

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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TRIBUTE

The God of heaven I'll obey,
And faithful 'till we end life's way;
No other friend can do or be
What God has done and been to me.

The stars, the birds, the flowers and all,
Ten thousand beauties great and small,
To prove His promise true and sane,
He put the rainbow in the rain.

We see ourselves so incomplete
While bowing low at Jesus' feet;
The GREAT Creator, still the same,
Who put the rainbow in the rain.

Could mortal man e'er stoop so low
To doubt our God, nor reverence show
The Mighty One for sinners slain,
Who put the rainbow in the rain?
—Erle E. Forbes.

Take Heed How Ye Hear

"Therefore be ye not mockers, lest your bands be made strong." Isaiah 28:22.

When the Word of God comes to us it finds us bound captives, servants of sin. "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." John 8:34b. But Christ has come with the glad tidings of the gospel, offering liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound (Isa. 61:1). His Word comes in power to break every band, and to make free whosoever receives it. "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. If we take heed, and hear, and receive it, that Word will bring liberty and life. But to those who despise, refuse, and neglect it, the bands of sin that bind them will become stronger. With awful power the devil binds in sin the souls of those who reject the Word and refuse life. "To whom he said, This is

the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing; yet they would not hear. But the word of the Lord was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken." Isaiah 28:12, 13.

As the Word of God comes to us in life-giving power, here a little and there a little, line upon line, how precious to us it should be. How we should receive and keep each word and hold it fast, for it will work in us life and salvation. But how we should take heed! God's time of sowing the precious seed in hearts does not continue forever to those who neglect and refuse it. There is a time for plowing and preparing the ground and for sowing the seed (Isaiah 28:23-29).

He says, "Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts." Heb. 3:7, 8.

Perhaps there are those, who, neglecting, have hardened their hearts until exceedingly bound by the power of sin, that God in mercy is still dealing with by showing them their sad and dangerous condition. "Such as sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron; because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the most high: Therefore He brought down their hearts with labor; they fell down and there was none to help." Psalms 107:10-13.

What a sad condition is described here; yet hear the offer of life and salvation and hope to those with whom He is yet dealing, by any means to bring them to repentance, to the acknowledging of the truth. But there is no time to lose. Call upon God while He in His mercy is still dealing with and calling you.

The Word continues: "Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble and He saved them out of their distresses. He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder. Oh, that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He hath broken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron in sunder." Psalm 107:13-16.

But to those who still refuse and despise the hand of God as He deals with them, a fearful doom is described: "If they be bound in fetters, and be holden in cords of affliction; then He showeth them their work, and their transgressions that they have exceeded. He openeth also their ear to discipline, and commandeth that they return from iniquity. If they obey and serve Him, they shall spend their days in prosperity and their years in pleasures. But if they obey not they shall perish by the sword (the Word of God), and they shall die without knowledge. But the hypocrites in heart heap up wrath: they cry not when He bindeth them. They die [in their souls] in youth, and their life is among the unclean [though they may live on for many years physically]." Job 36:8-14.

How solemn is the warning our Savior gave: "Take heed, therefore how ye hear." Luke 8:18.

—Faith Embly.

—oOo— Redeeming the Time

Eph. 5:15, 16, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

This evening after supper I was weak in body, and felt that I should go to bed early, but in the meantime I opened my Testament and began to read the Ephesian letter. Many precious things were revealed, but especially were we impressed with 5:15, 16. While meditating on these verses I felt impressed to write, for things done in season, or in the right time, does redeem much time.

"See then that ye walk circumspectly," which means (Webster's Dictionary) watchful on all sides, cautious, prudent, alertness, carefulness, wariness (or on guard). Yes, how careful we are to be in instructing or teaching souls in the right way and walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time (Col. 4:5).

"Not as fools." They are careless, heedless, and hasty, or making shipwreck of time, which is contrary to being wise and redeeming the time.

How well I remember when I was a farmer boy. The last few years that I was at home I managed the farm. I was plowing a patch of cotton that was pretty and nice, yet the Crabb grass was coming up so thick there was not a space the size of my hand that was clean. While the grass was young and easy to destroy was the right time to do it. At noon Saturday I lacked about a half of a day's plowing, when someone mentioned going to town, as most farmers do on Saturday afternoons. I felt that I should stay and finish the plowing, but unwisely I decided I could finish it Monday. But in the meantime (over Sunday) it began to rain and it rained for several days or a week. By the time we could get in the field the grass was matted solid. Then it took several hands with chopping hoes and extra heavy team to clean it out. It took more than nine times as long, besides much more hard work to do the job than it would have if I had been wise and cautious and plowed it before it rained.

There is a saying, "A stitch in time saves nine," which is not Scripture, but how true. If I had been wise, I could have redeemed at least five days of hard labor. So it is with our work for God. Let us be wise and make the best use of time (the precious golden moments) because the days are evil. Let us never put off for tomorrow what we can do today, for the time lost can never be redeemed. We can only redeem the time that we have before us, and that by carefulness and by watching on every side.

W. C. McMakin.

—oOo— When The Judgment Day Comes

No doubt you expect to be prepared to meet God when the Judgment Day comes, but do not deceive yourself. If you are not willing to give up the world now and live for God, you are choosing a dangerous course, and very likely will not be prepared when the Judgment comes. Search your own heart and be honest with yourself before God. Are you living Christ-like? Are you ready and waiting for your Lord to come? Are you living the way of the world, in pleasure, in adultery, fornication, in double marriage?

