

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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Blessedness Of Christ

O Lord, record my falling tears,
Recount my head's gray hairs:
Allaying all my needless fears
And guide my life's affairs.

I can not lean upon thy breast
As the loving John of old;
But I can have the needed rest
Hid in thy righteous fold.

I long to be by Jesus near,
While in earth's sinful place,
To feel his blessed presence here
Then later see his face.

There is no place down here I see,
Joy gives as I desire:
No love so blest be given me
When passing through the fire,

As Jesus' presence, light, and love,
A blessed heavenly part
E'er flowing from his throne above
And reaching to my heart.

Why is it mortals do not want
The peace of God's own Son,
But at his holy name will taunt
While on their way they run?

It greatly grieves his tender heart,
That thus you slight God's Son
And let him with you have no part
Till all life's race is run.

Then at life's disappointed end,
Shall have to bid adieu
Such a blest and heavenly friend
Would he have been to you.

—J. H. Pierson.

Prepare to Meet Thy God

Time is moving on into the year of 1947, and all of us, whether willing or not, are being swiftly carried to that great day of reckoning, the Judgment Day, when every man, woman, boy, and girl will be compelled to stand before the Judge of all the earth, the Creator of the universe, even God, from whom cometh every good thing that his created beings enjoy, and there give an account to God of all deeds done in the body.

What a happy and joyous day it will be for those who have been freed from sin through repentance toward God and faith in the precious blood of Christ which he poured out on Calvary's cross, atoning for our sins, removing the wrath of God from us, giving us peace and freedom from sin and all condemnation; and this freedom from sin and condemnation will continue in us if we walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit. Read Romans 8:1, 2. In John 3:36 we read, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

The Judgment Day will be a grievous time for all those who die in their sins, and for those that are found sinners when he comes. Sins and iniquities are the only things that separate men from God. We read this in the sacred Word, found in the gospel prophet's writings, "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins [your sins] have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." Isaiah 59:2.

The mission of Jesus Christ to this world was to take away sin from us by bearing our sins in his own body on the cross. It is written, "For he hath made him to be sin for us who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." 2 Cor. 5:21. Although Jesus did not sin in any way, yet he was made sin in the sense that the world classed him as a deep-dyed sinner, a thief, and a murderer, and slew him by crucifixion. And his blood, being innocent and free from guilt, is accepted by God the Father as paying the penalty of death that hung over our heads because of our many trans-

gressions or sins and iniquities committed. This is why believers receive forgiveness of sins and peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Repentance toward God and true faith in the Lord Jesus Christ will free one from all sin and condemnation. As that one continues to believe in him and walk in the light as he is in the light, he will have fellowship with God and the blood of his Son Jesus Christ will cleanse from all sin. Read 1 John 1:7. The next verse tells us that people who say they have no sin from which to be cleansed are deceiving themselves and the truth is not in them. God has declared in his Word that "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Rom. 3:23. All rational beings need a Savior, and only one is provided and that is Christ the Lord. Unless we believe on him to the saving of the soul and then walk in the light of his Word we shall be eternally lost, and God is no respecter of persons. This is wholly an individual matter with every soul. You will have to choose for yourself. You can now choose Christ and have eternal life, or you can choose to live on in your sins and be in torment in your future state. Your choice now will determine your destiny for eternity. In God's Word, he has set before every human life and death, and has given us the power of choice. You can now choose Christ and live forever with God, or you can choose to ignore him and go into eternal damnation; in the fire and brimstone, where the worm (soul) never dies.

We read in Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Sinner friend, it is absolutely necessary for you to repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ if you ever enter into the joys of the Lord. If you continue to sin, you will earn the wages of sin, which is eternal death and damnation.

We entreat you, sinner friend, to give up folly and sin and prepare to meet thy God. His hands of love are now outstretched to you. They have been pierced with the nails of sinful men and women like you. The spear has already been thrust into his side, the precious, innocent blood of the Lamb of God has been poured out, and a complete deliverance from sin has been wrought in his death for you. Will you make the decision today and settle it once for all? Humble your soul before the all-seeing eyes of God, give up your sinful ways, acknowledge your guilt, confess your sins, ask God to forgive you, accept the blood as a sacrifice for your sins, and all will be well with your soul. Again I say, sinner friend, prepare to meet thy God. —Fred Pruitt

—On—

All We Need In Christ the Rock

Psalms 18:2, "The Lord is my rock and my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my strength, in whom I will trust, my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."

Psalms 31:2, 3, "Bow down thine ear to me, deliver me speedily. Be thou my STRONG ROCK, for an house of defense to save me. For thou art my

Rock and my fortress, therefore for thy name's sake lead me and guide me."

We read of this Rock as the Rock of Ages. In fact, it is the Rock eternal that has stood all the storms of sin and Satan but has not even been shaken. Thank God! Who would not want to trust and abide in this place of refuge and security? All we need is in this Rock, even food (honey), drink, and shelter. This Rock is Christ (1 Cor. 10:14). Christ came from the eternal world, hence this Rock is an eternal Rock and shall always stand. Nothing can daunt it and it can never be moved.

We have peace within when we have our feet upon this Rock. Why should we be afraid of the storm or the howling forces of Satan when we are so founded on the Rock? We can laugh at the boisterous waves that may dash upon this Rock, knowing it is the Rock of ages that has never gone down and never will. We rest securely by abiding in it.

The poet has said,
 "I cannot tell when the thunders peal,
 How fiercely the storm may rage,
 Nor how dense are the shades of the night that steal
 O'er the path of my pilgrimage;
 But I know with my Savior always near,
 As that night on the Galilee,
 The tempest will cease when his voice I hear,
 And the darkest shadows flee."

There is power in His voice or words. When He speaks the winds and waves obey Him. Praise His name!

One evening while meditating on eternal things, the security of his Word, his keeping power—His plan is complete and perfect to redeem man and to keep him from going astray, but that depends how man fully and completely trusts him—the thought came: What if some one would give me a token or an article, telling me to keep it in my possession, promising me that if I do I will never be sick (always have good health) nor die; but if I lose it or let someone take it from me, I would surely die? Oh, how I would guard it and be watchful not to lose it! So it is with this wonderful salvation. We receive the thing that keeps us and keep the thing that keeps us. Oh, yes, we could sell out and give it away, but we must keep a sign out "Not For Sale." "Buy the truth and sell it not." W. C. McMakin.

Temptation

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to them that love him." Jas. 1:12.

According to the foregoing Scripture, we learn that temptation is something to be endured—not so much to be enjoyed, but something to resist, or stand against and oppose. To be tempted is to be allured, or enticed to do wrong. In the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples was a request that we well remember, which said, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." No doubt you have heard the song many times which says, "Yield not to

temptation, for yielding is sin. Each victory will help you, some other to win." It is not a sin for one to be tempted, but it is a trial or test, and sometimes the test is severe, or hard, but the Bible tells us to "endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." James tells us in the beginning of his letter, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trial of your faith worketh patience, but let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." By close observation we find that the joy is not in the temptation, but in the *knowing* what the temptation will work out for those who endure. Paul tells us that "no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby" Heb. 12:11.

While it is the purpose of the temptation to try one's faith and stability, yet "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then lust, when it hath conceived, bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished bringeth forth death," James 1:13-15. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." It is not a sin to be tempted, for Christ was tempted of the devil, but overcame him, because he would not yield to any of his suggestions nor stoop to accept any of his offers. Where the sin comes in, is when one yields to the thing. Resist the devil and he will flee. We are also exhorted in the Word of God to "flee also youthful lusts that war against the soul." "Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life." I can not conceive the idea that it is God's plan for one to voluntarily expose himself to temptation, or to just saunter carelessly around and be ensnared by the wiles of the devil, but to watch and pray, and gird up the loins of his mind and have the sword of the Spirit ready to fight the enemy. That is the way Jesus overcame him; and he left us words of encouragement, saying, as I have overcome, so shall ye overcome. He is the one that can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; as he was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. "My grace is sufficient for thee." Blessed is the man that endures

—Ulysses Phillips.

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Is It So With Me?

Paul writes in Galatians 1:15 as follows: "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; Immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood." I wonder if we get the full meaning of this text? Through the great love and mercy, power and pleasure of God we all have our being in this world. Then all who are saved are called by his grace. "By

grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." "With his own will begat he us by the word of truth."

Dear saints, all this is given us for a purpose: to reveal his Son in us. Jesus says to his followers, "Ye are the light of the world"; but they can only be so as the life of God's Son is revealed in them. Oh, that all who profess to love and serve him would really show forth His life each day!

