by-paths for they lead us off the Highway. It was there that I made my decision and turned and left him.

The Lord showed me that repentance was the entrance to the Highway. As I journeyed on to the begin-

ning of the way I met many who said, "This is the way." One man tried to tell me he was enquiring for the Highway and tried to lead me back to the by-ways. None of this moved me. The Lord showed me how dirty and filthy sectism was. It was worse than I ever saw it before. When I left all and journeyed as the Lord showed me, I came to the gateway which was repentance. There I met with some restitution to make.

The young Brother Wilson was with me, as the Lord had brought me down with the "flu," so I sent him after the party to whom I needed to make restitution. All was made right and satisfactory. They prayed for me and the Lord saved me, for which I praise Him. I am saved and healed.

If some backslider who is traveling the downward road groping his way in darkness reads this, I want to say to him that God will help him wherever he is if he will make the decision for Him and turn and go the other way. I am praying for you.

Will the saints please pray for me?

Your brother,

—J. T. Hinshaw

o-o-o-o-o-o

Washington, D. C.—Dear saints,—Greetings to all in Jesus' dear name. I have just returned from North Carolina. Thank the Lord I still have a willing heart to serve the Lord and am trying each day to be more like my blessed Saviour. Oh, how I do want to try to glorify His dear name in all I do and in each word I speak. I find Him very good to help me at all times as I humble my heart and do His will, yet I feel the need of the prayers of the dear children of God each day. I thank all of you for your earnest prayers in my behalf.

Your brother in Christ,

—W. D. Lemonds

o-o-o-o-o-o

Michigan,—Dear Saints,—I am praising God that all is as well as it is with us. Recently it seemed that I almost passed out with a bad heart attack. I had overworked and lay down to rest about twenty-five minutes. When I awakened I could not move. My daughter rubbed me and tried to find a heart beat but could not. I gasped for breath and in my heart said, "Lord, thy will be done." In about a half of an hour I could move. My poor, old husband prayed for God to spare me, and He did.

Please pray for God to strengthen my heart and spare me to care for my poor, helpless husband if it is His will. I don't know how to praise God enough for what He has done for me. Please pray that God will stop the horrible itch. Husband suffers much with that, otherwise he has been better; but unless God sees fit to heal him he cannot last much longer. He feels like he would be healed if he could get a true minister of God to come and pray the prayer of faith.

May God bless you all,

—Emaline VanZandt

ooo

THE GREAT PAYOFF

When General McArthur finally arrived before Tokyo to receive the surrender of Japan, he said, "It's been a long, hard journey to get here, but this is the payoff." (Fruits of victory won at a very great sacrifice and cost.)

The saintly person is thinking of the greatest of all payoffs at the end of this journey of mortal life, and of the sure promises to the faithful of the Lord, who are willing and able to endure all persecutions

and afflictions, tribulations, etc., to final victory in the end.

The apostle Paul valued the great payoff or crown of righteousness far above all that is earthly regardless of what it cost to win it. He declared, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time is not worthy to be compared to the glory that shall be revealed in us." Rom. 8:18; 2 Cor. 4:17. It was a weary, hard, long, dangerous journey with Paul in his great missionary activities, but he greatly rejoiced in them, that there was a crown of righteousness awaiting him over there. 2 Tim. 4:6-8. "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward [pay-off] in heaven." Matt. 5:12. "Rejoice ye in that day and leap [shout] for joy; for behold, your reward is great in heaven." Read Luke 10:20.

The final great payoff day to the redeemed of the Lord is made clear and definite in I Thessalonians 4:13-18. It is the church's hope, joy, or crown of rejoicing to be in the presence of the Lord, or as the bride of Christ at His second and last coming, and to have a part in that glorious honour to go back with the Lord and the holy angels, and to be presented faultless (holy) before the presence of His (God's) glory. Jude 24.

That day of all days, surely coming, is known only by God (Matt. 24:36) and made positive by the truth and declaration of the Lord Jesus in Matt. 24:30, 31 and confirmed by two angels of God in Acts 1:11.

No event of this world's long duration or history will have any comparison to it in magnitude or supernatural power and glory. The great payoff is worth the price it has cost, and more.

It's been a long, hard, dangerous journey attended with many conflicts with the world, the flesh, and the devil. Christian in his journey to the Celestial City of God (*Pilgrim's Progress*, John Bunyan) had to fight his way to glory, but not with carnal weapons. Every saved person should be more concerned about helping the unsaved to find and possess genuine heart-felt, full salvation from all sin than about any other thing in life. The goal or motive is not solely the payoff or reward, but to cooperate with Christ in the great work of the redemption of the soul. He that winneth souls is not only wise, but is daily laboring to make his crown or payoff much more glorious.

The one who toils just for the wage of the day with little or no concern or interest in his work, is not getting out of mortal life that love and satisfaction of having done something for others as well as for their own welfare. Likewise, the Christian whose principal thought is the payoff in the end, cannot rejoice fully in the rich blessings of a fruitful life in the Lord's service to bring light, salvation, and hope of a more unselfish love, satisfying, peaceable, worthwhile life, to live.