Jesus said that in the last days the world would be as Sodom and Gomorrah, so wicked that God cannot look upon the sins of man any longer. He also said that in the last days people would be lovers of self and lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. This condition exists at the present time. And the pleasures that are most popular are those which encourage the lusts of the flesh.

People, young and old, will line up a half of a block each way (and sometimes make a longer line), waiting to be admitted into a picture show. What is the attraction there? We have noticed the following in big glaring letters on the outside: "A Big Love Scene," "A Beautiful Blond Woman in His Life," "Could He Resist?" "All of Me," "Girls for Sale," "Nudity in Gold," "Back into Nature with Venus," and other suggestive titles. If one should ask the people who are waiting to see such filth the question: "To what church do you belong?" he would find the majority were church members. They come out of such places with memories of what they have seen and are farther from God than when they entered, and are filled with lustful desires. Truly, hell is enlarging itself to receive the throngs of humanity on the broad way leading to that prison from whence none ever return.

Oh, soul, count the cost! When that awful day of Judgment comes and you see others passing into the presence of God, all the vile shows which you have fed upon and enjoyed will only add to your consternation as you weep and wail and are cast into outer darkness.

Now you have an opportunity to change and get off the road which is leading you down to eternal torment. Repent with all your heart, take up the cross and follow Jesus. He says, "My yoke is easy;

my burden is light." Be an overcomer and you shall enter into eternal bliss with all the redeemed of earth.

—J. B. Thorn.

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Prevailing Prayer

In the latter part of the 32nd chapter of Genesis we read about the wonderful experience of Jacob as he met an angel of God. At this time Jacob was returning to his native land from his fourteen years sojourn with his uncle Laban in Haran. He was nearing his old home in the land of Canaan and was about to meet his brother Esau when a messenger of God appeared to him. Jacob feared that Esau might do him and his company harm.

Jacob had prayed God for help to deliver him from any harm that he feared might come upon him. In his distressed condition he had perfect confidence in God far above any earthly power. What the great blessing was that he asked the angel for in so great a struggle the night long till break of day was no doubt that God would help him out of his troubled heart and mind and give him peace. The Lord is greatly pleased with everyone who possesses perfect confidence, faith, and determination not to give up praying, because an answer in some cases does not come at once for reasons best known to God alone.

An elderly person was once taken with painful cramps in one of his legs shortly after retiring. He prayed and prayed for relief with the enemy suggesting other means than confidence in the Lord to stop the severe pains. But he took a stand against these suggestions and said he would trust in the Lord for relief if it took till break of day. In a few moments the cramps suddenly stopped and he went to sleep praising the dear Lord for victory.

In Luke 11:5-14 there is a beautiful and practicable lesson for every Christian to study daily to encourage their faith or confidence in the Lord's ability and willingness to answer prayer, even if the answer does not come at once. The Lord is highly pleased for everyone to practise and experience the spirit of importunity; that is, to just be patient and keep praying and knocking. "Ask and it shall be given you; knock and it shall be opened unto you; seek and ye shall find." are wonderful promises that cannot fail, for it is the true spoken Word of the Lord. Prayer must come from the depths of the heart and soul as one crying for help on a sinking ship at sea.

John H. Griffith.

—oOo—

His Glory

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Cor. 10:31.

This is a good measuring stick to keep us all rounded up in the middle of the narrow way. For it takes in everything, and it is "the little foxes that spoil the vines." We are commanded to take heed to ourselves, lest at any time our hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness, and cares of this life

[worry] so that day come upon us unawares." Luke 21:34. When we are young and feel well, we think nothing will hurt us, so it is easy to give way to appetite (Prov. 23:1-3; Dan. 1:8-26).

The word *surfeit* means to over-eat or drink. If we continue to do this, soon our vital organs are damaged beyond the help of man. This is disobedience and we suffer for this sin. "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health even as thy soul prospereth." 3 John 2. He will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are stayed on Him (Isa. 26:2, 3), then we can run with patience the race set before us, until we win the incorruptible crown (1 Cor. 9:23, 25).

As a man "thinketh in his heart, so is he." Prov. 23:6, 7. We are told how to think for the glory of God. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are *true*, whatsoever things are *honest*, whatsoever things are *just*, whatsoever things are *pure*, whatsoever things are *lovely*, whatsoever things are of *good report*; if there be any *virtue*, and if there be any *praise*, think on these things." Phil. 4:8.

We should put our fingers in our ears and cry, "Life, life, eternal life!" when we are tempted (as Bunyan wrote). For we are commanded to take heed how we hear (Luke 8:18).

Very little can be heard on the radio or seen in the papers that will help us to glorify our Lord. "Only let your conversation be, as it becometh the gospel of Christ." Phil. 1:27. "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Prov. 4:23; 1 Tim. 3. "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Luke 6:45.

God looks at the heart, and He hates a proud look. So pride and foolishness are counted in with the worst of sins. Mark 7:21-23. Let us be sure to clothe our bodies for His glory, and add nothing to please the flesh. But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. (1 Peter 3:1-12; Psal. 149:4).

By doing these things we can prove that we love Him who suffered (Psal. 22) and died on the cruel cross without the camp that He might sanctify and cleanse us with His own precious blood, so we can be perfect even as our Father who art in heaven is perfect (Heb. 7:19-28). "Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp, bearing his reproach" (Heb. 13:12, 13; 1 Pet. 4:14-19). After we have obeyed all (Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4; Luke 4:4), let us seek meekness and wisdom down in that secret place of the Most High, under the shadow of the Almighty, where we can glorify Him in our bodies and our spirits which are His.