Again in 2 Cor. 4:10 Paul said, "Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, [Why?] that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body." Too many people are not bearing in their bodies the dying of Jesus, therefore his life is not manifest in their bodies or lives.

What was his life? When he was reviled, he reviled not again; he was meek and lowly; when he was persecuted, he threatened not; he made himself of no reputation; he sought no honor from men. There is not space to mention many things, but all can study his life. His followers are instructed to walk in his steps. Now, does our life conform to his holy life? If not, we need to begin to die. Too many people have not been crucified with him, therefore are not reigning with him. Too many have feelings easily hurt, they are easy to become offended, the least little thing hurts them, they feel slighted, etc. In such cases, surely what they need is to die to self and all earthly things. Then, and then only, can the life of Christ be revealed in them.

"For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh" 2 Cor. 4:11. Again, in Gal. 2:20, we read where Paul says, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, And the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Our Savior laid down his life a ransom, having suffered all things for us, went all the way to Calvary, and finished our redemption by his death. We have a perfect record of his life of sacrifice and suffering, and unless we are crucified with him, we can never reign with him in this world or the world to come, neither can God manifest his Son in us. If all who profess to be saints of light and a part of the holy remnant will be bearing about his dying in their bodies daily, then his holy, meek, humble life will shine through his body, the church, and people will see Jesus. Also, all friction among congregations will disappear and holy love and unity will be manifested, even as the Father and Son are one. Often some people who profess to be dead with him and living his life in their vessels will say, "Brother or Sister so and so did things that almost caused me to backslide." Perhaps it was some trifling material thing not worth even remembering. It is sad but true. Many need to be crucified with him, and unless they are they shall never be able to reign with him or meet him in peace when the final accounting comes. God says, "Examine yourselves and see whether ye be in the faith."

Sam Wilson

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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.

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

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

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FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma

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BOOK FOR SALE

Bro. Ulysses Phillips has written good spiritual poems for many years. A number of them have been published in the "Faith and Victory," and now he has all of his poems and some written by his daughter Olive, printed in book form. The book entitled, "Inspiring Poems and Verses" contains 158 pages, paper bound. You need this soul food. Order one for yourself and some for your friends. They are 35 cents each, post paid to you or 30 cents each at this office. Order them from the author at Dover, Okla., or from Faith Pub. House, Guthrie, Okla.

Editorials

The editors and office force at Faith Pub. House are entering into the labors of the new year with faith and confidence in God that much more good will be done in this year than in any year gone by. Confidence with joy is filling our souls as we look to God for the needed wisdom and grace for the days, weeks, and months which will fill up this new year. We expect to reach more souls with the gospel by the printed page than in any previous year as God supplies grace, wisdom, and means.

The Lord has made us feel clear in selling one of the old Intertype machines, and has directed us in purchasing a new Linotype machine to take its place. This new machine will be shipped to us as soon as the manufacturers can get the orders filled which are ahead of us. We let the old Intertype go while the prices for them are good. We have also put in an order for a "Little Giant" 12 by 18 automatic printing press, for tract printing purposes. This press will turn tracts off at the rate of three thousand sheets per hour. Sometimes we have from four to six tracts to the sheet. This will mean speedy printing of gospel tracts. These machines are quite expensive, but we know that our God whom we serve is able to do all things; and I do not know of anything that the world needs more than the gospel message.

These little "Silent Preachers" go everywhere and find needy souls. They tell the gospel story without fear or favor, and souls are saved as God by His Spirit works with them.

Just recently we had a letter from a young woman in Alabama who said that she found a tract on the street, and as she read it, she was convicted of her sins. She wrote to us wanting more tracts, and asked us to pray that God would save her soul. And she wanted prayer and tracts for her brother in the hospital. He is an ex-soldier, and unsaved. Perhaps one little tract which has been thrown away by some careless, unconcerned person can start a great work for God. Saints should keep very busy sowing the gospel seeds by tracts, papers, and other means. We are printing the gospel tracts for you to use for the Lord. They are free for the asking.

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Sometimes we hear the expression, "sinning Christians." There is no such thing as a sinning Christian. A Christian is one that is Christ-like, and He did no sin. He says in His Word, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed [Word of God] remaineth in him; and he cannot sin because he is born of God." 1 John 3:9. The next verse tells us that in this (sinning and not sinning) the children of God are manifested and the children of the devil. The children of God do not sin, but the children of the devil do sin. It does not matter how much one professes to belong to Christ, if he is committing sin, he is not His; but according to the Word, he belongs to the devil. In the eighth verse it is written, "He that committeth sin is of the devil. For

this purpose [What purpose? Because men sinned and were of the devil.] the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." Jesus Christ, if believed on from the heart, will destroy the works of Satan out of your heart and give you power to keep from committing sin. Then you will be a child of God. You will have been delivered from the kingdom of darkness and translated into the kingdom of his dear Son. (Col. 1:13). "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."

We also hear professed Christians say, "I am a sinner, saved by grace." That statement is not true, and is misleading; for if one is saved by the grace of God, he is no longer a sinner. If you confess Christ and are still a sinner, you are still of the devil, according to the Word of God. One could truthfully say, "I was a sinner, but now I am saved by the grace of God," if he is really saved; but, "I am a sinner, saved by the grace of God," is a sentence invented by Satan to confuse souls and keep them in bondage to Satan and his infernal hosts. Dear one, if you are saved by the grace of God, you are no longer a sinner. If you are a sinner, you are not saved at all, no matter how much you profess. You are just deceiving your own soul and are a servant of sin.

This is what Paul said (Rom. 6:1, 2), "Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. [God forbids you to sin.] How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein." If you claim to be Christ's, God forbids you to sin. Verse 12, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof."

No, dear reader, one that sins is not saved at all, no matter how much that one professes. A professor who commits sin is on the broad way to destruction just the same as one that makes no profession. Such ones will weep, wail, and gnash teeth in that Judgment day, because they had themselves deceived and were thinking they would be passed into the glory world. The sinner that makes no profession is not expecting any heavenly abode, so will take his place with the damned and sinning professors.

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We have been reading a book which was sent to us from San Francisco, Calif., concerning the Seventh Day Advent sect. Those poor people are certainly in great darkness and wrest the Scriptures from their proper meaning to bind their law doctrines upon innocent souls. They make a great hobby of binding the Jewish Sabbath on believers in Christ. If they could just believe the simple truths of the Bible, it would remove all that yoke. Then they would know that Jesus living in the soul fulfills the literal day and gives a continual sabbath of rest in the soul. He has not destroyed the law, but has fulfilled it by bringing a continual keeping of it into the soul. No one keeps the sabbath more perfectly than the man or woman that lives free from sin, having continual soul rest.

The keeping of the literal law was a yoke of bondage, and man had no power to keep it, as Stephen told the law keepers in his day, "Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not

kept it." Acts 7:53. Also in the eleventh chapter of Second Corinthians, we find that Paul had many reproofs and rebukes for the law teachers who were among the flock at Corinth, teaching their soul-destroying doctrines.

In Col. 2:16, Paul says, "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a holy day, of the new moon, or of the Sabbath Days." The word "days" is in italics, showing that it was supplied by the translators. In other words, Paul was instructing the Colossians not to allow any man to judge them as being in the wrong because they were not keeping the sabbath as a literal day like the Jews did, which, he says in the next verse, is just a shadow then of things to come. He says the body is of Christ. The Body that made the shadow is Christ, and all the law is the shadow of what it pointed forward to, which is Christ. Again, it is written in Rom. 10:4, "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."

In the fourth chapter of Hebrews is quite an extended sermon in which the writer is telling us that the rest in Christ takes the place of the literal Sabbath. After telling us that God did rest the seventh day from all his works, and that some did not enter in to rest because of unbelief, he continues by saying that if Jesus (This should be Joshua. See margin.) had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. Crossing over Jordan into the Canaan land is typical of our sanctified state in Christ which gives us that perfect soul rest, which in Christ fulfills the literal sabbath day. Then in the tenth verse, he refers us to God's resting on the seventh day, and lets us know that when we get in Christ and cease from our own works, we have soul rest, which is the substance of the sabbath shadow. Unbelief will cause men to live in the shadows of the true, and they will fail to understand the meaning of the Scriptures.

It is written that Moses put a veil over his face so the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished. But their minds were blinded, "for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the Old Testament; which veil is done away in Christ." 2 Cor. 3:13, 14. As these people were then, so are many people today. They are so fleshly minded and filled up with human wisdom that a thick veil is between them and the truth of the Scriptures, and they grope in darkness and bondage. By their cunning craftiness and human reasoning, they bring others under bondage, making them the servants of sin.