"And they loved not their lives unto the death," is written of the victorious host (Rev. 12:11) whom Saint John saw whose robes were washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb (Jesus) and who came

out of great tribulation, fiery trials, persecutions (the martyrs, Rev. 7:14), and even death for Christ's sake. Unspeakably great will be every one's payoff who will be perfectly willing to endure all these things to the final end. Amen. —John H. Griffith



SONG BOOKS WANTED

Urgent requests have come here for "Select Hymn" song books. If anyone has any number of these books for sale please notify Faith Pub. House, Guthrie, Okla.



BIBLE STUDY

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

FRIENDS OF JESUS

Sunday, April 7, 1946

Printed Portion Mark 10: 13, 14; Luke 6:13-16; 8:1-3
15:1, 2; John 3:1, 2a.

Mark 10:13. And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them; and his disciples rebuked those that brought them.

14. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God.

Luke 6:13. And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;

14. Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew,

15. Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes,

16. And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.

Luke 8:1. And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and showing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him,

2. And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils,

3. And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.

Luke 15:1. Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him.

2. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.

John 3:1. There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

2. The same came to Jesus by night.

Golden Text: Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you. John 15:14.

Practical Truth: People of all classes and all ages may be friends of Jesus.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The dictionary defines friend as being "one who entertains for another such sentiments of esteem, respect, and affection that he seeks his companionship and welfare." Are you a friend of Jesus?

People who are not calloused and hardened desire friends, and most people desire to have Jesus as a friend. He is a very valuable friend and one that no one can really afford to be without, though the majority of people forfeit his friendship for a few fleeting trifles of this world.

In one sense Jesus is a friend to all, yet so long as He remains a rejected friend, His friendship will not be of eternal profit to one. People who have never been born again of the Spirit of God do not understand the manner in which Jesus is their friend and the devil keeps them blinded to the true meaning of the Scriptures which tell of Jesus' love and friendship. Such people make statements such as this: "The Bible says Jesus is a friend of sinners and I sin every day in thought, word, and deed so He is my friend." It is true that Jesus is a friend of sinners in the sense that He gave His life to make a way to lift them out of sin into favor with God; but those who willfully go on in sin and refuse or neglect to be made free from sin by the blood of Jesus will find to their terror when they stand before God in judgment that Jesus is not a friend of such sinners.

The poet wrote, "If you'll be a friend of Jesus, He will be a friend to you." That is, as soon as you become tired of being a friend of the devil and his ways and desire to be a friend of Jesus, you'll find Him ready to accept you. But you cannot be a friend of the world, of which the devil is prince, and a friend of Jesus at the same time. Neither is there any neutral place. Jesus either has you as a positive friend or you are his enemy and a friend of the devil, whether you admit it or not. Jesus said, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." He also said, "Ye are my friends, IF ye DO whatsoever I command you." If you are not living in perfect obedience to the known will of Christ—which is revealed in His Word—you are not His friend.

Children who have not come to the age of accountability are friends of Jesus because they know nothing about breaking the commands of God. But people who are old enough to know right from wrong must repent of and forsake the wrong and seek God for forgiveness.

Notice the sinners and publicans in this lesson "drew near" to Jesus to "hear" Him. When one truly hears Jesus, he will heed what He says.

Because there is a longing in man's soul which is not satisfied without God, Jesus has a drawing power for all classes of people. Name the different classes of people mentioned in today's lesson. You might be able to add more to the list who "came to Jesus" and "believed on Him," and thus became His friends.

HOW JESUS' FRIENDS RESPONDED

Sunday, April 14, 1946

Printed Portion Mark 1:16-20; 5:18-20; 10:46, 52;
Luke 5:27, 28.

Mark 1:16. Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

17. And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.

18. And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.

19. And when he had gone a little further thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets.

20. And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him.

Mark 5:18. And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him.

19. Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

20. And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.

Mark 10:46. And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimeus, the son of Timeus, sat by the highway side begging.

52. And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.

Luke 5:27. And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me.

28. And he left all, rose up, and followed him.

Golden Text: He left all, rose up, and followed him. Luke 5:28.

Practical Truth: A call of God should evoke a wholehearted response on our part.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In last Sunday's lesson we learned what it is to be a friend of Jesus and about different classes of people who became his friends. Today we learn what took place in the lives of some after they became his friends.

Jesus does not call and save people that they may enjoy "self" more, but that they may forget self and enjoy Him and His service, and labor to extend His kingdom. This brings great joy, but it is not a selfish joy. Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me," and "Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." This does not mean that the Lord requires everyone to leave their occupations, but if He permits them to continue in their same occupations it is because He can use them to a greater advantage there than in any other place. In this lesson He called some to leave their occupations and follow Him, but He told the man who had been possessed of the devils to stay among his friends and tell them, "how great things the Lord hath done for thee."

The important thing is for one to be sure that he has a definite experience of personal salvation and can truly testify as did Paul, "Old things are passed away: behold, all things are become new," "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Then he will be in a condition to hear the voice of Jesus speak to his soul and he will know what His will is for him as definitely as did the different ones mentioned in this lesson.