Mrs. P. F. Ropp.

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BUILDING PROJECT

Work has now begun on the Guthrie Pavilion to be used for the annual campmeeting services. Those sponsoring this building expect it to be completed and ready for the campmeeting this summer, which will begin the first Friday in August. It will be fifty feet wide and sixty feet long, and left in a condition so it can easily be added to and made longer.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma

The chapel where the church of God meets in Guthrie, Okla. is located on the corner of 6th St. and W. Warner Ave. Regular Sunday services are: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; preaching services, 11 a.m.; young people's meeting, 6 p.m.; and general services, 7:30 p.m. Mid-week service prayer meeting Wednesday, 7:30 p. m. All are welcome.

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Mrs. Tiney L. Owens, born October 4, 1878 in Clinton Co., Michigan, departed this life Jan 18, 1947 at Florence, Colo. She was the mother of thirteen children, 9 boys and four girls; two girls preceded her in death.

Editorials

The Lord has moved upon us to add 16 ft. to His Print Shop here at Guthrie. The concrete foundation is now in, and concrete blocks will be laid for the walls as soon as material is on the ground and help is available. We plan to have an 8 by 16 rest room, and the other 14 by 16 room will be used for sleeping quarters for brethren who work in the print shop. The rooms in our home are occupied by the sisters who work here, so this extra room is much needed.

We ask all of our readers and saints everywhere to pray for us as we go ahead with the building as He leads. We expect the cost of the building to be somewhere near \$1200.00. We know He is able to finish that which we have committed into His hands.

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In the February issue of *Faith and Victory* we had some editorials dealing with the sin question, showing that a saved man, one who is really born of the Spirit is no more a sinner and does not commit sin if he retains the life of Christ in the soul, and that the saying, "I am a sinner saved by grace" is untrue of a Christian and misleading.

The Tabernacle Baptist minister, whose building is three blocks from the saints' chapel here in Guthrie, read this editorial and came to our office much stirred over the matter, and challenged us to debate the subject with him at his meeting house.

We declined the offer, kindly explaining to him that we did not feel that debating would please the Lord; but he was quite persistent about the matter, saying, "You will scatter such teaching around among our members, but will not face the issue with me publicly."

I tried to reason with him and to show him by the Scriptures that the Lord saved us from our sins and that a saved man was no longer a sinner. He claimed that the soul was saved but the flesh sinned. He referred to the 7th chapter of Romans as a proof, and claimed that Paul was giving his experience as a Christian. He was told that Paul said in that chapter that he was a wretched man, and we asked him if he was a wretched man. He answered very emphatically that he was wretched. I told him that since God saved me I was no longer a wretched man, but had joy and comfort from heaven in my soul.

After he left and I had time to pray over the matter I visited him in his home the next day and told him that I was willing to publicly teach the Scriptures on the subject in his meeting house if he would let me have the meeting house one night and he take the next night. He did not want to do that, but wanted me to take the affirmative on the subject, and he take the negative the same night. For awhile I gave in to his persuasion on the grounds that it would be carried on in a brotherly manner; but after praying over the matter and reconsidering it from different view points I was convinced that the Lord would not be pleased for me to debate the question in that way. So I informed him of my decision and told him I was conscientious about doing anything that would displease the Lord.

After talking with this minister and seeing more clearly his position and views, and the Scriptures he uses to support his theories, I feel it would be good and enlightening to our readers to give some Scriptures to make plain the truth on the matter.

Matt. 1:21, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."

Luke 1:73, "The oath which he sware to our father Abraham, that he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life."

1 John 3:6, "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. He that committeth sin is of the Devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the Devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed [the Word of God, Luke 8:11] remaineth in him: and he cannot sin because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest and the children of the Devil."

They try to kill the weight of these Scriptures by claiming that this flesh, the body, sins but the soul is holy and righteous. Let us look up the Scriptures to see whether God teaches that the body of a saved man sins while his soul is preserved holy and righteous or not.

Rom. 6:6, "Knowing this that our old man [the carnal, fleshly nature that causes men to sin] is crucified with him, that the body of sin [the evil power within a sinner] might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin." Verse 12, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof."

1 Cor. 6:20, "For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit which are God's."

Romans 8:12, "Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the spirit do mortify the deeds of the body [put them to death] ye shall live."

In 1 Cor. 9:27, Paul testified, "But I keep under my body [or keep my body under], and bring it in subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." A castaway, according to the dictionary, is a worthless thing, a thing that is refused.

Paul tells us in 1 Thess. 5:22, to "abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."

If your whole soul, spirit, and body is preserved blameless unto the coming of the Lord—and God says he will do that very thing—how much of you is left to commit sin? Brethren, we had better believe the

plain statements of God's Word and look to him for right interpretation of seemingly contrary Scriptures that would hold you under sin and bondage and bring weeping and wailing in the end.

We read in Gal. 6:7, "Be not deceived, God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the spirit shall of the spirit reap life everlasting." Peter instructs: "Abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul." 1 Pet. 2:11. The spirit and life of Christ living in the soul will give us power to abstain from all fleshly lusts that war against the soul and enable us to sow unto the spirit and have life everlasting. But those who sow to the flesh in adorning the body, strong drink, poison tobacco, worldly spirits, adultery, lying, backbiting, hatred, envy, greed, extortion, and unjust gain will be sowing to the flesh and will reap corruption or destruction.