Jesus says in Mark 2:27, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath." These law teachers would make you believe, if possible, that man was made for the sabbath. But Jesus tells us that this is not true, but the sabbath was made for man. It served with the rest of the law which Christ has fulfilled, as a school master to bring us to Christ. In that way, the sabbath was made for man. When we really get in Christ, it has fulfilled its mission for man, and thus the sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath.

Truly enlightened children in Christ esteem every day alike. They do not keep the first day of the week, which is termed, the "Lord's Day," as the sabbath, nor any other day, for they have knowledge and clearly understand that the Jewish literal sabbath has been fulfilled by Christ, and the substance is in their souls. They rejoice in a continual sabbath of rest in the soul. The galling yoke of the law doctrines has come to its fulfillment in Christ, and his yoke becomes easy and his burden light. Blessed be the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world!

The law also says, "Thou shalt not kill and thou shalt not commit adultery. (Deut. 20:13, 14). Christ has fulfilled these laws as well as the others by destroying the hate out of the heart and adulterous thoughts. Under the law one was judged as a murderer if he killed a man; but in Christ, one is a murderer if he even has hate in his heart (1 John 3:15). No man will murder if the hate in his heart is destroyed, so Christ has fulfilled that. No man will commit adultery if the thoughts of adultery are destroyed in his heart.

Under the law they were stoned to death if they committed adultery, but since Christ has come and fulfilled the law, a man has committed adultery if he looks upon a woman to lust after her, and evil thoughts will bring death to the soul. Christ fulfills the law inasmuch that he destroys that adulterous lust in the heart. If men would believe the simple truths of the Scriptures and seek God until the law is fulfilled in them in Christ, their fleshly minds would cease to trouble them by trying to be in favor with God by keeping the shadows of the substance, which is "Christ in us the hope of glory."

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Notice to Our Readers

If you will please be prompt in notifying us when you move and have a new address, giving both the old and new addresses, it will help us to keep our mailing list correct and you will not fail to get the paper.

If you fail to receive your paper by the first Sunday in the month, you should notify us at once, giving your full correct address. Then we can easily make correction if the fault is here at this office. Often the paper is lost enroute to you and you fail to get it. We would mail you another if we knew about it.

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Obituaries

Floyd Clay was born in Cuero, Texas, Dewitt Co., March 13, 1892. He spent most of his boyhood in and around Cuero. Afterward he moved to Chicago, Ill.

In 1921 he came to Tulsa, Okla. where he met his wife, Miss Alma Syas. They were united in marriage in 1927, and made Tulsa their home. He was a faithful and devoted husband.

He was patient in his illness and was a lover of the truth. While on his bed he called his wife and said, "I'm going to leave you, but I am ready." He departed this life December 15, 1946.

Bereaved are: his wife, two brothers, one sister, and a host of other relatives and friends. We know that

God hears that prayer from the heart, so it brightens our hopes when he said he was ready.

Services by Bro. Sam Barton. Heb. 9:27; James 4:13, 14.

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Plummer Manuel was born in Tuscaloosa, Ala. May 30, 1873 and departed this life in San Diego, Calif. Nov. 21, 1946, being 73 years, 5 months, and 21 days of age.

About the year 1893 he moved to Hern, Texas at which place in 1895 he was united in marriage to Isabella Johnson with whom he lived very happily until her departure three years ago. To this union seventeen children were born, 12 of them having preceded him in death.

In 1900 he, with his family, moved to Oklahoma where he lived until 1924, then they moved to San Diego, California where he remained until death called for him.

At an early age he was converted and united himself with the C. M. E. church, living a very consistent life for several years. When he met the church of God people he liked and accepted their teaching of the Bible of full salvation for both soul and body. He was an active and dutiful child of God until the end came.

Bereaved: one daughter, Mrs Annie Bell Holden; Abe, John, Alfred, and Amos Manuel all of San Diego; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; two brothers-in-law, besides an unnumbered host of close friends who loved and cared for him unto the end.

His last words were, "Thank you, Jesus." Funeral service was conducted by I. C. Chandler of Bakersfield, Calif., and L. E. Davy of Duarte, Calif. Interment: Mt. Hope Cemetery at San Diego, Calif. —T. T. Holden.

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Sister Lulu Wishon departed this life at Sweet Home, Ore. Nov. 7, 1946. She was born June 3, 1886 at Glade, Ark. and moved to Mill City, Ore. in 1934. She was married to Wallace Wishon in 1903, to which union six children were born: four girls, Mrs. Katie Noblin and Mrs. Ruby Hutchinson of Mill City, Mrs. Ursa Israel and Mrs. Elva Morrison of Sweet Home, Ore.; and two sons, Ryle of Sweet Home, and Cris of Salem, Ore.

Sister Wishon heard and accepted the truth of the evening light years ago. She was not always victorious, at times she became discouraged, yet she always loved the Lord and his truth and drew near to him in her last suffering, having much patience. She left a testimony that all was well with her and of perfect peace with God, and a desire to go to be with Jesus. May God bless the bereaved ones and by His love and mercy draw them to him. Funeral was conducted in the Presbyterian Chapel at Mill City, Nov. 10th, Bro. Vearl Kleiwer officiating. Text: John 11:5.

Bro. Samuel Webster, son of Felix and Marion Webster, was born in Van Buren Ark. Dec. 14, 1917 and departed this life Dec. 13, 1946 at the age of 28 years 11 months, and 30 days.

He professed a hope in Christ several years ago and lived a consistent Christian life unto death. God had shown him that the end was near and he often spoke of it, telling those of his family that he would not be with them very much longer. A few hours before death he called his son to his bedside, laid his hand upon his head, and said to him, "Take good care of Mama. Papa is leaving you." Shortly afterward he passed to his reward.

The bereaved are: Sister Harriet Webster, wife: Samuel Webster, jr, son: his father and mother. Mr. and Mrs. Felix Webster; Mrs. John Moore and Mrs. John Williams, sisters; Samuel Bean, grandfather; all of Sandusky, Ohio; also other relatives and friends.

The funeral service was conducted by Henry Chaney.

Oscar L. Britt, son of John and Mary Britt, born at West Grove, Iowa, April 18, 1859, departed this life at his home in Guthrie, Oklahoma January 12, 1947 after a severe illness of about eleven months duration, age 87 years, 8 months, and 24 days.

He was married to Louisa Long, April 26, 1885. God gave them a long, happy life together and blessed their home with six children, two having preceded him in death.

His parents, with their family, moved to Missouri when he was a boy, and he remained there until a short time after his marriage, then he with his family moved to a homestead in Nebraska. It was there that they began to take the Gospel Trumpet paper and got acquainted with saints who, when passing through, would stop over night and sometimes stay longer with them. They both accepted God's plan of full salvation and trusted God for soul and body until death. When some compromised, they took their stand with the few who chose to follow the old paths up the strait, narrow way. Later they moved to Oklahoma, and have been numbered with the Guthrie congregation of saints since 1919.

Shortly after he was stricken with paralysis, Feb., 1946, and confined to bed, he had a vision of Jesus who stood by him and promised to go all the way with him. This proved to be a great encouragement to him at times when his suffering was great. Often he would tell those who waited on him, "Jesus tells me good things, and if you would listen you could hear them too." When he was not conscious enough to recognize even well-known acquaintances, he would sing the songs, "Never Alone," "Happy Day," "Joyful Meeting in Glory," and others which were favorites with him. Shortly before his passing he said to the one who waited by his bedside, "I saw Jesus pass by. Pray that He will shorten my days."

Bereaved are: his wife, Louisa Britt; one son, William E. Britt of San Fernando, Calif.; three daughters, Maude Britt, Mrs. Gladys Bock, and Mrs. Leola White all of Guthrie; eleven grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; and one brother, Charley Britt of Greenton, Mo.

Funeral service conducted at the saints' chapel in Guthrie, Okla., Jan. 15, 1947. Bro. Fred Pruitt brought the gospel message. Texts: Psalm 116: 15, and Psalm 23. Interment: Summit View Cemetery north of Guthrie.

"Asleep in Jesus, oh, how sweet the scene of closing day,
Where holy angels come to greet, and bear the soul away!"

"With grace divine and perfect love thy pilgrim days were blest;
But sweeter far thy joys above and more serene thy rest.

"Thy pray'rs and tears have gone before, thy works shall follow on,
And gather gems forever more to glitter in thy crown.

