

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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Why Should I Not Be Thankful?

Though I meet with opposition,
And my plans are most upset;
I have found within the Bible,
Words that cheer my spirit yet.

As I muse upon the promise,
There's a light that shines within,
Set aflame by my Redeemer,
Who has saved my soul from sin.

And this gives me hope and courage,
As I plod along life's way;
And the star of hope shines brighter,
As I near the perfect day.

Where no storm cloud ever rises,
Where no sorrows ever come,
Where there are no disappointments,
And depression is not known.

Why should I not then be thankful
And contented with my lot
While I stand upon the promise?—
For the promise faileth not.

He has said he would not leave me,
If I would His law obey,
That He never would forsake me,
But go with me all the day.

He is with me in the garden,
He is present on the plain,
He is with me in the sunshine,
And He's with me in the rain.

Why should I not then be thankful?
Truly thankful I will be;
For the God that feeds the sparrow,
He also cares for me.

—Ulysses Phillips

Thanks Be To God

Praise God for the victory that he gives unto his people over the world, the flesh, and the devil, which fills their hearts with thanks and praise and keeps them every where and in every place with a knowledge of his saving grace and keeping power. When most worldly minded people meet together and converse over the activities of life and the happenings of the time, even in a general way, their conversation is sprinkled with slang and profanity. It seems as though they would be at a loss to know how to express themselves if they could not bring in the many useless, and God-dishonoring words they have in their vocabulary. It never comes in their minds to give thanks or praise to God for his love and protecting care that he has bestowed upon them, but they just use words and profane words even in telling how they escaped from being seriously injured at a certain place, or escaped mishap of some kind on a certain occasion. But how blessed it is to converse with one who knows the Lord and who has the experience of sins forgiven. Their conversation is sprinkled with thanks and praises and gratitude to God for the manifestation of his love and care to them through Jesus Christ. And the victory they have obtained over the world and the devil, is manifested in their daily conversation mingled with thanksgiving for the way God provides for and protects them while journeying through this pilgrim land.

Thank God for victory over the flesh and its lusts and carnal desires. Many who do not have this victory seem to enjoy sitting around the card tables shuffling cards and smoking cigarettes, saturating the air with the smoke and odor of the narcotic weed, and sipping from the social glass of beer, wine, champagne, and other intoxicating drinks. But those who are drinking from the living stream of the fountain of life and have tasted of the goodness of God (Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!) have no appetite for such; but to be filled with the Spirit is the joy of their hearts. Instead of boosting for some brand of beer or such, they praise and exalt the name of the Lord, and instead of a lot of foolish and vain glib and talk they give thanks to the blessed Lord.

Everyone should be thankful to God for the blessings he enjoys in life. Even the unsaved should be glad and thankful that a way has been provided whereby they can be saved and have victory over

"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 15:57.

"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savor of his knowledge by us in every place." 2 Cor. 2:14.

sinful habits; but should be in earnest about it and press forward and obtain it for themselves before it is too late.

"But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." —Ulysses Phillips

—oO— FIRST LOVE

The Lord said, "If a man love me he will keep my words," and "Ye are my friends IF ye do whatsoever I command you. Oh, how careful we ought to be to please our loving Lord in all that we do and say. He is so good, and I would surely feel sad if I knew I had done something to displease Him who has done so much for me.

Our blessed good Master is ever mindful of us. When we are saved we are his children. He has invited us to yoke up with him and he will help us pull every heavy load and bear every heavy burden. He is our burden bearer and he is always willing to do for us if we live just like he wants us to live. So whether we eat or whether we drink or whatsoever we do, let us be sure we do it all to the glory of God. When we do to please the Lord He pays rich dividends for all that we have invested. When I found the pearl of great price I sold all I had and bought it. This pearl of great price is precious, and, oh, how careful we ought to be lest we should lose it; yes, lest we should allow our affections to drift from him to some of the paltry things of this old world. (Paltry means rubbish). Let us not play fast and loose with the Lord lest we should lose the Pearl of great price.

I heard of a young man on a steam ship out in the ocean. He had a big, beautiful diamond which he was pitching up in the air from the open deck where he stood and catching it again when it came down. He did this several times while the people on board the ship were watching him. One admonished him for so carelessly playing with a thing of so great value, but he would not heed the warning. Suddenly he missed it when it came down. His diamond hit the deck and bounced over-board into the deep ocean. His precious diamond was lost forever.

Jesus said to the church at Ephesus. "I have somewhat against thee because thou hast left thy first love." Oh, dear ones, let us be diligent in getting all the Lord has for us and then be very careful lest we lose some of it. If we are very careful to keep A.T.T. that we get from the Lord, we shall not have more than we need when we come to the judgment. How terrible it would be if we should come into the presence of the great Judge and see him look at us with his piercing eyes and pronounce the awful sentence: "Thou art weighed in the balances and art found wanting"! How much better it will be and how wonderful it will be when we meet our precious Lord face to face and see him smile on us and hear him say, "Well done, faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things; I will make thee ruler over many things. Enter thou into the joys of the Lord." What a happy time that will be.

Here are just a few words of warning from dear old Brother Paul: "Let us therefore fear lest a promise being left us of entering into his rest any of you should seem to come short of it."

If we gain heaven it is forever, and if we miss heaven it is missed forever; so let us be very careful to please Him in all that we do, forgetting the things that are behind and reaching forth unto the things which are before and pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Oh, let us be careful lest we make a fatal mistake and lose ALL.

—Bro. G. W. Stephenson.

—oO— A Message To Mothers

How many mothers of today are reading their Bibles, praying, and living the life of Jesus? The way of Jesus is a strait and narrow one which leadeth unto life. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me."

Mothers, today we really need Jesus. If we fail to do our duty in rearing our children, we have failed to do the will of God. My soul is stirred for the young people of today. So many are going astray and many mothers are to blame. Mothers, can you face the judgment with your children crying and pointing their fingers at you, saying, "Mother, if you had taught me better I would not be in this burning hell today"? Oh, how awful to hear those words—and many mothers shall hear them.

I am a young mother twenty-four years old and was brought up in a Christian home and taught to fear God. I was never allowed to wear the ungodly things that so many are wearing today. God help us to bring our little ones up in the fear of God. If we keep ourselves unspotted from the world and yet not bring our children up in the order of the Lord, we have failed there to be measured to the Bible standard. Prov. 22:6. "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." He may go out in sin, but the truth will always stay with him. Parents should teach their children the holy Scriptures and the way which leadeth unto life. Let not your children's blood be required at your hands, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. This is hard to do in this day and time, for only a few will do it and it makes it harder for those who do try, because children stumble and look at other saints' children who are not measured up.

Much is said about how we should dress, but little mention is made of some ungodly clothing for children; namely, sunsuits, shorts, slacks (for girls) and bathing suits. These are for unbelievers, and yet they have crept among the saints' children. Saint mothers, what is the world thinking about you? Have we Bible for these things? Yes, 1 Tim. 2:9 instructs women to adorn themselves in modest apparel with shamefacedness and sobriety. Can you put these things on your girls and say you are shamefaced and have dressed them in modest apparel? No, you could not. Children are looked upon with evil eyes when

they are clothed immodestly. Many young unmarried girls are becoming mothers, and immodest dress is largely to blame. Boys and girls are turned loose in ungodly and scant clothing out in the public, and lustful eyes are upon them. Disgrace and shame awaits them.

Oh, how sad to see so many young people going down the broad road and their parents are thinking they have done their duty. Christian mothers, do you want to go to the swimming pools and creeks, ball games, etc. and behold the evils there? No, for we are instructed to abhor that which is evil. Then why do you permit your children to dress and act like the people do whom you would see at such places? "Abstain from all the appearance of evil."

"The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth to a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are an abomination unto the Lord thy God." Deut. 22:5.

When mothers let their little children dress in the shameful, vulgar styles of these modern times, they will continue to dress in the same manner as they grow older because they do not know the harm.

If modesty and decency continue on the decline, what will the results be in a few years from now? God pity our little ones who are growing up today!

May God bless the mothers who are trying to bring their children up in the Bible way, and thank God for the few. —A mother

—oO— As His Master

Let us consider the subject of how we should live as becometh saints or followers of Christ. In Luke 6:40, it is written. "The disciple is not above his master; but every one that is perfect shall be as his master." Let us begin the study of this verse with the last word and work backward on it.