In Eph. 2:2 Paul tells more about our condition when we were in sin: "Wherein in times past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past [This includes his own condition of which he spoke in the 7th chapter of Romans.] in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature [that sin that dwelt in him] the children of wrath, even as others."

Brethren, there are just two spiritual powers in the world today. One is the Spirit of God and the other is the spirit of Satan. The spirit that we choose to allow to live in us will cause us to put to death the deeds of the body and do God's will all the time if it be the Spirit of God dwelling in us; but if it be the spirit of Satan he will cause us to yield to fleshly lusts and sin by transgressing the laws and commands of God, and at the same time make some lie by claiming to be a child of God. We learn in Jeremiah 17:9 that an unregenerate heart "is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it." One that is sowing to the flesh does not know what great wicked deed that power and spirit in him may cause him to do.

Let us turn our attention again to the 7th chapter of Romans. If one will read this chapter with prayer and carefulness, you will be able to see that Paul is telling of his condition while under the law in sin. Although he was a saved man when he wrote it, yet he was trying to make it plain the condition of a man in sin under the law without Christ, and he used himself to illustrate it, making plain the condition that existed with him when in sin. He begins when he was a child and says in the 9th verse, "For I was alive without the law once [when I was a child and did not know any commandments] but when the commandment came [when he became old enough to know what God commanded] sin revived, and I died." He began to realize that he was sinning and was carnal sold under sin. He continues to describe the power of that indwelling sin that caused him to do

wrong, and finally says, "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death." The power, or body, of sin within him was working death to his soul by causing him to sin through the lusts of the flesh. He thanked God that deliverance was through Jesus Christ our Lord. No wonder he was a wretched man, knowing what he ought to do, but finding no power to do it, and at the same time that power of indwelling sin was bringing his soul to destruction and damnation. This is certainly the description of an unsaved man and never of one fully saved in Christ. In the eighth chapter, after being set free from that wretched condition of having indwelling sin, he says, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death." Thank God, in Christ he was no longer a wretched man, but had life and no condemnation—was FREE!

Brethren, in the seventh chapter Paul tells the condition that existed with him when unsaved, and in the eighth chapter he is telling the condition of a saved man. Since God has saved me, my experience is in harmony with the teaching of the eighth chapter and not at all with the seventh chapter. I was wretched while in sin, but never in Christ.

When I was first saved thirty years ago I had been taught by many preachers and others that one would sin more or less all the time and I thought, as many do now, that Paul was telling about his condition when saved. I had it in my mind to teach it that way, but the Spirit forbade me to do it, and I pondered over the Scripture and wondered what Paul meant by the teaching. I retired for the night thinking over these Scriptures, wondering what he meant. I had been in bed only a short time when the Lord by His Spirit spoke to me these words: "Paul was telling how he felt when he was in sin." I turned over and looked around the room expecting to see someone, but there was no one. As I waited in amazement, the voice came again more clearly and distinct, "Paul was telling how he felt when in sin." I accepted this truth from heaven and the next morning the Spirit made the seventh chapter of Romans very clear to me, and nothing can shake me from the clear understanding He gave, for seeing it as revealed makes all other Scriptures harmonize.

In 1 John 3:7, just before he began to make it plain about living free from sin, John said, "Little children, let no man deceive you: [He knew that many would misconstrue the Scriptures and deceive souls.] he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous." This makes it plain that a Christian is like him in righteousness, and is no longer a sinner.

Peter tells us in 2 Peter 3:16 that Paul writes some things that are hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned (have not been taught by the Spirit) and are unstable (not settled in real truth) wrest, as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction. It is pitiful to note the great num-

ber of preachers in the world today that are wresting the Scriptures from their proper meaning and are causing multitudes to believe false doctrine to their own destruction.

We get from God what we believe for, and if preachers make people believe that they cannot live free from sin, they will never have faith to believe for grace to live free from sin, but will continue under bondage to the enemy of their souls and be lost with evil men forever. Just being sincere about a thing will not save the soul; but there must be an active living faith of believing and receiving.

Articles for Sale

In order to close out our stock of 1947 Scripture Text Calendars, we are now offering them to you at a reduced price. 25 cents each or five for \$1.00 post paid.

We have the 1946 issue of Faith and Victory papers bound together in book form with paper binding. Price 40 cents each or three for \$1.00 post paid.

Send your order today!

Easter Folders, beautifully colored with envelopes to match. A box of ten folders for 50 cents, post paid.

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Easter Sunday Services

All day services will be held at Guthrie on Easter Sunday, April 6th with dinner in the new dining hall. Preaching service at ten-thirty, and ordinance service of feet washing and the Lord's Supper in the afternoon. All saints and others are invited to come.

Obituaries

Bro. Sam Taylor was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Taylor who was among the 89'ers in this country and resided southeast of Guthrie, Okla. He was born Dec. 24, 1904 and passed to his reward Jan. 27, 1947 at the age of 43 years, one month, and three days. He was married to Evelyn Simpson of Guthrie July 16, 1927, to which union four children were born. Those that are left to mourn his departure, being near kin, are his daughters, Mrs. Patsy Ruth Doolittle of Linwood, Calif., Marilyn and Linda of the home; one son, Sammie Lee of the home; his wife; four brothers, Tom and Arthur of Guthrie, Jack and Jewel of Clinton, Okla.; seven sisters, Mrs. Albert Keispart and Mrs. Ed. Mahnke of Guthrie, Mrs. Grace Mankhe and Mrs. Fred Phillips of Ponca City, Okla.; Mrs. Isabell Marlow of Santa Ana, Calif., Mrs. Fred Perry of Wichita, Kans., and Mrs. Andrew Schneider of Cushing, Oklahoma.