"The angels bore our loved one home in shining garments fair;
And some bright day we hope to come and join thee over there." (Select Hymns)

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

Correspondence

Okla.—I am yet saved and encouraged to live for the dear Lord. I have found Him to be a present help in every time of need. I am trusting Him for both soul and body. Praise His dear name, Jesus never fails. I am praying every day for more faith in Him that I might trust Him with more firmness.

My mother, who is still ill and helpless is still with me. Sometimes I feel very lonely in my home with her alone, but the Lord tells me that I am not alone for He

is with me and that encourages me much. We need your prayers. Pray for us that the Lord will keep us encouraged and that He will continue to provide for us.

My mother has been ill four years and confined to the bed three years the first of this month.

Love to all the dear saints. Annie Bowen Box 251, Boley, Okla.

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

Tenn.—Dear saints of God,—I write you in Jesus' name. I can walk, praise the Lord, and I am so glad. I cannot go ahead and do my house work, but I can do a little, praise His blessed name forever more. He has healed me until I can go again. Remember me in your prayers that the Lord will give me more strength if it be his will. My daughter and her husband got saved. Pray for my two unsaved boys. May the Lord bless, save, and heal each and every one is my prayer.

A sister in Christ, Mrs. Annie Graves.

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

Mich.—Dear saints of God,—I have two urgent requests for prayer. One for a woman who has a very bad arm and expects to go for treatment very soon. Please pray that God will save her and heal her before time to go. His will be done. She and her husband would be a great help in the work if they were saved. The other is a little boy with infantile paralysis. He is a dear little boy and I feel it is God's will to heal him.

I got my first little paper again and read it with overflowing happiness in my soul. I'll send in more subscriptions later. I am an old woman, but still doing the little things I can. Pray for me that God can use me as He wills. Christian love to all saints, W. E. B.

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

Pa.—Dear saints, greetings in Jesus' precious name—I'm glad I found God's true way, and that He made a way for me to know His blessed way. I am thankful that God gave His Son, and Jesus died to save us all from sin—those who will believe. Praise His wonderful name!

For a long time I couldn't sleep well and for the past few weeks I was up all night every night. I could not sleep at all only a few hours after day light. I was getting so broken down over it until I was getting worse in my affliction, and for a few Sunday mornings I was not able to teach Sunday School. So I wrote to Sister Jones and the saints in Akron, Ohio and asked them to pray for my sleep. On Saturday night about two weeks ago I began to get two or three hours' sleep during the night, and have been sleeping better ever since. I do thank and praise the Lord for it. I promised the Lord if He would give me a few hours sleep during the night I would tell it. I give Him all the glory for it, and I thank the saints for their prayers for me. I do want each one to pray that I will be able to sleep at night as I should and that the Lord will heal my body to his glory. I want so much to do all the Lord would have me to do for Him.

We each one here need the prayers of the saints. Our desire is to please God in all we do. The fields are white, but the laborers are few. Oh, how God needs laborers to go out into the fields of harvest.

Lord, help us to do thy will; not our own will, but thine be done. The time is coming on down to an end. People should be getting right with God, and be ready when Jesus comes.

May God bless all of His children everywhere, and may others be brought into His fold, is my prayer.

Your sister in Christ,

Avis Tinsley

Ky.—Greetings in Jesus. I am happy to tell you that I am saved from all sin; and I praise our Christ for healing my body of bad stomach trouble. I received the anointed handkerchief which you sent Dec. 27, 1946. I knelt in prayer then applied the handkerchief to my stomach and after prayer the holy power of Christ healed my stomach, which was very bad. Praise His holy name. I have another burden concerning some unsaved loved ones. Please help me pray.

I have taken a firm stand for purity in Christ. I am sick of formalism. I am standing alone here for the pure gospel. H. L. Lemmons

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

Louisiana—Dear Brother Pruitt and all saints everywhere in Jesus' name, greetings.—Truly the Lord has been good to me and the children. He has showed us to look to Him for the healing of our bodies, and He keeps us all well. I have been left a widow five years with nine children and have learned how to trust Him for all needs. He is great to all who put their trust in Him. Please pray for me that I live closer each day and raise all these babies for God. I have been trying to help this little community as they need God badly. I need your prayers along this line. God has been good to me and I feel like doing much for Him. I love all the saints. They are very dear to me. Through dear Sister Key, her untiring efforts, her patience, and her letters to me, I have been brought closer to God and been led to help others, think less of myself, and to trust God for both soul and body. For awhile I was very discouraged and even wanted to break up the home. Sister Key has showed me that God can be the Father to my children. He has wonderfully blessed us these many years. My mother was one of the saints. She is gone now, but has left a wonderful influence over my life.

Are you a Christian? Are you, you and yours? If not, why not? Having become a Christian myself, and having experienced the joy, peace and rest of soul which are the results, I cannot but make it known to others. We should tell others and count it a joy to do so. I am not asking if you were born a Christian, for that is impossible and unscriptural. According to the Bible (Psa. 51:5) we are all born in sin and "shapen in iniquity." In Romans 3:10, 23, "There is none righteous, no not one." "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." You may be a member of a church, or maybe you have been confirmed and yet not be a Christian. Are you doing good in the world, such as giving to the poor, helping the church, etc.? All this is good in its proper place and deserves credit, but is not sufficient to make one a Christian. We do not have to join a church or do good to become a Christian or be saved. It is free and can be obtained without price or money (John 3:16). We are to be born again by the Spirit of God, and be like Christ in character and disposition. We can do this when we confess that we are sinners, lost, ruined, and on the road to hell. Believe in and accept Jesus Christ as your Savior, cry, "Lord, have mercy on me, a poor miserable sinner, and forgive all my sins." God always hears and answers if we are sincere. Oh! that many souls would come to the Savior when He wants them so much! Your life is changed when you find Christ. What you thought you could never do without, you don't even think of when God is in your heart. It is a marvelous life, the life saints live for Christ, and we cannot do enough for Him who has blessed us in so many ways. Let us live closer to God and try to get souls saved so long as the Lord gives us breath. Our reward will be given to us when this life is over, which will not be long. Christian love to all. Pray for us.

Ruby C. Quave.

Ohio—Dear Saints,—I am very glad I am in the church that John saw coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband, the new Jerusalem, which is the mother of us all. I desire to let my light shine, for so many are in darkness and can see nothing higher or better than the dark creeds built by man, that have no power to take anyone to heaven. Many honest souls are bound up in sectism as I once was. But I prayed daily for the Lord to show me what to do. He saw my honesty and led me out. I knew I could not get to heaven if I continued on in sin, but I had heard many teachings of man. I told the Lord one day that I wanted to serve Him but that there were so many ways mapped out by man. I had my Bible in my hands and asked him to let me open it to some Scripture that would help me. I opened it where it instructs us in Jeremiah to join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant. I have never thought of getting yoked up any more. If others would read God's Word He would lead them. So many take the preacher's word, and if he is not a Holy Spirit filled preacher, he will tell them things that are not in God's word and will leave out many things that are there; such as, holiness of heart and life. The Bible tells us to purify ourselves even as Christ is pure, and without holiness no man shall see God. The Bible also teaches us how to dress, yet those Scriptures are so often ignored.

I know what it is to be proud. When I was in a cage (as described in Rev. 18:1-3) I surely looked like a bird with big ostrich plumes on my hat. But after God saved me I made a bonfire out of them all and dressed like God's Word demands. God warns his people to take the whole Word and obey it.

God's Word does not instruct us to join a church. We are born into his church, the church of God, by a spiritual birth. God is a spirit and seeketh such to worship him. A natural man cannot discern the things of the Spirit for they are spiritually discerned.

We cannot live in sin if we obey God's Word. He tells us to awake to righteousness and sin not. He that sinneth is of the devil. All who are born into God's church are led by the Spirit of God. We are the children of God and love one another.

Amanda Jones

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

Tenn.—Dear sirs:—A friend of mine handed me some little tracts the other day on the Bible which he said someone threw out on the highway as he passed him. I read them and they are very interesting to any one who loves the Bible. and I surely do love it. He wanted to keep them but I noticed on them it said to send for forty different tracts so I am sending for them. Be sure to include the one entitled, "Cuff," the story of a negro slave.

Mrs. Frank Dugger.

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

Wichita, Kans.—Dear saints.—We saints here in Wichita are very few in number and we have no place to worship except in the home of a sister. The Lord has blessed us with six lots on which to build a place of worship. We also have some lumber. But there is only one saved brother on whom we can count to help us. But by the help of the dear Lord we expect to start building a meeting house near the first of April, 1947. We think this will be a very good place to have the Kansas State meeting if the Lord wills it that way.