MASTER. Who is your master? Speaking in regard to spiritual things or the inner man, there are only two masters over the souls of men: Jesus, the Redeemer and Saviour of souls, and the devil, the destroyer of the souls of men, women, boys, and girls. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" (Rom. 6:16). "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." (John 8:34). "He that committeth sin is of the devil; . . . Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin." (1 John 3: 8, 9).

SHALL BE AS HIS MASTER When the devil is one's master he will be envious, jealous, demanding, driving; he will seek the praise of men, misrepresent the truth, wrest the Scriptures to suit himself to gain his own point; he will think evil of the good, be a respecter of persons and races, will favor some with smiles and frown at others, will discourage anything or anyone who has enough grace to stand for the Word of God, for that shows up their own false life. His servants act as he did in Gen. 3:1-6; Matt. 4:1-11. Some put on a pretense or a false religion to gain their own desires like their master, the devil, who is very

religious at times to deceive the unsuspecting.

The disciples of Jesus are made like him. Consider especially the apostle Paul who was converted after Jesus had risen and gone back with the Father in heaven. He loved those whom he had once hated; he healed where he formerly afflicted; he praised God whereas he did swear; he preached the truth fearlessly to those whom he had once helped to destroy it; he died for the cause which he once tried to kill. He willingly gave his life for those from whom he once would have taken life. He did not desire to be better than his Lord, but just to be AS he was—a blessing to all even if it did mean trials, persecutions, temptations, afflictions, and death.

PERFECT. This means being perfect in purpose and heart, without spot and wrinkle in God's sight; to have a clean mind, a conscience that is void of offense toward God and man, living up to all the Word of God and keeping all His commandments, and taking advantage of all His promises and increasing in faith, which is shown by works. John says that everyone that has the hope of seeing Jesus as he is PURIFIES himself even as He is pure. Jesus prayed the Father to "sanctify them through thy truth, thy Word is truth." If we are to be like Jesus, we must be both innocent and pure, eat the Word, live by the Word—EVERY Word of God—and be like Him.

Let us keep hid away with Christ in God, with the Word of God in our minds and mouths, and the Holy Spirit in us so that the fruits of the Spirit will be manifested in every act (Gal. 5:22, 23).

THE DISCIPLE IS NOT ABOVE HIS MASTER.

When people put their own selves and personalities on exhibition instead of hiding behind the cross so the Lord may be seen they are putting themselves above the Lord. In other words, they would rather have others to worship and honor them, than to point them to the Lord for them to worship and honor Him. This is a trait or characteristic of the devil, and when people give place to a trait of his, they are accepting him as their master. He wants people to worship him, and even tried to get Christ to do so. He desires to be above God. Any spirit that suggests to you that you could or should be exalted in the eyes of men is of the devil. Resist him and he will flee from you, and the joy bells of victory will ring in your heart because of obedience to God's Word.

We are no better than our master. If we suffer here with him, we shall reign with him. We have a reward in this life and in the life to come, also. Our reward in this life is the joy of giving our service, talents, money, and all to Him, to His children (our spiritual brothers and sisters), and the cause. We no more want wages of filthy lucre or man-praise, but the joy in our souls that God gives all fully consecrated children. The devil pays wages—"The wages of sin is death." John describes it as the second death, and Jesus says, "Everlasting torment, where the fire is not quenched and the worm dieth not." But Jesus does not pay wages. He gives to the willing disciples the gift of eternal life, with joy, peace, and many other good things. Wm. Pearson.

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

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

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An exclusive, full gospel paper printed and sent out in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ in the interest of all Christians, which body of believers constitute the one and only true Church of God.

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.

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

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

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma

Tulsa, Okla.—Dear saints scattered abroad,—I have been impressed for some time about the dining hall and sleeping quarters at Guthrie, Okla. It is a state building, but it has been built for the comfort of all the saints who attend the Oklahoma State Campmeeting and Okla. State Assembly Meetings, and was needed very badly. God impressed the brethren to build, but lumber and material was so high that it caused an indebtedness to be made to finish it. Dear ones, let us see just what the Lord will have us to do to lift the burden from that congregation. I feel sure God's children will respond in this time of need. May God bless each one of his dear saints.

Sister Barton

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Lumber is being delivered for the Monark Springs dining hall and construction work is planned to begin soon after Nov. 10th. If you can help at that time, notify Bro. Sam Barton, R. 8, Box 119, Tulsa 15, Okla.

Editorials

Bro. George Stephenson, a well known evangelist among the saints of God has secured a Passport from the U. S. Government and left Guthrie, Okla. Wed., Oct. 16, for Tampa, Florida from which place he expects to sail to the British West Indies and South America as a missionary. He expects to go to the island where Bro. Arch lives and work with him some in the cause of God.

Bro. Arch and his wife attended the campmeeting at Guthrie this summer. I was very busy at that time with many pressing duties in the campmeeting, and did not have the opportunity of visiting with Bro. Arch and his wife very much, but they seemed to be an humble, God-fearing couple. We are expecting the little differences mentioned in the last issue of "Faith and Victory" to fade away as God's illuminating Spirit works upon hearts. We feel sure that God will not allow honest hearted and sanctified people to long misunderstand the Scriptures. Let us all pray and God will hearken and make clear the way for all concerned.

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I have just returned from Louin Miss. where I have been helping Bro. L. L. Perry in a revival meeting. The meeting was well attended and the interest in the gospel messages was good. The Lord gave good liberty in giving out the truth of his Word. Two were saved and baptized and a third was at the altar for help. She testified that the Lord helped her much. We are expecting souls yet to get saved because of hearing the truth in this meeting.

The first Sunday of the meeting a brother introduced himself to me and asked if I had not held a meeting there before. I told him that I had about fourteen years ago. He then told me that he had attended that meeting, but sat outside the door and heard me preach, then would get up and go home as soon as the meeting was over. Then later (six years ago) he got saved and is now happy in the Lord. Good seed sown in the hearts of honest souls will bring forth fruit in time as God waters and gives sunshine. "Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."

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I have heard some people say that this world is getting better. The truth of this statement depends upon what one has in mind when he says the world is getting better. It is true that it is getting better in regard to conveniences for mankind as the late inventions, improved roads, and many other things make it more convenient and comfortable for our existence here; but when we look at the spiritual side of things, we find the Word of God being fulfilled which reads thus: "Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." (2 Tim. 3:13.)

The nations of earth have just recently been in the bloodiest war of all times and millions of men, women, and children have been crippled, mentally deranged, and slaughtered. At the present time the

nations are much dissatisfied. Clashes are heard and war is brewing in all points of the globe.

"From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?" (James 4:1). It is amazing to think of the millions of men and women that claim to follow Christ—walk in his steps—(He did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth; when He was reviled, he reviled not again; when He suffered he threatened not; but committed himself to Him who judgeth righteously.) who fall in with war, slaughter, and, killing which is absolutely contrary to the God life practiced and taught by Christ our Lord. During the late war some who would not (or did not) train for service for killing, would, as one has said, "Drum for it in some way or another." The majority of preachers fell in line with those who sanctioned the slaughter of human lives.

There is more than one way to conform to the world. Bible readers know that Paul (in Rom. 12:3) commanded us: "Be not conformed to this world." The saint who is dead to the world and alive unto God will have no pleasure in conforming to the world in fads and fashions, nor in wars nor revelry. They will set an example of godliness in abstaining from all these things.

Many people are in evil and wickedness and conform to the world because Satan has the world filled with preachers who wrest the Scriptures from their proper meaning and preach smooth things to them. They conform to the world in many ways and teach in such a way that they become enemies of the cross of Christ. Read Phil. 3:17 to the end of the chapter.

Just recently I was in a small town in Miss. (a county seat). While I waited in a barber shop (I was a stranger to all present) I overheard some talking about a recent basket ball game that their team had played with a team of another town. They all seemed to be in the very spirit of the thing, excited about the proceedings of the game. One spoke about a preacher being there and of the betting that took place. Another said he thought all the preachers were there. Then another said, "Yes, they were all there." I thought, it is no wonder the people are so deep in sin for all their preachers are walking according to the course of this world.