Bro. Sam Taylor worked as a Locomotive Painter for the Santa Fe Railroad Co. for fifteen years. In later years he owned and operated a greenhouse. He was a member of the Church of God; a good husband and father, and was respected and loved by all who knew him. His walk in life among neighbors and friends will not soon be forgotten. He gave clear evidence of being ready to meet God during his illness of 13 days, and just peacefully passed on to the scenes of our future abode.

With his voyage o'er and labors done,

He has left this world for a better home;

But he left to others a message rare,
And begged them to meet him over there.

The funeral service was held in the Nazarene chapel with Fred Pruitt officiating. Text: Psalm 33:18, "Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy." Bro. Taylor had many relatives, friends, and neighbors, and they filled the seating capacity of the large building and many were standing outside.

The body was laid to rest in the Taylor Cemetery, the family burial ground, five miles southeast of Guthrie.

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Mrs. Addie Norcutt of Mapleton, Kansas was born Sept. 21, 1873 near Sleepy Eye, Minn., the daughter of Peter and Rachel Kelly. She departed this life Jan. 8, 1947 after a lingering illness of two and one-half years, during which time her trust in the Lord never weakened. She fully trusted Him unto the end without doubt or fear for both soul and body. She was united in marriage to Gilbert M. Norcutt Sept. 3, 1893 at Sleepy Eye. To this union ten children were born: Olive, Ora, Ella, Lottie, Noble, Forrest, Rachel, Mamie, Myrl, and Naomi. Her husband and three children preceded her in death. She is also survived by sixteen grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren, three sisters, one brother, and many other relatives and friends.

Mother had lived a devoted Christian life since young womanhood and accepted the true holiness faith over forty years ago when Bro. and Sister O. B. Wilson first preached it near Pleasant Hope, Mo. She was devoted to her home and family and has left her children an example that only a true Christian mother can leave.

She spent much time during the later years of her life studying the Bible until through her affliction she became unable to read.

Funeral services were held at Mapleton, Kans. and the body was laid to rest in the family lot at Yates Center, Kansas.

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Sister Jennie Jones, born in Alabama in 1880, departed this life Jan. 22, 1947. She was united in marriage to Nealy Taylor, to which union one child, Betty Taylor who now resides in Calif., was born. They lived happily together until his death. Later she was united in marriage to C. J. Jones in 1918. They had two daughters, Geneva Robison of Omaha, Neb. and Pearlina Jones of Boley, Okla. And she had two step sons, C. J. Jones of Wichita, Kans. and Randolph Jones of Enid, Okla. They moved to Okmulgee, Okla. and later to Boley.

She professed a hope in Christ and united with a denomination at the age of 13, then in 1926 she accepted the truth taught by the church of God and lived faithful unto death. She was loved by the people of the community. She leaves her husband, three daughters, two sons, three sisters, one brother and a host of relatives and friends to mourn their loss. Funeral conducted by W. W. Crawley and others. Text: Rev. 14:13. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."

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Sister Charity Sanders, daughter of Joseph and Hester Ann Lloyd, was born at Gholson, Miss., June 8, 1856 and passed away at her home at Hennessey, Okla. Dec. 29, 1946 at the age of 90 years, 6 mos. and 21 days.

She was married to John Sanders in 1876, and to this union seven children were born—three boys and four girls. Sister Sanders and her family moved to Okla. and located at Hennessey. Her civic life was above reproach and she was loved by the community.

She professed a hope in Christ at an early age and joined the Baptist denomination. Later when she received more light, she was saved in the Church of God and was faithful to the end. She was in failing health for a number of years. Loving hands ministered to her every need, but the Master called her from her sufferings.

Her husband and a daughter preceded her in death. Bereaved are: three sons, William and Brooks of Louisville, Miss. and Wain of Okla. City; three daughters, Mrs. Annie Rebecca Cotton, Louisville, Miss., Mrs. Anna Allison, of Hennessey, Mrs. Roberta Brown, Wichita, Kan., two sisters, thirty-five grandchildren, eighty-nine great-grandchildren and twenty-three great-great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews and a host of friends

Another hand is beckoning us,
Another call is given;
And glows once more with angel steps
The path which reaches heaven.

And half we deemed she needed not
The changing of her sphere,
To give to heaven a shining one
Who walked an angel here.

We miss her in her place of prayer,
And by the hearth fire's light;
We pause beside her door to hear
Once more her sweet, "Good night."

Alone unto our Father's will
One thought hath reconciled;
That He whose love exceedeth ours
Hath taken home His child.

Funeral service conducted by Bro. Manley Spears.
Text: Revelation 13:14.

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Little Manuel Francisco, jr. was born December 24, 1946 and departed this life Dec. 28, 1946. Bereaved are: his father and mother, Bro. Manuel and Sister Erma Francisco; two sisters, Emma and Cecelia; grandparents, Bro. and Sister Z. E. Francisco and Mr. and Mrs. Jackson.