If any of the brethren feel led to come and help us put up the building at that time, please let us know a few days ahead of time so we can get you a place to stay. Please address your mail to Bro. and Sister Lester L. Gordon, 1532 S. Edwards St., Wichita, Kans. We also need your prayers.

Happy, Contented

With God's precious old Book
And the privilege of prayer,
I am happy, contented,
For Jesus is there
To bless and to comfort
And with manna to feed
My poor hungry soul
With all that I need.
Oh, praise His dear name,
I'm happy and free,
I'm feasting with Jesus—
Yes, me, even me!
Oh what would we do
Without Jesus so dear?
He's my best Friend,
And I've nothing to fear.
He's coming some day
To take us above.
We'll all be so happy
In God's light and love.

—Geo. W. Stephenson.

—o—o—

Contentment

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." How happy and carefree we are when we are wholly content with our lot in life and God's dealings with us. From the above quotations we assume that discontentment comes from a covetous spirit, one that is always reaching out for more and not being thankful for what the Lord has already given them. Their eyes are blinded to his present blessings, therefore they are discontent until they can accomplish their desire in grasping something else—and then they think they will be satisfied. They need to first be content with food and raiment and then they could be content as the Lord bestowed greater blessings upon them. Unless they can be content with their present blessings, it is certain they will not know how to be content when they are advanced to a higher position in the world.

The world today is at an unrest. Discontentment, grumbling, and complaining is heard on every hand. May we as children of God lift up a standard and be not contaminated with any of the spirit of the world. God's people are a contented people; happy and rejoicing from day to day. But just let the enemy slip in a little discontentment in our life and the praises of God will begin to be lulled down in our hearts; we shall find something to murmur about and our spirituality will soon be sapped away. Discontentment will work havoc anywhere it is found whether it be in a home, school, congregations, or community.

We need only to behold nature and the handiwork of God and learn the lesson of contentment.

We see the little birds as they flit here and there, merrily chirping their song. They have nothing at all to be discontented about, for their food and shelter is supplied from day to day. They have no worry or care, so why shouldn't we, as children of God, be just as happy or happier than they? The little birds can only enjoy this life, but we have enjoyment in this life and a hope of life everlasting. The same heavenly Father watches over us, but how many people need to learn a lesson from the little feathered fowls!

Who can behold a beautiful sunrise and sunset, a bank of clouds, or a field of waving grain and not feel the spirit of thankfulness and contentment stirring within their breast? Isn't it true that too many people are in such a hurry and bustle that they fail to drink in some of the beauties of nature? They rush headlong to their work of the day and not so much as look up into the beautiful heavens or notice a nodding flower. Their minds are centered in grasping for a little more money in his world, which is the biggest source of discontentment in the land today.

May the Lord help us to be content all along the journey of life. Without contentment we cannot be thankful and surely without thankfulness one is spiritually dead. Let us learn to be content in whatsoever state we are. That is the only way we can be happy.

Ruby (Doolittle) Williamson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Oklahoma—Dear saints, greetings in the name of the dear Lord.—I am still saved, living to all I know and understand. As we begin the new year of 1947, I desire to do more to please the Lord than I ever have before. I mean to work and pray and not faint (Luke 18:1) because the Lord wants us to be up and doing for Him every day of our life. We have no time to lose. It is high time for all to be up and doing for the Master, for He will surely come soon and we do not want Him to come and find our work not done. May God put a real stir in our hearts to do more and to be careful along every line. The worldly people are reading our lives every day. God forbid that they should find things there that would cause them to turn from Christ. Some are letting things enter their lives, and that is why people are not getting saved more today. Little things hinder more than we think. Some speak things before they think, and that hinders. The Lord wants us to humble ourselves and be like Him. We must measure to all the Word of God. I mean to move up on different lines. I remember that when I was small the saints were stricter than they are now. We are not strict enough along some lines. Some say that if we hold down on some things young people will not get saved, but that is not true; some of the older ones just want it easier for self. The Lord does not want us to let up at all, and He does not want us to add to nor take from His Word. Some teach all the Word and then make allowance for failures to measure to it by saying young people won't keep saved or won't get saved.

I am young and just starting out for the Lord, but I mean to profit by every word of the Lord. Some have tried to tell me that some things are not contrary to the Bible when I know they are; but they were just trying to let up for me. I do not care to accept teachings that are contrary to the way the Bible reads. Such teachings are causing many young people to go along on flowery

beds of ease, and will lose their souls thereby. I want the true way of the cross even though it may be hard. I need your prayers. Joe Manda Jordon

o-o-o-o-o

Oklahoma.—Dear saints, greetings in Jesus' dear name.—I can say today that I am still saved and more determined than ever before to press the battle on. The dear Lord has done much for me since I have been saved. He has wonderfully blessed me. My little baby was sick. Sometimes he could hardly get his breath, so I went to the Lord in prayer and he wonderfully healed the baby. Praise the good Lord. I want all of you to pray that I will grow stronger each day to serve the dear Lord.

Sincerely in Christ, Lorene Payne.

o-o-o-o-o

W. Va.—Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,—I am thankful to testify for my Lord. I am eighteen years old. I have been saved over five years and have never become tired of the way. I do not get to go to the house of prayer as much as I would love to, but I am praying for the Lord to prepare a better way for me. I believe there is something for me to do for my Lord. I have many trials and temptations but by the blessed Lord's help I can bear them. I love to read the "Faith and Victory" papers. They have been food to my soul. I am asking all the dear saints to pray that I may be a faithful soul winner for Jesus. I want to serve Him and do all he puts in my heart to do. I love Jesus; he has done much for me. Please pray for me.

Your sister in Jesus' name, Polly Taler

o-o-o-o-o

Calif.—Dear saints,—I am encouraged to press the battle on for the Lord.

Since I got saved I have had trials of afflictions. I have a severe headache almost every day. Saints, pray for me that the Lord will heal my headaches. I am not discouraged because the enemy is trying me, for I know the Lord can heal me.

I am going to school and the Lord helps me to live for Him. I am glad he is such a wonderful friend and Savior.

Pray for me that I will stay true to Him and do His will. Your sister in Christ, Esther Poulos.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mich.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—I praise the Lord for Jesus, who is always ready to help us in time of need. I was saved about six years ago.

I was rejected by the Army Doctors March, 1942 for a bad lung. I was anointed and prayed for the following Sunday. The Board of Health required me to go to the T. B. Sanitarium for a check up. A few days after the examination I returned to the doctor's office and he told me he could not understand my case because all he could find was an old case of T. B. Praise the Lord for that. And I have been healed of many things since then.

At present I am bothered with frequent nose-bleeds. Will you and the saints pray for me? I wish you many blessings for 1947. Howard L. Adams.

o-o-o-o-o

Calif.—Greetings to the young people in the precious name of Jesus,—It has been quite awhile since I sent in my testimony, but again I can report victory in my soul over all the powers of Satan.

Truly, I am thankful for what God has done for me. I find Him a present help in every time of need. I was drafted into the army June 25, 1946. My army training included carrying a rifle, but I had decreed in my heart

that I would not carry a rifle nor do anything to my knowledge that would displease God. The Lord worked the situation out for me, and I did not have to carry a rifle.

The camp where I was stationed was a very wicked place. Cursing, swearing, fighting, and drinking was going on almost continually, but it was a good place to lift up Christ. I did the little that I could in giving out tracts and telling the boys about the Savior.

I was released November 22, 1945, with less than five months service, and I can say from within my heart, "To God be the glory for all He has done." I know it was nothing but the prayers of the saints, and the power of God that made it possible for my release, and for keeping me out of the army while the war was going on.

The neighbors marvel at what God has done for me. If we humble ourselves, and let God have his way with us, then we have nothing to fear, for God knows just what is best for us. I do want to live so closely to God and let my light shine before men that they too will glorify God.

I want to thank all the saints for their fervent prayers in my behalf. I am encouraged to press on for Jesus, and I desire the prayers of all the saints.

Your brother in Christ, Edward V. Davenport

o-o-o-o-o

Akron, Ohio,—To the saints everywhere, greetings in the name of Jesus,—I am still saved and encouraged to follow the dear Lord all the way. I truly thank the dear Lord for the ministers' meeting. Its effect is far reaching, and the good that was done can never be told. The meek, gentle, kind, loving Spirit of Christ was there in each service and was demonstrated, thank the Lord. I was never in such a meeting.