"Since Jesus gave His life for me, should I not give Him mine?" It is only a reasonable service to leave all and follow Him who gave all to redeem our souls from destruction,

TWO FRIENDS TALK WITH CHRIST

Sunday, April 21, 1946

Printed Portion Luke 24:13-31.

Luke 24:13. And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.

14. And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

15. And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

16. But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.

17. And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?

18. And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?

19. And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

20. And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

21. But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, today is the third day since these things were done.

22. Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre;

23. And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive.

24. And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.

25. Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

26. Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

27. And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

28. And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.

29. But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us; for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

30. And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.

31. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

Golden Text: And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? Luke 24:32

Practical Truth: The presence of Christ can dispel doubt and bring peace and joy to the soul.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The class should read in the Bible what took place before the beginning of our printed portion in order to be able to understand the lesson.

The two men who went from Jerusalem to Emmaus—a distance of about seven miles—were disciples, but not any of the twelve (Read verse 33.) One was Cleopas; we do not know the name of the other,

This was a day of excitement for all the disciples of the Lord. His crucifixion had been a hard blow and had almost destroyed their hopes, and even on this day after they had heard about the empty tomb and the message of the angel, "He is not here; He is risen as he said," they were still sad, perplexed, and doubtful as to what it all meant. They had much to talk about; but their human reasoning profitted nothing. The proper understanding of it all had to come by divine revelation. The time had come for this revelation and Christ was at hand to give it. As a result of their communion with Christ, their hearts burned within them, and when their eyes were opened so they could recognize Him they hurried back to Jerusalem to share the good news with the others.

The Christian can learn many lessons from this narrative:

Things which seem like calamities to us are often used by God as a means to bestow a great blessing upon us. ALL things work together for good to them that love the Lord.

God's plans and workings can not be understood by the human mind except by divine revelation.

When we love Christ and desire to know more about Him and will converse to others about Him, Jesus himself will draw near (verse 15) to bless and enlighten.

Great blessings are often obtained when we constrain the Lord to "abide with us."

Such fellowship as these brethren had with the risen Lord is yet possible to those who desire it and seek after it. One is to be pitied who knows nothing about a burning heart, caused by the presence of Jesus. Ofttimes while God's children are quietly meditating on holy things, praying, singing a spiritual hymn, worshiping Him in public, working for Jesus, helping others to bear their burdens, listening to a Spirit-anointed sermon, the presence of Jesus causes their hearts to burn. "In his presence is fulness of joy."

DECISIVE MOMENTS IN PETER'S LIFE

Sunday, April 28, 1946

Printed Portion John 1:42; Mark 8:27-29; Luke 22:54-57, 61, 62; John 21:15-17; Acts 5:29.

John 1:42. And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

Mark 8:27. And Jesus went out, and his disciples, into the towns of Caesarea Philippi: and by the way he asked his disciples, saying unto them, Whom do men say that I am?

28. And they answered, John the Baptist: but some say, Elias; and others, One of the prophets.

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

Luke 22:54. Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house, And Peter followed afar off.

55. And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them.

56. But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him.

57. And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not.

61. And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said

unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

62. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

John 21:15. So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea; Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

16. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

17. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

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

Golden Text: We ought to obey God rather than men. Acts 5:29.

Practical Truth: Development of rock-like character comes through personal fellowship with Jesus Christ and obedience to his commands.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Perhaps most people can recall moments in their lives which they would call decisive moments—moments which were turning points in their lives because of decisions made. The moment of greatest importance in any one's life is the time when he first meets Jesus. Perhaps he has heard about Him often and believed the reports, but when Jesus speaks to his heart and he comes face to face with the fact that he must either accept or reject Him, it is truly a decisive moment. Many have trembled and wept while making the decision. Many have scaled their doom because of wrong decisions at that time. Others have reconsidered and made the right decision before it was too late. No child of God ever regrets a decision made for Christ. Often we hear the testimony, "I wish I had found Him sooner." The lives of those who make wrong decisions are filled with regrets.

The class could have a profitable discussion about their personal decisions, and the blessings obtained or regrets caused by their decisions.

Peter was brought to Jesus by his brother Andrew.

No doubt Andrew was a faithful disciple and lived a useful life for the Lord, but we hear more about this one act than anything else which he did, and the Christian world is grateful to him for it. We are sure Peter never forgot that first meeting with the Lord and it is likely that he often pondered over the name which Jesus gave him.

Take an inventory of your life for Christ. What name could He fittingly give you? Is it the name you would like best to have from Him?

It was not Peter's super-intelligence that caused him to recognize Christ as the Son of God, but a divine revelation. The world by wisdom knows not God.

Fear of man is what caused Peter to follow afar off and shrink from the reproach of the cross. This same thing has retarded the progress of more Christians than Peter. It is one of the devil's deadly weapons and must be overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the grace of God. Thank God, Peter was a real example in overcoming it. He boldly spoke the last words of our lesson to a group of men who had the power to cause him to be put to death.

Love for Christ is necessarily manifested by a life of devotion and service.