Truly our loss is heaven's gain. Remains was laid in Union Cemetery, grave side attendance by I. C. Chandler.

o-o

God's Love To Man

"God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved." St. John 3:16, 17. And in Matthew 11:28, He gives the invitation, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Dear readers, He gives soul rest and it is a wonderful rest, and every soul should see to it that he obtains this rest. Yes, it is sweet here and it reaches beyond the grave into eternal glory.

Dear saints of God, let us be busy workers for the Lord, helping to rescue souls that are lost in the darkness of sin. Oh, how we love them, and desire to lead them to the Lord who spilled his life's blood on Calvary for all. Yes, He bled and died on the rugged cross of Calvary for the sins of the whole world. Behold how He loved us! Let us reach out

with the love of God in us to rescue perishing ones that are lost, for time is swiftly passing away and eternity is drawing nearer every day. We have no time to lose. We want to see souls born into the kingdom of God, so let us be busy workers for the Lord. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." 1 John 3:1.

Dear readers, when I started out to seek Jesus I counted the cost and paid the price and He saved my soul that was lost; now my treasures are in the skies. I'm glad I counted the cost. Now I mean heaven by the grace of God, and I love everybody. Thank God. Your sister in Christ, Salissa Griffin

Georgetown, Grand Cayman, B. W. I.—We send greetings of love from B. W. I. We are here in the British West Indies in the missionary field.

We left Tampa, Fla. Jan. 7th and arrived here in Georgetown Jan 14th. We were tired and worn after seven days and nights on the deep blue. We came over on a sail boat, "The Garfield," about a hundred ton boat. 100 ft. long and 20 ft. wide.

Had it not been for the unwavering faith and confidence in the Lord we would have been afraid to board a little boat like that to cross a mighty ocean.

This was indeed a new experience for us that will never be forgotten. It is a marvel to see how a little vessel will ride the high waves. The sea was rough at times and it certainly did make us realize our helplessness. There was nothing we could do but leave it all to the Lord. He brought us safely through.

We landed here just at sun set. There were many people out to meet us with a hearty welcome to their land.

We have met with some precious saints here. Most of them are poor, but they share with us the best they have.

We have met with a spirit of lethargy here as well as in the U. S. A. We have been made to realize that the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Surely Jesus was looking down in this age when he gave us a warning in Luke 21:34. "Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting [over-eating] and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." Jesus tells us there shall be a universal snare that shall sweep over the entire earth. Then He warns us to watch and pray always that we may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and stand before the Son of man.

"Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find watching." Matt. 24:46. There is a blessing upon all those that the Lord finds watching. So, dear saints, let us diligently follow the teaching of the Bible, because there is a universal snare sweeping over the world. What will be the results if he finds us in a luke warm condition? The question is answered in Rev. 3:16; also it is confirmed in Matt. 24:48 to 51.

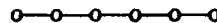
The Lord has promised that if we heed the warning He will keep us from the hour of temptation. Rev. 3:19: "Because thou has kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

It seems to us if we ever needed to watch and pray it is today. When you pray, don't forget to pray for us in a far away land. Remember we have purposed in our hearts to hold the standard up before the people.

We are meeting with opposition and opposing powers. We can truly say as Paul, tribulation and affliction abide us in every city.

We would appreciate hearing from any of the saints. Please write us by air mail. A ½ ounce air mail letter can be sent from there for ten cents.

Your Blood-washed brother and sister in the sanctified church,
Egbert Allen and wife



La.—Dear brother saint,—With exceeding gladness did I receive your most gracious letter. It came to me as manna from heaven, medicine for the soul, and the uplifting of my heart. For you must know, dear brother, that since I have been anointed with God's Spirit of love I have longed and hungered with an hunger that is beyond measure. Jesus has caused a great struggle to rage within me to cast out the filthiness of this life and Satan.

I rejoice in the Spirit that I am free to serve the Master; and my message to all people of good will is still the same. In laboring with the saints and witnessing from place to place, I have found a noble way of experiencing the life of our dear Lord and Saviour. There is both greatness and self-denial, inasmuch that I am humbled to the dust with humility; and yet that I may be in favor with God, which is all that matters. Though I become small and insignificant in this life I know that when I go to live with Christ my Saviour I shall be free from those who have disputed my love for the truth.

And I never cease to thank God for the power of truth which has set me at liberty from the scruples of those who feign godliness, but have limited God's power.

My brother faithful in the faith, you know that this present day is filled with those three slimy unclean spirits like frogs which come out of the dragon's mouth and has caused many to be addicted with her plagues. These three spirits are now out to devour those seeking the true way. Satan is not so deeply troubled over the cold hearted men of today of whom he already has control, but his whole energy is set at variance against those who resist his forces of spiritual wickedness. But thanks be to God whose Spirit is superior in strength and drives out all the attacks of the evil one whose power and might is not to be disputed; for Satan is a dynamic force of evil out to ruin the children of men. "Satan is mighty, but God is Almighty."

Disappointments are to be expected as we see long standing brethren once highly esteemed in the work suddenly depart from us and endeavor to establish their own kingdom with a church government that Jesus never ordained. We must ever be aware of men clever in speech who from time to time will come in among the saints dressed in innocent apparel, thus deceiving those who pay attention to their very convincing way of entertaining doctrines. They will win their way to the pulpit, and after that there is no telling how many will be shaken in mind as the seeds of division begin to bring forth their increase. I see evidence already that the church is in its shaking time, and those that are slow to seek standing grace will not be able to hold fast to the faith once delivered to the saints. It will take Holy Ghost saints to be able to endure the fiery trials and tribulations that await everyone who have the sanctifying Spirit of God.