After we ministers returned to Akron, Sister Hudson and saints (a few) came over on the east side on the fifteenth of December and we had meeting. All were very loving and humble. Each obeyed James 5:16 and all difference between saints and ministers was cleared up and canceled. Men and women were weeping, shouting, leaping, and praising God. The east side saints went over to Sister Hudson's congregation that night and we had a very good meeting because the Holy Ghost fire was still burning. We are going to meet at each other's congregation each month, Lord willing. Pray for us. Your sister in the one body, Cordelia R Jones 740 Roscoe.

o-o-o-o-o

California—Brother and Sister Pruitt and the saints abroad, greetings in Jesus name,—I am praising the Lord for salvation and for His saving and keeping power. The Lord gives me victory over the opposing power of the enemy. When trials come—and they do come—the grace of God helps us to keep sweet in our souls. 1 Pet. 1:7 reads, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearance of Jesus Christ." True gold will stand the test; the more it is tried, the brighter it shines.

The Lord permitted me to have the happy privilege of attending the Ministers' Meeting. As we sat in counsel together we feel better fitted for the work of the Lord, to accomplish the duties before us.

After leaving Guthrie I visited in the home with Bro. and Sister Ulysses Phillips. We spent precious moments together talking over the goodness of God since we last met. Oh, the sweet fellowship that we have one with another! From there I went to Hennessey, and had one

service with the dear saints there. The work is prospering under the leadership of Sister Ada Davis. It seemed good to be there again. One aged sister Sanders, now in her 93rd year, remembered and remarked how that I in company with other ministers years ago preached the Word of God there and in the surrounding country. She is standing firm for the Lord. The reason: she said she started right. I visited in Enid and Oklahoma City, meeting a few saints there, as my time was limited at the latter place.

I made the trip with some friends from Pasadena. As we traveled over mountain, hill, and plain, the Lord took care of us, giving a safe journey all the way. When I arrived home I found the congregation pressing on for the Lord.

Last Sunday I felt impressed to state that the church here should spend the month of December in special prayer for the advancement of the cause of Christ. Bro. and Sister Davy of Duarte were present at the time and the suggestion met with their approval. They said their prayers are with us and they will be present as often as they can. We plan, Lord willing, to take up this phase of the work as soon after the new year as possible, wherever we can find an open door, those interested in truth. "Yet gleanings grapes shall be left in it as the shaking of an olive tree: two or three berries in the top of the uppermost bough: four or five in the outmost fruitful branches thereof, saith the Lord God of Israel." Isa. 17:6

We ask you to pray for us here. We believe there are a few honest souls yet to be sought out of darkness and sin. Your sister in the work of the Master,

Emma Holden.

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

Ohio—Dear ones in Christ Jesus, greetings in his precious name,—I am glad to say the good Lord has touched my body and has taken the misery out of my lung. As I have told you before when I was healed through your prayers, I knew when you prayed for me. I asked husband if you had had time to receive my letter for I began to feel much better. Then when I received your letter and saw what date it was written, it proved to me that you had received my letter and was praying at the time I felt the healing virtue go through my lung. I am thankful for a Physician like Jesus who is always ready to heal his believing children, praise his dear name.

I was glad to receive the tracts, which I expect to use to help someone to understand the truth. Iva Evans

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

Oregon—Greetings to the saints in Jesus' name,—It has been some time since I sent in a testimony, but feel the Lord would have me to do so. It encourages me much to read the testimonies and articles in the paper. I do not get to attend meeting very often, so the paper is a great source of spiritual food to my soul. I pray the good Lord to keep it clean, true, and clear until He comes.

I have much for which to praise my Savior. He keeps me day by day and helps me to overcome the enemy. He has sent His healing touch many times. Just yesterday I began to feel quite ill, like I might be taking the flu or something worse. I called my small son and daughter and told them to put their hands on me and pray. Soon I began to feel a little better. I am still weak, but able to be up and do my work. Praise the Lord. I often think how many very serious diseases of which the Lord not only heals us, but prevents as well. I am satisfied in the Lord, and desire above all else to be faithful each day and do what my hands find to do.

Hazel E. Creson

Mo.—Dear saints,—The good Lord has done much for me in answer to prayer. December 2nd I had severe indigestion. I went to bed about twelve o'clock but did not sleep much so I got up and prayed until God took away the pain. Sometimes the devil tries to make me think God will not heal me, but I know He will if we just have faith in Him. I do have faith in Him and have a fixed decision to go all the way with the Lord. I haven't been able to walk well for about twelve years. I have prayed much for healing, but I tell God that if it is not His will to heal me so I can walk it will be all right with me. Jesus died on the cross for me and I am willing to suffer for Jesus. Praise the Lord!

Pray for my husband to be delivered from drinking, and pray for his healing. He spits up blood at times. And pray for my healing. Eva O'Brien

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

Michigan—Dear saints of God,—Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. I thought that it was about time for me to write my testimony again to let you know that I am still serving our Lord.

He surely proves a great friend in time of need. He has been my stay through sorrow. Both my baby and father have departed this life in the last few months. God wonderfully helped me through it all and helped me to see that it was for the best.

I surely wish that many others had Jesus as their personal Savior and friend, especially at a time of sorrow.

I also want to witness to God's healing power in our behalf. My husband was gone the last two weeks of November, and while he was away I took sick. It started in the night. Being alone, I probably was more alarmed than I needed to be, but I felt very bad. God helped me through the night and the next morning He made it convenient for me to send to Kalamazoo for the saints to pray for me. I got well that next night and was healed of whatever was wrong. I give God all the praise. What a great Physician, who knows all about our bodies!

He also healed our boy recently. I had sent for prayer, thinking maybe he had undulant fever. Often he would complain of headache, being hot, etc. This seemed to last two or three months. He also had a stubborn ringworm. I fully believe God has healed him. The ringworm is not completely gone, but it is gradually disappearing and he is feeling much better and has lots of color again in his face.

I desire the prayers of all the saints concerning my little girl's stomach and my husband's nervous condition.

There truly is no better way than the way of the Cross. It is hard for me to talk to people about their souls other than live the life and drop a word here and there. Pray that God will help me to do what he wants me to. Thank you saints for your recent prayers.

Your sister in Christ, Margaret Brant

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

Hoffman, Okla.—Dear saints and ministers,—Holy greetings in the precious name of the Lord Jesus. This leaves me yet saved, and yet sick. I have been sick for about three years. Being a minister myself, I feel like the saint ministers ought to visit me whether they have a penny to give me or not. I would like to attend the assembly meeting but am too weak. I am unable to dress or undress myself. Please pray for me. I have been sick and trusting the good Lord so long for His healing. Maybe this year is his time to heal me. However, I have long since yielded myself to his holy will. Your Brother in Christ, D. S. Richardson.

Mo.—To the dear saints scattered abroad, greetings.—This is to tell you I am still saved and enjoying the blessings of the Lord. He is good to us. He is ever watching over us (1 Peter 3:12) and caring for us (1 Pet. 5:7). Praise His dear name! I have found him true to his Word, and if we keep faith in him and do his will, he will never fail us. I know, for I have trusted him these many years and when in need he comes to our rescue.

I got my hand caught in one of those steel cots while at the Monark Springs camp meeting. It seemed like it would mash my little finger completely off, but we finally got it loose. It hurt so bad it made me sick. Some one called some of the ministers to pray. They came and anointed and prayed for me and the Lord again heard and answered prayer. He stopped the pain and healed my hand. Then since the campmeeting I took sick. My back hurt between my shoulder blades, my right side hurt, and I was short of breath. I held on to the Lord and wrote for prayer and the dear Lord again came to my rescue and healed me. I am well today, for which I give God all the praise. Please pray God to help me to be true to the end. Elizabeth Harper

Reform, Ala.—To the saints everywhere, greetings in the name of Jesus.—I feel led to write my testimony to tell what the dear Lord did for me. Last year in May I had a bad spell, in which it seemed I was passing away. I could not get my breath much. Wife was not well so I did not want to let her know it, but she asked me what was wrong. I told her that I could hardly get my breath and it seemed that my heart would stop.

She said, "Don't you know that when your heart stops, you stop?"

She got up and called in the neighbors, and she called on our God for mercy. I got some better, then we sent for Bro. Mullin and wife. They prayed for me and I got better. Our son-in-law sent for the doctor. He said I had asthma and wanted to give me a shot, but I told him that I did not want any medicine. He did not like it, but I got better. I am telling this to the glory of our God, hoping it will encourage some to put their trust in a mighty God, one who knows all things and can work and no man can hinder. Bless his holy name!

Saints, I ask all of you everywhere to pray for me. It seems that the enemy wants to bring it back. I know God who heals can keep us well. George Hood.

Mo.—Greetings in the name of Jesus. This morning finds me still loving Him.