In Eph. 2:2 is a description of men before they are quickened or made alive in salvation, when they are dead in trespasses and sins. They walk "according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience." According to the sacred Scriptures, anyone, whether professing holiness or otherwise, who conforms to the world and walks according to its course, is under the influence of the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that worketh in the children of disobedience. Oh, that men would cease from folly and vain things and get out from under the influence of evil men and seducers, which are waxing worse and worse deceiving and being deceived!

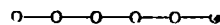
In the book of Psalms we find many precious truths written concerning the Saviour, the Rest Giver, who was to come, and the Spirit illuminating our understanding feeds our souls on the living Word.

Just recently the Spirit fed my soul in a very precious manner as I read the tenth verse of the 85th Psalm: "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other."

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, coming to this sinful world was a manifestation of God's great mercy toward fallen man. He had and taught the truth to sinful man; so the prophecy was fulfilled as stated, "mercy and truth are met together" in this world before all sinful men. When man believes the truth and with godly sorrow repents, confesses, and forsakes his sins, God, for Christ's sake, has mercy on him and forgives him. Righteousness comes to him and peace flows down from heaven into his soul. Thus the prophecy is again fulfilled inasmuch that "Righteousness and peace have kissed each other." Where righteousness is, there is peace, for they are lovers and kiss each other. Where one is, the other is also. One cannot receive the Lord, our righteousness, into his soul without having peace with God; and he cannot have peace with God without having or embracing the Lord Jesus Christ who is our righteousness.

When we meditate upon and think of what great mercy, compassion, and pity that God has shown toward us weak, earthly mortals, we marvel and exclaim with the apostle John, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God."

Brethren, knowing these things, we ought to turn away from all the vanities of earth and thereby purify ourselves even as He is pure, that heaven may be our home.



The eighth verse of the 85th chapter of Psalms is very precious to all the saints. It implies that saints should be attentative to all that God speaks, with the promise of speaking peace to them continually, and it ends with the exhortation, "but let them not turn again to folly." Folly here means worthless, earthly things that cannot be used to the glory of God, things that He showed us were wrong and we quit them and laid aside when he spoke peace to our souls, vain things that bring no eternal profit. Many preachers and others are in a sad spiritual condition at present because of turning again to folly, taking up again those things that they laid off. They observe lying vanities such as Jonah testified to and repented of when God had him in the belly of the fish. Satan entices men through their lusts—often with much pressure—to make peace with him by observing and conforming to the world. When they yield, they forsake their own mercy which God would give if they would resist the enemy of their souls and hearken to His voice (Word) and observe His ways. Many today do not hold their consecration under the continued pressure of the enemy. By observing lying and vain words of the enemy, who works through their fleshly lusts, they become like those of whom

Jesus speaks in Luke 14:32, "While the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace."

I am sure that God does not want us as his saints to make peace with the enemy of our souls, no matter how severe he afflicts or how strong his compromising hosts may be. Let us not observe lying vanities and thereby forsake needed mercy and help from God.

SPECIAL OFFER

Jan. 1, 1946, a large number of names were added to our list as subscribers to the "Faith and Victory." These subscriptions will expire Jan. 1, 1947. This date is not far off, and we want all these subscribers to send in their renewals for the paper; therefore we are sending a subscription blank in each of the papers this month with space for five subscriptions to be listed. This is for your convenience to renew, and, also, to have the paper sent to four of your friends whom you think would enjoy it as you have the past year. Fill out the blank with your name and four others, enclose one dollar, and the paper will be sent to each one for a year. Any one who wishes can use this blank and send five subscriptions with one dollar and have the paper sent to each address for one year. These subscriptions will begin with the January issue. If you desire to renew yours without sending other names, you may send your renewal with 25 cents.

Premiums are offered to those who send five subscriptions and one dollar. You may choose one of the following premiums: A cross that glows in the dark; "Odors From Golden Vials" a 78-page book by C. E. Orr; "The New Testament Church and Its Symbols" a 140-page book by Fred Pruitt; "A Religious Controversy," a 72-page book by C. E. Orr; "The Resurrection," a 64-page book by J. H. Pierson; "True Stories for Children" by Marie Pauline Sass, containing 60 pages with pictures to interest children.

We shall be expecting each reader to respond to this offer as the Lord leads. Send in the five names, get your premium, and do some missionary work for the Lord all through the coming year of 1947. We shall be grateful to you if you will send them as soon as possible so we can get them properly listed in time to start the subscriptions the first of next year.

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The ministers' meeting here at Guthrie will begin on the third of November, which is now close at hand. Many ministers from different parts of the country are interested in this meeting. We feel that its influence will be far reaching, and will mean a forward move for the true holiness people of God. Every true minister should be in this meeting. Those that are not properly in harmony with God and his true holiness people should come and humble their hearts before God and the saints, confess, and clear up and become established in their respective places in the Body and Church of the living God. We are expecting sixty or more ministers to assemble in this meeting and tarry before God in fasting and prayer to get the mind of God on all subjects which are of interest to His Body the church. Every member in

the body should be interested and do what he (or she) can to support this meeting. The saints at Guthrie are expecting to care for the ministers as the Lord provides. Any one who desires to help may send offerings to Faith Publishing House. Be sure to tell us the purpose of the offering so we will not get it confused with offerings that are sent in for the upkeep of the Lord's printing work. The new dining hall will be used to cook the food needed for this company of ministers. The ministers should all bring sugar or stamps. Let us all pray that this meeting will be greatly blessed of God. The saints here at Guthrie say, "Welcome, ministers of the living God."

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HAMMOND, LA. ASSEMBLY MEETING

A mistake was made in the Hammond, La. assembly meeting notice published in the October issue. The meeting will begin Wed. Nov. 27th instead of the 17th. The notice should read: The assembly meeting of the church of God at Hammond, La. will start Wednesday night of November 27th and run through December 8th, Lord willing. We expect the Lord to send ministers who will preach the gospel under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

For information write Max Williamson, Hammond, La.

OBITUARY

Bro. Willie Madison James of Louin, Mississippi was born April 1, 1879 and departed this life September 15, 1946 at the age of 68 years, 5 months, and 15 days. He was united in marriage to Martha C. McNeil Dec. 23, 1903. To this union six children were born: Benjamin, Alva, Velma, Molly, Willette (deceased), and Ada Mae. He also leaves seven grandchildren, three brothers and five sisters, and many relatives and friends.

Bro. James heard the gospel in its fulness many years ago and accepted Christ as his personal Savior from all sin and as his healer in the time of affliction and sickness. During his recent illness the Lord heard and answered prayer in his behalf many times and in marvelous ways. It seemed awhile as if it would please the Lord to spare him a little longer; however, in His wisdom, He saw best to call him home to be with Him.

He was true to the Lord unto the end and died in the faith in which he lived, fully trusting the Lord. His request was that his funeral services be conducted in the saints' chapel where he had gone so many times to worship the Lord. His body was laid to rest in the Antioch Cemetery to await the resurrection morning. Funeral service was conducted by the writer. Text: 2 Tim. 4:7.

—L. L. Perry.

The following is taken from a poem written by Sister Lottie Joiner in memory of Bro. Will James:

Dear Bro. Will, from us you've gone
From this earth to your heavenly home;
For which you labored many years,
And prayed as you pressed in godly fear.
And now at last that blessed crown
Of life everlasting you have won—
The crown which God did promise thee,
If faithful unto death you'd be.
And now our thoughts of heaven fair,
Are sweeter far since you are there.



1947 Scripture Text Calendars

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All articles above are in stock at Faith Pub. House, Guthrie, Okla. Post Paid to any address in U. S. A.

Ont., Canada—Dear Bro. Pruitt and Co-workers,—I feel like sending a testimony combined with a summary of the Kalamazoo, Mich. campmeeting, which we attended.

Those spiritual meetings and the fellowship we enjoyed with believers will doubtless be stamped on our memory for time to come. I feel fully assured that our Father in heaven endorsed the messages that went forth from that place, as they were in perfect harmony with the blessed Holy Bible—such wonderful solidity, having no departure from the faith whatever. It was indeed beautiful and marvelous. I have all confidence that Bro. Pruitt and the other ministers present were doing all in their power to build the walls of Jerusalem anew, wholly depending upon the Holy Spirit's guidance. As I listened attentively I came to the conclusion that the enemy had not one loop-hole through which to work and may as well admit he was badly defeated. There was liberty in those meetings to testify and nothing whatever to bind the Christian down.