The saints are precious in God's sight. The loss of one is like the loss of an eye in the body. New born babes are still coming into the family and need much of the sincere milk of the Gospel to keep them alive and strong. Let us make room in our hearts for every new born babe.

Bro. Salvatore DiDio

Young People's Section

The Love of Jesus

Anxious sinner, dost thou see
That earnest, yearning look to thee,
Given in love from Calvary's tree,
By Jesus?

That pierced side and bleeding brow
Proclaim salvation even now.
Look, and your soul shall humbly bow
To Jesus.

Full atonement has been made,
God's demands have all been paid,
Thy many sins have all been laid
On Jesus.

Trust then and cast away your fears,
Your sins, self-righteousness and tears.
Rejoice for boundless grace appears
In Jesus.
—Selected.

Editorials

"Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God." Rev. 3:2.

The following paragraphs showing the marks of declining spirituality were written about one hundred years ago, but the same heart-searching truths are still very necessary for our consideration today.

"There is an evidence of decay in vital godliness when you pray less frequently, less fervently, less humbly, and when your prayers are characterized less by a spirit of faith and trust in the precious promises of the Gospel. The man who is all alive to Christ, and whose spirituality is daily becoming deeper, is often on his knees, and his petitions are humble, and fervent, and are presented in faith. Prayer is his delight; nothing is sweeter to him than communion with God. But now the reverse of this is the condition of some, who once lived in this blessed state. Their prayers have gradually become more cold and formal, and they realize less profit and pleasure in the exercise.

"It shows that you are retrograding in religion when the word of God ceases to charm, please, and interest you; when you consider the perusal of it dry, and read more for fear of neglecting it, than from any pleasure you take in it.

It is a sign of a backward course when you feel most at home in the company of worldly people, and when engaged in earthly conversation. Have you never felt out of your element when in the society of deeply pious persons and the conversation has been on the deep things of God? And have you never felt a backwardness to join in with the discourse? Do

you not feel more at ease when mixing up with carnally-minded men, and the subject of discourse is something in relation to this world? Ah; the source of all this is the drawing away of the heart from God.

"Religious declension sometimes discovers itself in an unwillingness to labor in the cause of God, or make any pecuniary sacrifice, except when there is some outward honor connected with the labor or sacrifice. There are those who are willing to attend special meetings and take a prominent part in the proceedings, yet they will seldom show their face in an ordinary prayer meeting. When anything is proposed to be done for the revival of God's work, and their co-operation is solicited, the first question which arises in their mind is, Will the carrying out of this plan cost anything; and if so, how much? And what shall I be expected to give? And will any sacrifice of time be required? And what amount of labor will fall upon me? Then if they find that the plan can be put into operation with little expense and labor, they applaud it, and express a willingness to enter heartily into the work, but if they find it will draw upon their purses and their time, and oblige them to make some personal efforts, they raise some objections against it. This is a common mark of declension.

"It indicates a declining state of piety, when, after having committed some fault, you are offended by the reproof of a friend, and seek more to justify your conduct than to repent of what you have done amiss. You feel too proud to say, I have done wrong, and in future will strive to do better; and so you aggravate your fault by trying to cover it. We are exhorted in the Scriptures to confess our faults one to another; and an unwillingness to do this on fitting occasions, discovers a wrong state of mind and heart.

"It is a mark of a retrograde course when you become angry, peevish, and fretful under trials. Little daily crosses that are hardly worth naming make you impatient. Some professing women, if they do not get along with their household affairs so smoothly and nicely as they wish, will lose almost all command of their temper. Even the crying of a child, or the boiling over of a pot, or the falling and breaking of a piece of earthenware, or any little cross, will make them ill-tempered. They say that no one has troubles so great as they have; yet their greatest trouble is their own fretful disposition. That makes a trouble of almost everything.

"It shows a declining state when you shrink from self-examination, lest a full discovery of your unfaithfulness trouble your mind and make you unhappy.

"It is a sign of declension when you are dissatisfied with plain, heart-searching preaching and wish for the prophesying of smooth things, that will make your conscience feel easy and your mind comfortable."

—L. D. P.

Correspondence

Tenn. Dear saints, I desire to talk to you of the need of our being steadfast, as we are instructed in Heb. 3:14, "For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end." Please let us realize that Jesus expects His saints to live in accordance with the teaching of the gospel. In other words, "...denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." (Titus 2:12-14). Our manner of speech and conduct of life should be above reproach or censure, thus exemplifying the daily walk of clean Christian living among our neighbors and friends. There must be a definite distinction between the way saints live and in the way worldly people live. If professed saints would live as saints should the people of the world would become more interested in the Christian religion. Saints must not be stumbling blocks in the way of others, but living examples of all the Christian graces for others to follow.

Much steadfastness is needed now among the saints that they may be able to lead the weak to settle down to correct ways of living. We find many people who are unsettled, dissatisfied, discouraged and are suspicious of others. People are not anchored firmly enough to the Rock which cannot be shaken. Trials will come to saints, but let us remain steadfast. Colonel Pendleton

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Dear unsaved friends,—This message is for you; you who are sad at heart and not satisfied, you who have no peace or rest, you who are longing in your heart for something that you do not have. You may go from place to place and move from state to state, you may go to places of amusement, yet only for a little while do these things afford any comfort, and your poor heart is left unsatisfied still. I know, for I was once like you. I am going to tell you, dear friend, that what you need is Jesus. You need His great love. His great salvation will satisfy your heart, bring you peace, satisfaction, and contentment and satisfy the longing of your heart. The Lord wants your heart, and unless you allow His love to be planted there, you will never be happy. Dear ones, seek the Lord. Call upon Him and ask Him to forgive all your sins. Confess your sins to Him. Seek Him earnestly until you know He has forgiven you and you will be a new creature, happy, contented, and satisfied. Through the many trials of life you can still have Jesus. He will be with you and His peace will remain in your heart if you will be true to Him. You will not be seeking worldly pleasures, but you will have great peace and pleasure, more than all this old world could ever offer.