I want to thank you for praying for my little boys. They are both well now. My little boy who was hurt at school was pretty bad. His head was bleeding from his nose and one ear, but thank the Lord, he is well now, except for fever blisters, and they are about gone. How well I know there is no other doctor except our Lord. He does not punch us with needles nor cut us with knives to get the work done. Thank God.

Christmas has just passed and it is still fresh on my mind how parents lie to their innocent little children and actually have them worshiping an idol called Santa Claus. Some of those parents profess to be Christians, too. But the Word of God says, "If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments," and one of his commandments is, "Thou shalt not bear false witness." He also says all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone. When little children are told Santa will bring them anything they want if they are good, does it not stand to reason this Santa will be their

god? Our children see men dressed in an outfit and called Santa Claus but they do not see Christ in this world. How awful it would be if these children turned out to be infidels, and who would be to blame except adults who know better than to teach little children such lies? I thank God my parents did not teach me such lies when I knew no better. One said they meant the spirit of Santa Claus and giving and did not mean it as a lie. But why, oh why, don't we teach the innocent little children the spirit of the Christ child and teach the truth and keep the confidence of our children when they grow older?

My little girl has a risen in her head and it has been running through her ear for about a week. I know the Lord can heal her. He has already stopped the pain and she is playing. She is 8½ months old. Please pray for her. A friend in the Lord, Mrs. Ovie Campbell

Mo.—Dear Bro. Pruitt.—I have often wanted to send you my testimony, but this is my first effort. I receive the "Faith and Victory" paper regularly. I enjoy it and receive much spiritual help from it. I am so glad I am one of God's children and belong to the church of God. I do not have the privilege of attending services or any of the campmeetings. But I am praying that the Lord will open up a way sometime. But I do read my Bible and pray. I have lots to pray for. He is so good to me and does so much for me I truly love him with all my heart. I miss being with the dear saints, and I earnestly ask their prayers that I will be faithful and live only for him, that I will receive a crown when he calls me home. A sister in Christ, (Mrs.) Ella Watts

Suppose

Suppose we had no one to care about our souls. Suppose we had never been taught anything about God. Suppose we were living in a nation where the gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ and His redemption plan for mankind had never been taught, and we had never heard of such. Can you picture this in your mind? Then how do you suppose we would feel if we should go to a country where they have had the full gospel truth taught and taken to individuals, and find as many different religions taught as there are in this country now?

It would be hard to imagine how you would feel for you have never had to experience such, yet many souls have had to experience this very thing.

Then again we find people all over this fair land who have never heard this gospel of full salvation—the glorious truth of being saved from sin—and who have never had the experience. They know nothing about the oneness of God's people, all teaching, preaching, and practicing the same thing. Now can we be true to God and to our own souls and fail to do anything about it? Deception is all around. False teachers and preachers sit back and never raise their voices to expose and condemn things in which they know their own members are indulging. Sad, sad, this condition; and yet is still sadder that more are not burdened about this condition.

We can hardly realize the pity of it as it is. We have seen, heard, and known, and too often we have succumbed to the easy way of thinking: they could

know if they want to. Oh, they need you and me to have that burning love for their souls! We need to pray until God gets ahold of their hearts and causes them to hunger for salvation and be willing to ask for prayer. We too often let chances and opportunities go by and fail to speak to souls and let them know that we are concerned about them and really want them to know that Jesus loves them and died for them.

Oh, suppose no one had ever said a word to us or let us know they were interested in us! Every time I know of a soul who has passed on in death to meet God it makes me wonder if I said enough or did anything to cause that one to think seriously. In other words, did I do all I could?

Often the enemy hinders us by making us think it is no use. We are living in serious times and serious thinking will cause us to do serious, earnest praying. My soul is burdened because of precious loved ones who are unprepared to meet God—those who have had plenty of chances but have allowed their eyes to look at hypocrites, which caused them to stumble. May God make us shining lights, which will shine so brightly that they will be able to clearly see Jesus and want him. There is no time to be wasted, for many are the fields to harvest and the laborers as ever are few.

We are living in a town where the gospel as we know it has never been preached. Old gray-haired men are drunkards—men of intelligent minds who have had good educations are spending their last days in poverty. At one time they were rich. Women, aged and gray are without any knowledge of salvation. Very old grandmothers have had plenty of this world's goods but are going their last miles unsaved. There are different kinds of characters. Some are business women who want folks to think they are all right, yet they are blind spiritually. Some are Sunday School superintendents, singers, and teachers without salvation. They are swinging along being leaders of card parties and various clubs and use rough language which saints would call swearing.

Oh the pity and plight of such souls. We never see these take a tract out of the tract holder. The tourists get them. I have more sympathy and love for poor men who are bound by Satan's habits, who have never been told that Jesus loves them, than for the professors of religion; but the blame can be placed on preachers and leaders who have failed to hold up the true standard. If we had never been taught the Bible way we would probably be as they are—just lost sheep.

How well I remember when I was a hungry, burdened, afflicted soul and God sent His angel of mercy to my door and taught me good things. I feel my mother's prayers followed me. She was living a pure holy life. She had not met the church of God saints as we know them, but she had read her Bible, studied it, and had been prayed for by some children of God and was healed; but God saw fit to take her home three months later. He put a hungering in my soul to find truth, and thus I met it. —J. Holloman

Mo.—Dear ones in Jesus,—I was saved about seven years ago, but grew very weak in spirit. Therefore I became dead to his service and drifted far away from God. About two months ago Jesus came back into my life, and I am much more happy this time. I realize more how to serve him and have a more determined nature than before. A few days ago I was all alone at home. My husband was at work. I was singing and praying to God. I felt His presence very near me. His presence was so real that I wanted to write what I felt, so I sat down and wrote a poem just as it formed in my mind.
Mrs. Wanda Stark.

I want to tell of this wonderful love,
The love my Savior gives.
To lean securely upon His breast,
In this my spirit lives.

I call upon Him day and night
When I am all alone,
Then I can feel His presence near,
His love to me is shown.

When I am burdened down with grief,
My Savior comes along:
Let not your heart be troubled, child,
I'll fill your heart with song.

And then I sing aloud this song:
My faith looks up to thee;
Oh, may my love to thee be pure,
For thou hast died for me.

I'll never be afraid again,
For love it hath no fear.
I'll confide in Him, my all in all,
And find Him ever near.

A mother's love cannot be priced,
She'll go beyond recall,
But my Savior's love is sacrifice
For you, for me, for all.

He takes away your every sin,
And leaves no substitute,
Which makes you feel no guilt within,
For He is absolute.

I'm glad I came back to my Lord,
And came so humbly
That when I asked him to forgive
He said these words to me:

My peace I give unto thee now,
Thy faith hast made thee whole.
Oh, let my Spirit dwell within,
And let it keep thy soul.

I want to do whate'er I can
To please my blessed Lord,
Always be a helping hand
And rely upon His Word.

I'll never, never cease to pray,
I'll try to do my best.
And may the will of God be done,
That in heaven I may rest.

—Mrs. Wanda Stark

BIBLE STUDY

JESUS THE GIVER OF LIFE

Sunday, February 2, 1947

Printed Portion John 4:46-51; 5:2-9; 11:11-13.

John 4:46. So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum.

47. When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son; for he was at the point of death.

48. Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

49. The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die.

50. Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.

51. And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, Thy son liveth.

John 5:2. Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.

3. In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.

4. For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.

5. And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.

6. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?

7. The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.

8. Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.

9. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.

John 11:11. These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go that I may awake him out of sleep.

12. Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.

13. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking rest in sleep.

Golden Text: I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. John 11:25.

Practical Truth: Jesus has power over life and death.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

This lesson, taken from three different parts of the book of John, contains three accounts of healing. Jesus was able to give renewed physical life to the sick and even to the dead. The seriousness of the malady had no weight with him. The devil has the power of disease and Jesus came to this world to destroy the works of the devil, both in the bodies and souls of those who would believe and trust him.

These accounts were not written and preserved up to the present time for us for the purpose of giving us a historical account of the works of Jesus. As John concluded his book under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, he said, "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples which are not written in this book: But these are written that ye might BELIEVE that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God: and that believing, ye might have life through his name." Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever. He has the same power to give physical and spiritual life today as he did in Bible days. Most of us are expecting Jesus to raise us up and give us a glorified body at the resurrection, but if we do not have faith enough in Him to believe He is the Son of God with power to heal our bodies and save our souls now, how can we truly have a living faith in regards to the life beyond?

John 4:46-51. It seems so easy for human beings to drift along in sinful security, and the Lord often has to permit severe troubles or afflictions to come upon them before they will seek him. Jesus had already visited Capernaum where this nobleman lived (2:12), but we have no record that this man was drawn to him. But when trouble came to his home he was awakened from his sleep of indifference to seek help from Him. It was his trouble that led him to Jesus—at first only with the thought of finding help for his sick son, but the quest resulted in faith for salvation for him and others.