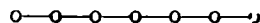
The evening of July 16th souls were coming and kneeling at the altar for their different needs. Some were being cheated out of their experience by the cunning craftiness of Satan trying to make them believe they had lost out while they were doing all they knew to please God. While sitting there taking in the situation I could hear some of the petitions which ascended to the throne of grace. I immediately perceived they had been baptized with the Holy Ghost because power was manifested. The minister's wife at Kalamazoo (Sis. Hilbun), Sister Hyrum Ray (song leader and worker at the altar), also, Bro. Pruitt could be heard from where I sat. Surely the petitions would avail much before the throne.

I was so pleased to meet two of the office staff, young ladies with whom I felt acquainted. They had not forgotten correspondence at the office.

Our stay was too short. We reluctantly left, but felt well paid for the long drive. I felt to praise God on the journey home for the soul-refreshing showers. It inspired faith to press on the heavenward way. I am so thankful that whatever the need may be, we can find it in God. Although we are unable to call the ministerial brethren by name who contributed to that meeting, yet we thank God for them, also appreciate the friendliness of those whom we met and Bro. and Sister Ralph Wilkins who so kindly entertained us in their home. May God's choicest blessings rest upon all.

Your Sister in Christ,

Mrs. R. Bowman



Mo.—Dear saints and readers of the "Faith and Victory," greetings in Jesus' holy name.—I trust my testimony will help some soul to be more encouraged to press on in the narrow way of the cross.

I was reared in a home of eleven children with my parents. We were given good carnal advice and teaching but seldom was the name of God ever mentioned unless it was in an argument or taken in vain. We, as school children knew little about our Maker only what nature itself teaches.

I was happy indeed and enjoyed doing all I could to relieve Mother and Dad from working so hard. Then one winter day my father came home drunk. Life was never the same after that. One drink led to another until frequently Father would come home in that sad condition. I was not satisfied. I wanted something better; but, not understanding the longing of my heart,

I went on trying to do the best I could to work and help support the family and get an education, too. We began to lose financially, and disasters of different kinds set in. All the while I was wanting something different. I wanted the parents I loved and adored to make home what it should be. I worked in my own strength to build the home to shelter and protect the younger children from the storms of worldliness and temptations, but to no avail.

Soon my health began to fail. I became ill with chills and malaria and was sick for several weeks. I took medicine almost continually but did not seem to get any better. I would have as many as four chills in a day and night and would be delirious much of the time. One doctor suggested I might have T. B. and began treating me for that. A T. B. specialist examined me, had X-rays made, and the folks began making preparations to send me to the hospital. I could hardly stand the thought of having to go. Then I began to realize there was something better than medicine and hospitals. Nature itself taught me there must be One mightier than man to rule the world. I prayed and promised God if he would help me in my time of need and keep me from having to go to the hospital I would give Him my entire life, soul and body. Winter was coming on and life didn't seem worth living unless the Lord would help me out. I prayed much for his healing touch, and I am thankful He came to my rescue. In about three weeks time I was able to help with the home work and was feeling good. I had a good appetite and was gaining weight. I got back to my natural self and studied much about the promise I had made but didn't know how to fulfil it. I went along for some time, but soon the promise slipped my mind.

I began dating a young Baptist boy who claimed to be saved. He was a good boy so far as human goodness goes although he went to shows, carnivals, and parties. One night we went to a little country Baptist meeting. I just went to be going more than anything else. After the message we were singing and the preacher was giving the altar call when in the midst of the song it seemed I heard someone call my name. I turned to see who was talking to me, but no one seemed to notice me so I began to sing again. The second time the same soft voice called my name, so I turned again to see who it was, but seeing no one talking to me I turned back to sing when the same small voice said to me, "Do you remember your promise?" That was enough. No sooner was the question asked until my promise I had made about two years before was brought back to my mind. I quickly made my way down the isle to the altar and there I found the peace I had longed for since a child.

The following days I read much in the Bible and found where the wearing of gold is forbidden. I had a beautiful little locket, but I knew I must get rid of it. When the young man came to see me about the middle of the week I asked him if he wanted it. Of course he did not want to take it and wanted me to go ahead and wear it, but I told him that such was forbidden in the Word of God and I could not wear it for I had started out to serve Christ and that was my entire determination. There in his presence I threw the locket in the heater. He didn't say a word, but had to go home shortly. The following Sunday he came back and brought his mother. He had told his mother I was going crazy over religion. I soon saw he was not the boy I thought he was.

Each night I would ask the Lord for wisdom and understanding that I might know his will in all things. For some time the Lord had been dealing with me to separate myself from this boy's company, but I thought

I cared too much for him to do that. One night in a dream the Lord let me see my condition if I did not let this boy go. I saw heaven a lovely place, and the most beautiful flowers climbing over the gate. In front of the gate was a beautiful angel with a sharp spear in his hand guarding the gate. I tried every way I could to get through the gate but could never get in. When I awoke I was sad. I was letting this young man come between me and the One who had done so much for me. The next time I saw him I told him he must not come back. I told him the Lord had shown me these things and I must take my cross and follow Him.

I went from one denomination to the other to find someone who was living according to the Bible, but each time I came home more disappointed than before, although I wouldn't quit searching. I kept praying for light to know if I ever found any true saints. Then one night the Lord gave me another dream. I saw heaven as a beautiful white funnel, whiter than anything I had ever seen before; and, oh, the most beautiful singing and harmony! There was not a musical instrument sounded but it was the most beautiful music human ear has ever heard. In the midst of it all a voice said to me, "Search and look."

After the death of my grandmother I found in her belongings a portion of a tract with the "Faith Pub. House" address on it. I read it with interest and wrote for the complete tract. In a few days I received that tract along with others, also the "Faith and Victory" paper. I subscribed for the paper, and soon found they were teaching just like I believed—the Bible from beginning to end. I read about the campmeetings and wanted to go and see if they practiced what they preached.

I began to make plans to attend the Hammond, La. campmeeting, as it was to be the same week I got my vacation from my job. I boarded the train one day at noon and started out alone to find some saints, not knowing what to expect; but with a prayer in my heart that the Lord might protect and keep me from getting entangled with any of the snares of the enemy.

When I arrived in Hammond I took a cab out to the campground. Sister Key took me to one of the saint's homes and said I could stay there during the meeting. While making preparations to attend the first service, I enjoyed sweet fellowship with the dear sister. Then Sis. Key came back and told me I could stay at the chapel as some other young people were to stay there and I would enjoy being there with them. After awhile I took my suit case and started back to the camp ground. As I neared the place—I was just lost in the love of God—there fell upon my ears the same sweet music I had heard in my dream. Tongue cannot tell the joy that flooded my soul. I knew where I was. I knew I didn't have to go any farther to find the true children of God. I had been paid in a few minutes time for making the long tiresome trip alone. I enjoyed ten days of sweet fellowship with the saints and truly my soul was fed. I returned home much encouraged.

I had a desire to attend at least one more meeting and I am thankful the Lord made it possible for me to go to Guthrie, Okla. There I met the saints again and feasted on the good things that went forth.

May I urge each of you to be true, fight the good fight of faith and do not faint, and you shall be rewarded for your faithfulness. The grace of God is sufficient to take each of us through if we will only put our trust in Him. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. A sister in the narrow way, Lorraine Modglin

Young People's Section

FOLLOW ME

Have you heeded the call of the Saviour
To open the door of your heart?
Has your sorrow been deep for neglecting Him?
Have you come from the world apart?
Have you counted the cost? Do you know
The worth of a soul redeemed unto God?
Have you taken the strait and narrow way,
The path that the Saviour trod?
Can you blindly trust when the night is dark
And the way you cannot see?
And by faith step out on the promises
Of Him who said, "Follow me."

Have you forsaken the joys of the world?
Have you counted it gain, not loss?
Have you said farewell to things once dear,
To follow the way of the cross?
Have you hungered and thirsted along the way
That hungry souls might be fed?
Has your light shone out in a darkened world
That souls to Jesus were led?
Has your burden been great for those in sin?
Have you travailed in agony?
Have you almost bent neath the load of pain?
His words were, "Follow Me."

Have you been to the garden of Gethsemane
When shame and death were near?
And in anguish prayed for the cup to pass,
And felt God did not hear?
Have you prayed God's will not mine be done,
And then in your heart to know
That you were willing the price to pay
If the Father willed it so?
Has peace like a river flowed in your heart
When you gained the victory?
And this is the victory, even your faith:
For the Lord said, "Follow Me."

Have you been betrayed by a Judas kiss
To a throng of men gone mad?
Have you been deserted by those you love,
And so your heart made sad?
Has a friend denied you in time of need,
And cursed as he turned away?
Have you been scourged and mocked in a Pilate's hall
Where your enemies held sway?
Has your heart with pity and love been filled,
As you silently bore it all?
Can you drink of the cup? Will his grace suffice?
"Follow Me," is the Saviour's call.

Have you taken the way of the precious cross?
Have you suffered for his name?
Have you told the story of Jesus' love

To the ones in sin and shame?
Have you left all the world to follow Him,
Kindred and home and land?
Have old things passed away, all things become new?
Have you severed all worldly bands?
Are you living so close to the Saviour
That the world God's image may see?
Then truly you heard and obeyed the call
When Jesus said, "Follow Me."

—Claudine Orr

Editorials

The apostle Paul charged Timothy, a young minister, to "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." 2 Tim. 4:2. This injunction is to every God-called minister, and it is his duty before God to preach all the New Testament doctrines in order that the church may be a well-rounded institution with all the fruits, graces, and gifts manifested as the Lord intended.

However, it is evident that the New Testament doctrine of gospel giving, in particular, has been neglected by the ministry. It is not because there is a lack of sufficient and distinct texts in the New Testament for this doctrine. The excuse for this failure is apparent, but will the Lord accept it? One brother has been a minister and pastor of a congregation for thirty years and preached a sermon on the subject only once. Other ministers in general only teach gospel giving occasionally. The reason is that the people will think they are covetous and want their money. Then perhaps the minister has known of another who abused this teaching through covetousness and desires to steer clear of such a course. However, the minister should preach all the gospel regardless of what the people think. Then only has he discharged his duty, and the responsibility rests upon the hearers. The righteous should be warned along every line that they sin not.

The apostle Paul termed the Mosaic law as a "yoke of bondage" and the new covenant the "law of liberty." The Israelites were forced, under threat of physical punishment, to obey the ordinances of that dispensation. They did not necessarily observe the commands from the principle in the heart of love to God and man. On the other hand, under the new covenant Jesus says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." The teachings of Jesus are gladly observed by those who have divine love in the heart through the new birth and perfect love through sanctification. The standard of living is higher and the "law of liberty" is much more strict, in a sense, than the Mosaic law. But since there is no bondage in love, the New Testament commands are not grievous to those who have the principle of divine love in the heart toward God and man.

The Mosaic law levied a tax of 10 percent of all the income of the Israelites to be paid to the Levites and priests for the support of the civil government and service of God. They did this whether they loved God or not. Then with the other nine-tenths, minus some small offerings, they could do as they pleased. But under the new covenant Jesus says, "Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all [100 percent] that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:33. This is the cost of discipleship under the "law of liberty." New Testament sanctification means 100 percent consecration, so that the Lord may use you and all that you possess, no matter whether it be 20, 50, or 100 percent.

The ceremonial ordinances of the Mosaic law were abolished and nailed to the cross; therefore, tithing is nowhere taught this side of the cross. However, it is not a sin to tithe (as some would seem to think) just because the law has been abolished. If one should tithe, it should be prompted only from the principle of love in the heart toward God.

Some in the early church were doubtless taking advantage of this "law of liberty" along the line of giving and the apostle Paul admonished them thus: "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another" Gal. 5:13. That is, do not use the fact that we are not required to give a specified percent for a cloak of covetousness and refrain from giving, "but by love serve one another;" that is, give from the principle of love to God and man.

Because of the lack of constant and definite teaching on gospel giving in the church today, we are constrained to believe that this liberty has been used for an occasion to the flesh and this freedom as a cloak of covetousness to a great extent. No doubt many are not prospering spiritually because of this one thing. When those who profess to love the Lord fail to give as the Lord prospers them, then they only love in word and not in deed. The work of God always demands sacrifices, and the Lord knows what each one can give. Paul says, "For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not. For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened; that there may be equality. He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack" 2 Cor. 8:12, 13, 15.

The Hebrew writer says that we have a "better testament which was established upon better promises." It brings us far better blessings than the old Mosaic law could afford. That being true, how could we give less than that required under the law? It is sad but true that generally speaking those in deception will sacrifice more to support a false doctrine than the saints will sacrifice to support the truth. Many sectarians give one-tenth to support their false church while the saints (?) in general will not give five percent to support the true church. It would be well for us to hide our faces in shame when we testify that we love the Lord and his cause.

One might, like the Pharisee, say to God with

much satisfaction, "I give tithes of all that I possess," and still be covetous. But the one who refuses to give as much as the tithe, when he is able to do so, shows signs of covetousness, which is one of the greatest sins.

—L. D. Pruitt

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

Calif.—Dear Brothers and Sisters,—In the name of the Lord I am glad to write my testimony, hoping that it will help some one else. The devil once had me so bound and tied up that I did not think the Lord would forgive me, I had gone so far from God in sin. But the dear saints who knew me kept praying for me until the Lord set me free. Now I can praise Him and thank Him for not only saving me, but sanctifying me, too. I praise His holy name. Oh, how I thank the Lord for His praying saints, and I thank the Lord that I am now in the battle, praying for other souls that God will deliver them. It is joy unspeakable and full of glory to know Him as I know Him. As I write this I am going through a very hard trial. Pray for me that I will be just what the Lord would have me to be.

Beatrice Earl Snead

CORRESPONDENCE

La.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the saints of God,—Greetings in the holy name of the Lord. I am still praising the dear Lord for salvation full and free—saved, sanctified, and satisfied in the Lord. Praise His dear name forever! Oh, how could we live without him? I want to thank Him for the peace and joy I have in my heart which the world can not give. I love the Bible way of salvation. The Bible is our only guide to heaven. I want to do more to bring lost souls to Christ.

In John 14:1-3 Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." Jesus was comforting the hearts of the disciples by assuring them that he would return for them, and what He said to his disciples applies to all Christians; yet how few people are looking for Him.

The people of today are much like the Israelites in the days of Moses. When God called Moses up on the Mount that he might give him the law, Moses left the people in charge of Aaron his brother with these words, "Tarry ye here for us until we come again unto you." But we read in Exodus 32:1, "And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the Mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron and said unto him, Up, make gods which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what has become of him." The people thought Moses had been gone so long he wouldn't get back. Even so, the people of today do not believe Jesus is coming. But, thanks be unto God, he will come back just as plainly as he went away.

We find in Acts 1:10, "And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

Oh, how we need to live for the Lord and be watching for his coming; for it is written in 1 Thess. 5:10, "Who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him." Praise God!

I am thankful for this wonderful salvation that "maketh not ashamed." Many have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof. We, as Christians, need to let our light shine more than ever before. Let us pray much for one another and make sure we are on the strait and narrow way. Yours for a pure life and victory over sin, Mrs. A. A. Wyles.

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

Washington, D. C.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—Truly I thank the good Lord for the few dear saints that are walking in the strait and narrow way with a heart full of love for each other. It brings great encouragement to us who are isolated and separated by miles to remember the dear saints whom we have met in this world and to hear from them and to know that every day they are praying for each other. Our hearts are made to praise God for His love to us. I am glad I found the true church of the living God with the many good things it has to offer for our encouragement while we are in this world of trials.

I often try to lose sight of this old world and let my mind go on over to that beautiful home where we shall ever be with the Lord if we are faithful to the end.

It seems that there has been a great change in the people here in the past eighteen or twenty months. They are putting on more to wear to draw the attraction of the sinful world and leaving off more that they ought to put on. Sometimes I go out on the streets and see how far people are from God, and think of where their precious souls will be in eternity unless they change. The burden often becomes so heavy upon my heart that I go with tears to Jesus for His help to help me bear the heavy load for lost souls. So far as I know, there is no pure gospel truth being preached in any of the states that border on the eastern coast—about fourteen states, I think. There are a large number of preachers representing sects and false gods, and most of them preach some truth in letter, I guess, but are void of the Holy Spirit. How glad we would be to have some God-called and sent preachers, filled with the Holy Spirit, to come east and help us, in the will of God only. If any of the saints should have a burden for these eastern states, write to me at 2118 4 St., N. E., Washington, D. C.