Some people become discouraged when the Lord does not come to their rescue and heal the first time they call, and they leave the Lord and turn to seek help from the arm of flesh. But the rebuke which Jesus gave this man caused him to become more humble and learn more about faith and supplication. When one will receive the Lord's rebukes and still continue to seek Him, help will come. Jesus' rebuke helped to draw the nobleman's mind from the expectation of seeing Jesus act to perform the miracle to simple faith in His Word, on which all depends. If you have called upon Jesus for healing, and it seems he answers not, perhaps there is a lesson in faith, humility, or supplication for you to learn.

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FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND

Sunday, February 9, 1947

Printed Portion John 6:25-35, 56-58.

John 6:25. And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when comest thou hither?

26. Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

27. Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

28. Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?

29. Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

30. They said therefore unto him, What sign showest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?

31. Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

32. Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

34 Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

John 6:56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father; so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live forever.

Golden Text: I am the bread of life. John 6:48.

Practical Truth: Christ is able to satisfy the spiritual hunger of men.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Previous to this lesson is the account of Jesus' feeding the five thousand. Those people had had the privilege of beholding one of the greatest miracles performed by the Lord during his earthly ministry—one recorded in all four gospels—but instead of seeing the miracle and rejoicing that the mighty power of God was revealed to them, they were interested in earthly, material things. The material food satisfied them while they were eating and being filled, but on the following morning the same people were thronging him for the purpose of gaining more temporal benefits.

It is a fact to be lamented that the majority of requests for prayer today are for material or physical benefits. The Lord was grieved with that condition then, and desired to turn their endeavors from seeking the vain, temporal, perishable food to that which endureth.

Man should not spend all of his time and energy seeking material things, which give no eternal satisfaction. His Word teaches us to engage in honest toil; but He never intended that man's first and chief concern in life should be earning a livelihood. If his supreme attention is given to things of the earth he will be "of the earth earthy," and will not take time to seek God, who alone is able to fill the needs of our higher nature.

At the beginning of Jesus' ministry Satan tempted him to satisfy his fleshly appetite at the expense of losing the favor of God, but he overcame the temptation with the words, "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word of God."

In connection with this lesson, read Matt. 6:24-34.

If we seek first the Lord, the Bread of Life. He will make a way for our daily bread to be supplied. David said, "I have been young, and now am old: yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." A multitude of others who have put God first in their lives have the same testimony.

We cannot obtain heavenly food by our own labors, for the Lord gives it without money and without price; yet He gives it only to those who prize it above everything else and diligently seek Him for it and believe on Him. The manna, which kept physical life in the Israelites was a gift from God, yet they were not benefitted by it until they put forth efforts to gather and eat it.

The manna which was given to the children of Israel in the wilderness is a type of Christ. It was given to satisfy physical hunger; He was given to satisfy spiritual hunger. The Israelites had to trust God for a fresh supply daily, for it could not be preserved except over

the sabbath. Those whose spiritual lives are sustained by the Bread of Life must feed upon him anew every day. Each one must gather his own supply of manna; even so each soul must gather his own spiritual manna. We often see lazy Christians who depend upon others to do most of their praying, etc. They are always spiritually lean and will die unless they learn to gather and eat the Bread of Life for themselves. A few greedy, selfish Israelites could not gather all the manna and prevent others from having a sufficiency, for it covered the ground and there was plenty for all. Christ is abundantly able to satisfy every hungry soul and no one can prevent others from partaking of him. We hear some say, "Yes, that is just the way I believe it; you can have Christ in YOUR church and we can have Him in OUR church, for He is everywhere and with all churches, and we can all partake of Him." Dear ones, if you are entertaining such thoughts, you are intoxicated with Babylonish wine, with which the Bread of Life will not mix. Every individual who will may partake of Him, but when one partakes of Him, He makes him one with all others who partake of Him. He has only one church.

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JESUS AT THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

February 16, 1947

Printed Portion John 8:12-16, 31-36; 9:1-5.

John 8:12. Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

13. The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true.

14. Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go.

15. Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.

16. And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me.

31. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

32. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

33. They answered him. We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

34. Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you. Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

35. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.

36. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

John 9:1. And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

2. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

3. Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

4. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

5. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

Golden Text: I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. John 8:12.

Practical Truth: Jesus is a sufficient spiritual guide for all men.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In the lesson for Jan. 5th we discussed spiritual light and darkness. This lesson deals more with that subject.

Chapters 7 and 8 of John pertain to Christ's visit to Jerusalem at the time of the Feast of Tabernacles in the fall of the last year of his ministry.

We are told that at this feast one feature was the lighting and displaying of many lights to represent the pillar of fire which nightly guided the Israelites on their journey from Egypt to Canaan. Whether or not Jesus was beholding this display when he spoke we do not know, but we do know that as the pillar of fire lighted their way through the dark wilderness, Christ, the true and only light, disperses darkness in every soul that will admit him. Regardless of how deep a soul is in the darkness of sin and mist of confusion, Christ is able to illumine the way in which he should go and give him grace to walk therein. Notice He said, "he that FOLLOWETH me SHALL NOT walk in darkness." If you are walking in darkness (sin) not knowing yourself, not understanding the meaning of your existence here, and having no definite assurance of a future life, you are NOT following Christ, though you may belong to some church and endeavor to live the very best you can in your own strength. Even as Christ definitely and positively testified, "I am the light," his followers can definitely and positively testify, "I am walking IN the light. Those with Phariseical spirits do not like such testimonies any more than they liked Christ's testimony.

When Adam and Eve yielded to temptation and sinned against God, they willingly entered the servitude of sin. When parents are slaves, the children also are slaves until their master or one of higher authority frees them. Sin is a hard master and never sets one free from its bondage, so in this case it took one of higher authority to bind it and set the captive souls of man free. God gave the law to give a knowledge of sin, but there was no power in it to deliver from its bondage. So the cry of human souls was, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" The answer came at length: "I thank God through Jesus Christ." Jesus Christ ends the servitude for those who will believe and obey him and accept his pardoning grace. Slaves have no inheritance with free children, but Jesus came to set the slaves free and make them joint-heirs with himself.

— oOo — THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Sunday, February 23, 1947

Printed Portion John 10:7-18.

John 10:7. Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

8. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

9. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

10. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

11. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

12. But he that is a hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth; and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

13. The hireling fleeth, because he is a hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

14. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

15. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

16. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold and one shepherd.

17. Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

18. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Golden Text: I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. John 10:11.

Practical Truth: Christ is a shepherd in whose care and leadership we may safely trust.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We find here in the first few verses of our lesson Christ proclaiming himself as the door. We realize we cannot enter into any building without entering at the door unless we be as thieves and robbers. Neither can we be saved unless we enter in through Christ Jesus who is the door of the sheep fold. He said we shall be saved and go in and out and find pasture. Therefore, when we enter in by him, our souls shall be fed and we shall be filled with his righteousness. He warns us against the thief who only comes to steal, kill, and destroy. Therefore, we should be very careful whom we follow, whether it be the good Shepherd who giveth his life for the sheep or whether it be an hireling who careth not for the sheep, but fleeth when wolves and dangers face him. We can know the good Shepherd because he laid down his life for the sheep. He also knows all his sheep who will trust and obey him and are willing to do whatsoever he commands.

In verse 16 He speaks of other sheep which are not of this fold. He was speaking here to the Jews of the Gentiles who had not yet been brought to the fold. But he says he must bring them and they shall hear his voice, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd. When the Jews denied and rejected him, he turned to the Gentiles that you and I might hear his voice and follow him. We see he still is not making any other arrangements for anyone to get in except by Him, because he said, "There shall be one fold, and one shepherd."

In verse 17 we see that his Father loved him because he willingly laid down his life. He did not have to be forced nor driven to lay down his life, but freely and willingly did so that he might bring the other sheep into his fold. It wouldn't have been nearly so wonderful if he had not freely given his life. The same goes for us. If we freely give our life, soul and body, into his hands, we shall be loved of the Father. We shall go in and out and find pasture. But if we are stubborn and refuse to do what he wants us to do, we are in danger of following the hireling and of being scattered abroad. He said, "I lay down my life, that I might take it again." He freely laid down his life that he might redeem us to God, but through his willing service and obedience, he has taken his life again and conquered all the powers of darkness that we might know whom to follow. He says, "No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself." Neither will he force us to lay our lives down but we must do so of our own free will.

—Lorraine Modglin