W. D. Lemonds

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

Mo.—Dear Sister Pruitt,—Greetings in the name of our Lord. This Lord's day finds me praising God for the many blessings to us. We are often far too busy with the cares of life to meditate upon His goodness and the result is not so good. I don't believe you know how badly our darling baby was afflicted with eczema. Often I found her awake in her crib after she had scratched her little jaws and her bed clothes and dress would be stained with blotches of blood and water oozed out. The Lord has healed her. She has not one pimple on her face. Tears of gratitude flow as I think on God's love for us and what am I doing in return?

Pray for us all. Our baby is badly afflicted with asthma. I desire her healing. She takes cold and almost chokes. Selma (Hiebert) Williams

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

Mo.—Greetings in Jesus' name to all the saints everywhere,—I am praising His name for what He does for me. He keeps me saved, and He is my help when I get sick.

I have a boy who has heart trouble and stomach trouble. Will all of you dear saints help me pray for him? And don't forget me in your prayers for both soul and body. Your sister in Christ, Nancy Sweeza.

Kans.—Dear saints of God,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. Truly my heart is glad to be a saint of God in these evil days. I am glad I have a Father on whom I can depend for everything. I ask Him each day to keep me spiritual and increase my faith. He asks, will He find faith in the earth when he comes? I am learning that the Father will come to our rescue at all times and in any thing. I take everything to God in prayer. He cast all fear out of me except the fear of God. I ask the Lord to take care of me through everything, and believe, and He does it. He heals my body when I am sick. I never think of putting my trust in medicine and earthly remedies. When anything happens about the house I look to Him to fix it and He does. He fixed my iron and unstopped my water system. When anything goes wrong I take it to Him in prayer and He fixes it. I want to proclaim His doings among the people. I thank Him more than all for this great salvation. There is an old song about packing up and getting ready to go; but I am unloading and getting ready to go. We brought nothing into this world and we can take nothing out.

I surely enjoy the "Faith and Victory" paper and am praying that it keeps clear. I also pray for Bro. and Sister Pruitt and the workers, that God will use them at all times. Your sister in the one body, Laura Nichols.

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

Mo.—Dear saints and readers of the "Faith and Victory"—I desire to tell what the Lord did for us last spring. We had a young calf which was sick and continued to get worse. It became so weak it could not get up. I had to lift it up on its feet. One time when I went to let the cow in where it was, it was lying stretched out. Its teeth were showing and its eyes were rolled back in its head. The cow called and licked it and tried to get it to get up, but the calf didn't seem to notice her. I realized it was dying and said, "Lord, if you will heal it I will give you what it brings." That moment the calf jumped up without any help, got what milk it wanted then skipped around in the barn. It never was able to do that before, for it had always dropped down from weakness. It wasn't weak any more.

That was before husband passed away. I told him how the Lord healed the calf and what I had promised the Lord, and asked him what he thought about it. He told me I would have to give it to Him. I had already settled it in my heart, but just wanted to see how he felt about it.

I sold the calf for \$17 and sent twenty to be used on the dining hall at Monark Springs, Mo. Emma Ritchie

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

Oregon—Greeting in Jesus' dear name. I am praising God this morning for salvation and what he has done and is doing for me. I wrote to you in June requesting prayer when I fell and broke my ankle. God heard and healed it. I can walk as well as ever. By His mercy my mind was restored after it had been so bad I didn't even know my own children. Now at 65 years of age I have a good mind to use for Him and feet to walk for him. Oh! God has done wonderful things for me and I want to tell it. I feel like shouting His praises. He has visited me when alone so many times. He wants us to be quiet so He can speak to us. He says in His Word, "Study to be quiet," and to let our words be few seasoned with grace. If we would just wait until we get the seasoning in our words, how much sweeter they would be. He gives the warning that we shall give account of every idle word. I pray God to help me wait on the Lord till I have help to govern my tongue. O. K. Myers.

Calif.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt and all the saints, greetings in Jesus' name.—As I picked up my Bible this morning I asked the Lord to open my eyes to His truth. I began reading Matt. 14, and read how Herod promised with an oath to give Herodias whatsoever she asked. An oath means a solemn affirmation, or the act of calling on God to witness the truth of what is said. No doubt, Herod was blaspheming God's name in giving the oath and the request displeased him for he heard John gladly (Mark 6:20). Yet for the oath's sake and for the sake of those who heard him, he had John the Baptist's head brought on a charger.

If a sinner like Herod should keep his promise, how much more should a child of God be careful to keep the solemn promise he made to God to always love and serve Him if He would save or heal him. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Cor. 15:58.

Dott Henry

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

Nebraska—Dear Sister Pruitt,—Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. I thank Him for salvation, and I am trusting in His name for soul and body. I sent a request down to you saints when I was at Anthony, Kans. I had a very sore throat. I want to tell you the Lord surely did heal me and I praise His name.

I stayed at Bro. and Sister Huskey's nearly three weeks. It seems they all have an affliction on their bodies which is hard to get victory over. We prayed through several times when I was there. Pray much for them. It seems the devil will come in and hinder.

With Christian love,

Edith McMahon

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

Ariz.—To the saints scattered abroad,—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I feel led to write my testimony to the glory of God. I am encouraged as never before to press the battle on. I am neither tired nor worried with the way, but I mean by heaven's grace to prove faithful unto the end.

I wish to testify to the healing of my body. I was afflicted with a very bad cough and could not sleep much day nor night; but the dear Lord touched my body with his healing touch and made me every whit whole, for which I give him all the praise. I desire the prayers of the saints that I may keep low and humble at Jesus' feet. Pray for my unsaved family. Bertha Slaughter

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

La.—Dear saints, Greetings in Jesus' precious name—I am still saved and enjoy trusting the Lord for soul and body. I have been impressed for several days to tell what the Lord did for my son in answer to the prayers of different saints.

My son wanted to enlist in government service though he is only 16 years of age. Our protesting seemed to be in vain so I wrote letters to different ones of the saints and told others to pray. When school started he started without a word. I surely give God all the glory and praise. It surely pays to trust God in everything.

Pray for us. Your saved sister, Velma Mancil.

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

Pa.—Dear Bro. Pruitt, Greetings in Jesus' precious name,—The dear Lord is still very precious to me, praise His dear name. I am still doing what little I can for Him. I found out I can take papers and tracts to the jail so I will take all I have on hand there before I leave for Florida, then when I go there I will get more from you and will see if I can put some in the jail in Tampa.

I do give them at the County Home here. They seem glad for them. I feel and see more and more that we have no time to waste, so I want at all times to be up and doing what I can in every way. There are many ways we can work for Him.

I thank the Lord for keeping me saved in these awful days in which we are living. I have no desire to ever turn back to this wicked world of sin. I feel like pressing on the upward way and gaining new heights every day, praise God.

Mrs. Minnie M. Krause

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

Texas—Dear saints,—Once more I will greet you one and all in the name of our blessed Savior. I wish I could meet with the people of God in worship this beautiful Sunday morning. It has been a long time since I heard a sermon preached by a saint preacher. I wish I could have been in that good campmeeting in which the windows of heaven were opened and blessings came down like rain that was really needed in this dark, sinful world. It fills my heart with joy to read about it.

I am in need of a healing touch for this old body of mine. God knows what I need. Pray for me.

I am encouraged to go on and do what little I can do for the dear Lord as He has done so much for me. We must work while it is day for the night comes when man's work is done. May God help us to do His will at all times.

Mary Leeper.

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

Ohio—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt, greetings to you dear ones in the name of our blessed Lord who shed his precious blood that we might be saved,—At this writing I am still much encouraged to live this holy life. The dear Lord is teaching me many precious lessons. Truly He is making himself more and more real to me. Just think, if we keep true to Him, we can spend our eternity with him. I have it all settled to see the end of this great salvation. I think of you dear ones there often and do not forget to pray for you. The Lord is blessing us here with his presence in answer to our prayers. The saints are all well except Sister Smith. Please remember her in your prayers. Truly, we do need each other's prayers.

E. Hudson.

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

Mo.—Dear saints,—We have moved back home again near Winona. I am asking all the dear saints to please pray for us as we are both down in body and we need special food for our souls. I know that the dear Lord is still able to hear and answer prayer. Also, pray that God will make a way for us to attend services as we used to.

We desire the Lord to bless the saints there at the office and everywhere. Your sister, Mrs. Florence Burris

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

Calif.—Dear saints everywhere,—I am greeting you in Jesus' dear name. This leaves me saved and walking in the way of the dear Lord.

I want the saints to know how wonderfully the Lord heard and answered prayer in my behalf. Friday morning the 13th of September I felt a pain in my stomach but continued with my house work. It steadily grew worse, until about one o'clock it became so bad I had to go to bed. I called my little girl and had her go for a neighbor. Another neighbor came and I asked her to go to the phone and call my Auntie who lived in Pasadena and my sister and to tell them to bring some saints, which she promptly did. The pain continued to grow worse. Around 7:30, when it seemed I could not bear the misery any longer my aunt, sister, and Sister Emma Holden arrived. Sister Holden and Sister Ragsdale held on to

the dear Lord until I got relief. I thank the Lord for his wonderful healing power. The pain in my stomach is completely gone, but I still have misery around my back and kidneys. I am asking the saints to pray for complete victory over it and that I will be all in this world that the dear Lord would have me to be.

Your sister in Christ, Audrey Brown

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

Shreveport, La.—Dear ones in Christ,—Greetings to all the readers of the "Faith and Victory." May God richly bless you all, is my earnest prayer.

I feel that it will glorify God and build up our faith in God's Word to tell how the Lord has recently blessed and answered prayer, and was a very present help in time of need.

My daughter, Nyda Jo Sneed, was stricken with appendicitis Sept. 10th and about the 12th the appendix ruptured. Another daughter, who had studied some to be a medical doctor, told us that her appendix had ruptured and that she would be gone in a few hours. She had a hard chill and fever went higher and higher until it was between 105 and 106 degrees. We thought she would soon be in convulsions. The saints everywhere were fasting and earnestly holding on to God. Personally, I could not get from the Lord his will concerning her, and it looked like he was going to take her from us. She repeatedly told us that she was ready to go and wanted to trust God for her body. Finally, we all, including immediate family, relatives, and friends, thought she was going to pass away. I knelt down by her bedside and told her that it seemed as if God was going to take her away from us and asked her if she still wanted to trust God, and she said she did.

I had been much burdened for several years to see God's Word confirmed by signs following, including miracles.

After we gave her up the children asked me to have a doctor, as we would have to have a burial permit, and they would be better satisfied to let her go. So I called a doctor and told him that we felt we would need a death permit and, too, we would like to have his diagnosis. At first he was reluctant about coming, but then said, "I'll come."

As soon as he came, he looked at Nyda Jo and examined for a few seconds. He said her appendix was ruptured and that she had a 90 per cent chance with an operation and a 10-20 chance without it. He then began to point out to her (She's 16.) the reason why she should have an operation. She shook her head and began to cry. I spoke up and told him that I would not change my mind and that we would trust the Lord. He left, but later called back and was very nice to us. He wanted me to call him often and tell him how she was. He also took her full name, either to give a death permit or for some other reason—I do not know.

After the doctor came and left, the saints met together. In the meantime, Sister Ruth Murphey had gotten to us and we had an agreement of prayer and she began to amend. Her temperature stayed around 102½, to 103 during the night. By the 15th she was clear of fever, or perhaps around 100 degrees. She then had a slight relapse because of too much company, but by the 20th she was sitting up with no fever and all the soreness gone out of her side. Then in two weeks from the time she was stricken she was back in school, seemingly about as strong as ever. Praises be to God!

I told the Lord if He would raise her up and reveal His Son by healing her, I'd never cease to praise him, and love and worship and serve Him.

The neighborhood in which I live and the school where Nyda Jo attends are all stirred up. They say it is nothing short of a miracle. My older daughter (a teacher) was in a teachers' meeting, and they said that surely an outstanding miracle had been performed on Nyda Jo. One neighbor said that if any one who had followed the case and had seen how we stood firm and how God so miraculously healed her and then didn't accept Christ, he just couldn't understand.

Truly, we appreciate the saints—all the praying people that stood by us so faithfully. We were called long distance several times—folks telling us that they were praying for us. Some prayed all night. Some fasted as long as three days in succession. Time and space will not permit me to name the people that stood by us.

I can truthfully say that I am happier because God revealed his Son and confirmed his Word more than I am that Nyda Jo lived. May God richly bless all those who prayed with us; and praises be to the great God of the universe. I want to faithfully serve Him to the end.

Pray for us. Yours in Christ, Beulah Sneed Carter.

P. S. This is the 16th of October and there seems to be no complications from the appendix and Nyda Jo seems as well as ever before.

—B. S. C.

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Some folks have been starched and ironed, but have never been washed.

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BIBLE STUDY

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

PAUL CHAMPIONS FREEDOM AND BROTHERHOOD

Sunday, November 3, 1946

Printed Portion Acts 15:23b-29; Gal. 5:13-18.

Acts 15:23b. The apostles and elders and brethren send greetings unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia:

24. Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised and keep the law; to whom we gave no such commandment:

25. It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

26. Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

27. We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth.

28. For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;

29. That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and

from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

Gal. 5:13. For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

14. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

15. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

16. This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

17. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

18. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

Golden Text: We believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus we shall be saved. Acts 15:11.

Practical Truth: Christians are not under obligation to observe the Mosaic ceremonies, but they are under obligation to keep the commandments of Christ. See Matt. 28:20.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In the lesson studied last Sunday entitled, "Paul's Widening Field of Service," we learned that the Gospel of the Lord Jesus had been preached in nearly all parts of Asia Minor to both Jews and Gentiles. The majority of the Jews, among whom Paul labored at first, had rejected the Lord so Paul concentrated his efforts mainly on the Gentiles, who gladly received the Word and believed.

The devil hates to see people rejoicing because of victory over sin through faith in the blood of Jesus and will do everything in his power to hinder it. He knew if he could get these new Gentile converts to submit to the Jewish laws and ceremonies he would soon be able to get them to trust in outward forms and self-righteousness for salvation and thus make void the grace of God. So he sent Judaizing teachers among them to tell them that they could not be saved unless they were circumcised and kept the Mosaic law. Paul and Barnabas stood against this teaching, but seemed to be unable to clear up the confusion it had caused, so they with others went to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders with the question. After testimonies from different ones about how God had accepted the Gentiles, purifying their hearts by faith when they had not been keeping the law, who were the apostles that they should require that which God had not required when He accepted them? Not only would bondage to the ceremonial law weaken their trust and faith in the grace of God but it would also to a great extent check the spread of Christianity among them; for not many of them were likely to submit to the numerous ceremonies which were a grievous yoke even to the Jews. God had only given the ceremonial law as a type of the heart experiences to be enjoyed in the Holy Ghost dispensation.

When the grace and truth of God sets a soul free, that one, because of the love for righteousness in his heart, will live to a higher moral standard than one who tries to do right because of bondage to the law. "Use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh." Some clamor for the liberty of being unchecked by restraints of the law so they can indulge in the lusts of the flesh. This is license rather than liberty.

I have in mind two congregations of religious people, both claiming to be churches of God. Number One gives liberty to its members to do as they please in their conduct, manner of dress, etc.; but their ministers are required to submit to certain rules in preparing their sermons and required to limit them to a certain length of time. Certain Scriptures are considered as non-essential and must not be stressed, lest they offend some one. Shouting, Spirit-filled testimonies, amen's, praises, and any departure from the usual procedure in services are entirely out of place. Congregation Number Two strictly teaches and adheres to the teachings of the New Testament on holy conduct, dress, etc.; but gives freedom to each child of God to speak, pray, or preach as the Spirit leads. Which congregation practices the true Christian liberty as taught in the New Testament?

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PAUL FOUNDS THE CHURCH AT PHILIPPI

Sunday, November 10, 1946

Printed Portion Acts 16:11-15; Philippians 2:5-11.

Acts 16:11. Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis;

12. And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.

13. And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

14. And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

15. And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

Phil 2:5. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6. Who, being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7. But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

9. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10. That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11. And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Golden Text: I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Phil. 4:13.

Practical Truth: The church should ever be reaching out with its beneficent message and work.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Philippi was a city of Macedonia in Europe. Read again Paul's vision and the Macedonian call in Acts 16: 9, 10. This lesson begins with Paul's response to the call. Notice how quickly he moved in response to the call. (Perhaps people would receive more calls now from

the Lord if He could trust them to obey as promptly as Paul did). Lydia's conversion was the first visible result of Paul's labors in Macedonia. The gospel found lodgment in other honest souls and a congregation of saints was raised up at Philippi which is well known among the early churches. Review other events which took place at Philippi; such as, casting the demons out of the girl and the midnight prayermeeting in the jail.

The second part of the lesson is part of a letter which Paul wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost to the Philippian church when he was a prisoner at Rome. God has preserved the letter in His Book for us, so let us regard it as a letter from God unto us and apply its message in our own lives.

Read the beginning of the letter in your Bibles and notice that it is addressed to "brethren," those who have been made new creatures in Christ by His grace. Others can not let the mind of Christ be in them. Some who have never been born again try to imitate Christ and look to Him as an example, but they cannot truly follow and imitate Him until His grace dwells in their hearts. It even seems quite hard sometimes for saints to fully take the way of the cross so it is quite useless and a waste of time for sinners to try in their own strength.

Discuss some of the different attributes of the mind of Christ that are brought out in this lesson as an example for us: 1. A self-sacrificing mind. 2. A lowly mind. Some would like to enter into Christ's glory without experiencing any of his humility and sufferings; but the Bible says, "Before honor is humility." One must not try to exalt himself and make for himself a worldly reputation if he expects the Lord to exalt him. Make some test questions for yourself: such as, Am I willing to be slighted and scorned by others for Christ's sake? Am I willing to be considered queer and old fashioned by the world? Have I given up worldly ambitions? Can I stand to be evil spoken of, falsely for Christ's sake? Do I by my actions and words practice the words of this song? (No. 581 in "Select Hymns.")

"Jesus, I my cross have taken, All to leave and follow thee
Naked, poor, despised, forsaken, Thou from hence my all
shalt be;

Perish every fond ambition, all I've sought or hoped or
known,

Yet, how rich is my condition! God and heav'n are still
my own.

"Let the world despise and leave me, they have left my
Savior too,

Human hearts and looks deceive me; Thou art not like
them, untrue;

And while thou shalt smile upon me, God of wisdom, love,
and might,

Foes may hate and friends may shun me, show thy face
and all is bright."

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PAUL MINISTERS TO THE THESSALONIANS

Sunday, November 17, 1946.

Printed Portion Acts 17:1-7; 1 Thess. 1:2-8.

Acts 17:1. Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews:

2. And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the Scriptures,

3. Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this

Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

4. And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.

5. But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assailed the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

6. And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;

7. Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus.

1 Thess. 1:2. We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

3. Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

4. Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

5. For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

6. And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

7. So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

8. For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

Golden Text: Be not weary in well doing. 2 Thess. 3:13.

Practical Truth: The gospel may arouse opposition, but it changes for the better those who accept it.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The last part of the chapter in Acts studied last Sunday tells about the departure of Paul and his companions from Philippi. Thessalonica, another city of Macedonia with a population of about one-third Jews, was about one hundred miles from Philippi. Wherever Paul could find a Jewish synagogue it was his custom to first preach in it. The Jews allowed him to preach to them three sabbath days, but he stayed in the city longer than that as we learn from statements in letters which he later wrote to the Thessalonian brethren.

The fact that Jesus had been crucified kept many Jews from believing and accepting him as their Messiah. Paul endeavored to prove to them that the suffering was according to Old Testament prophecies. What Scriptures do you think Paul used? Could you prove that happenings in the life of Jesus fulfilled Messianic prophecies?

Jesus told some of the religious Jewish leaders that they encompassed land and sea to make one proselyte and when he was made they made him two-fold more the child of hell than they themselves. It is likely that they had labored much to make a few proselytes in Thessalonica. Is it any wonder that they were filled with rage when Paul's preaching drew so many away from their teachings to adhere to the pure and undefiled religion of the Lord Jesus, which they hated? Usually the preaching of the pure gospel meets with more opposition from

unrighteous people who are hiding under a cloak of religion than from out-broken sinners, though they often, under different pretenses, get the sinners to do the actual persecuting.

In both letters to the Thessalonian brethren, Paul frequently expressed his gratitude to God that his labors among them were not in vain. Nothing gives a true minister of the gospel more joy than to see those whom God has added to the kingdom as a result of his labors bearing the fruits of healthy Christians.

Paul thanked God for:—1. Their "work of faith." When living faith in Jesus works in a soul it changes his manner of life, and causes him to perform works of faith. "Faith without works is dead." 2. Their labor of love. The class might discuss the kind of labors which love for Christ causes people to do. 3. Their patience of hope. It takes the patience that only a bright, living hope can give to enable one to endure the trials of affliction, persecutions and temptations for the faith.

News concerning the remarkable church at Thessalonica soon spread to other cities. Something is wrong with a saint or body of saints if others do not hear about them. When a soul is born of the Spirit of Christ, both God and the devil begin to advertise him or her. God, by His Spirit works to make the change known to others in order to convict them of their need of a Saviour. The devil points the newly saved one out to others in order to enlist their help in his work of discouraging that one from continuing his walk with the Lord.

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PAUL IN ATHENS AND CORINTH

Sunday, November 24, 1946

Printed Portion . . . Acts 17:22-28a; 18:1-4; 1 Cor. 1:22-25.

Acts 17:22. Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

23. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, To The Unknown God. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

24. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

25. Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

26. And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

27. That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

28. For in him we live, and move, and have our being; Acts 18:1. After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;

2. And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla, (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome,) and came unto them.

3. And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: (for by their occupation they were tentmakers.)

4. And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and Greeks.

1 Cor. 1:22. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

23. But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

24. But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

25. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Golden Text: For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 3:11.

Practical Truth:.. There is power in the gospel to overcome paganism.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Because of the trouble which enemies of the gospel stirred up against Paul, Silas, and Timothy at Thessalonica, the brethren sent them away by night unto Berea, where the people were more noble because "they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many of them believed." But the envious Jews at Thessalonica heard about his preaching at Berea and came there to stir up the people so the brethren sent Paul away to Athens where he again set to work about his Master's business while he waited for his companions, who came later when he had moved to Corinth.

Athens was famous among the people of the world for its literature, art, and science, but as Paul walked through its streets and lingered in its market place, he was not struck with awe and wonder at the display of worldly wisdom, but rather "his spirit was stirred in him when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry." God's people look beyond the wonderful things these natural eyes can behold to the things which their inward (spiritual) eyes see; for the things which are seen are temporal and will soon be destroyed, but the things which are not seen with these natural eyes are eternal.

Would to God the worshippers of today would permit the Spirit of the Lord to stamp on their hearts the import of this message which Paul delivered on Mars' Hill, for like the Athenians, most of them are wholly given to idolatry. To most people who build altars to Him (??) God is an UNKNOWN God; and they ignorantly worship Him, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men, drawing near unto Him with their lips while their hearts are far from Him. Since God does not dwell in temples made with men's hands and is not worshipped with men's hands, for what purpose is the magnificent church buildings, pipe organs, pianos, etc? Since all men have a common origin—made of one blood—where is ground for racial pride?

Notice verse 27 in connection with 1 Cor. 1:22-25. Also read verse 21 of 1 Cor. 1. There is a tendency in every heart to desire to know something about God's existence, and it is His plan that man should seek after Him and find Him; but even though He is not far from any of us, He hides himself—or rather our sins have hid his face from us—and it is impossible for any to find Him unless they seek Him in His way. The world by wisdom knows not God so the result of all their searching only results in more confusion. Jesus, the Son of God crucified for our sins, is the connecting link between God and man. God reveals himself only to those who with their inward ears hear the preaching of the cross and believe.

The preaching of the cross is still a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to those who trust in the wisdom of the world; and, thank God, it is still God's plan for the salvation of those who will believe.