Yes, the Lord can and does save souls out of their troubles.

Your friend in Christ, Becky Barnes

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Mo.—Dear saints scattered abroad who have been praying for us during our sickness and affliction,—Oh, how wonderful it is to have the people of God to intercede for us when we need help. I am writing this as a testimony that some other precious soul might be encouraged to trust the dear Lord. I want to tell how the Lord healed an infected finger for me. I first burned it, then I had my hands in water, rubbed the blister off and took cold in it. It became infected. Red streaks went to my wrist and my finger turned black. I prayed

and trusted the Lord. He took the red streaks and blackness away, but it began to spread and looked awful. It covered almost all of my finger from the nail past the second joint. I had written and phoned the saints at different places for prayer as there was no agreement in prayer here. The Lord wonderfully undertook, but it still kept spreading. I think it was about five weeks when it began to smell bad. That was during the time when Glenna's baby was so sick. She had had two severe attacks of pneumonia and the Lord wonderfully healed her, then she had an abscess in her head. It had been draining for some time, then on Thanksgiving we noticed a swelling behind her ear. Glenna had an Osteopath to come and swab her ear out as she did not know how to care for it, and he said it was mastoid and would have to be lanced or it would break inside and kill her. It was really bad and her little ear was swollen out from her head something awful. We phoned to the saints for prayer. It was wonderful how the Lord took the pain away. They told the doctor they would let the Lord take care of it. He was so worried about it he came back on his own accord to see it. We testified how we trusted the Lord, had for so long, and He had never failed us. He said he didn't know anything about the Bible, but he surely knows now what God can do. It was so long coming to a head that my son who was here with his car said he would take us to some one to anoint her. We started to Guthrie. We had to be back home by night. We got about fifteen miles on the other side of Tulsa and I saw we could not make it so we returned to Tulsa, hunted Bro. Barton up. Several of the saints came in. They anointed the baby. The trip didn't hurt the baby at all and in two days the mastoid opened on the outside and is now only a red spot and her ear also stopped draining on the inside. And my finger healed at once and has peeled off smoothly. It is not even going to leave a scar. Oh, praise the Lord for His love and goodness.

Pearl Taylor.

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La.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and workers,—May God bless all of you and help you to be a blessing at all times, and help you to be faithful and keep you from the evils of this old world. Today finds us saved and trusting in our dear Lord and trying to please Him in all we do and say. He has done much for us.

The devil surely does try me with this affliction on my tongue. Some of you may not know about it, but I earnestly desire to be healed of it and know it can be done if I can just receive it. I want you to help me to believe. Pray much to that end. I want God to be glorified in it, and am ready for healing so far as I know. I try to live close to God always and pray much. I do not want to fail God. So please get under the burden for me. I would love to be made whole as the leper. I have several afflictions. A sister in Christ, Sis. T. J. Davis

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Calif.—To the dear saints scattered abroad, greetings in the name of Jesus, who loved us so well that he gave his life on the rugged cross and shed his precious blood and opened a fountain that all of our sins may be washed away, and we can enjoy the rich blessings of salvation in our souls. Thank the good Lord. And He said before he left that he was going to prepare a place for us. Dear ones, may the good Lord help us to hold to the old rugged cross until He shall say, well done, and He will give us free transportation to that beautiful city where the sun shall never go down and we can sing with the angels and be just like Jesus. Amen. Pray much for me.

Yours in Christ, Frances Bell

Okla.—Greetings to all the dear saints,—As I was reading the "Faith and Victory" paper how our dear Lord had come to comfort his children in the dark hours of trial, truly my heart was glad to know that God is present in the dark hours as well as in sunshine. It takes the sunshine to disperse the darkness. I am one that really does appreciate God's sunshine on my soul, but we can always count on the sun being just behind the cloud.

Husband has been very near death so many times the past months until I have had to press to get past the dark hours that seem to flood over my soul. Truly the sunshine of heaven was appreciated in long hours of waiting, but I intend to go all the way to the cross. Husband has headache, nose bleed, sleeplessness, and heart attacks, but I know he will be with us till Jesus says, "Come over," so my trust is in the One who does all things well.

I feel like giving you a brief word about the Monark Campground since it fell to us to take the responsibility in a general way. At the time we took over there was some indebtedness, some seats, some beds. The first year we took over we paid that, paid all bills for the meeting, and had some left over to help pay the caretaker. Since that was the year of plenty of money we had more left over than we have had since. But the Lord has seen to it that we came out all the time, and have had enough to add to the grounds.

Last year the driveway across the grounds was gravelled, fifty army cots were bought, and thirty army mattresses were given for the campground. If the Lord will only let me have the means to have them made over, I think I can get three out of two mattresses. The mattresses were so damaged they would not sell, so they were given to us. We bought 100 pillows, but they will have to be washed or covered. That means pillow cases. Feed sacks will make good pillow cases. Colored ones will do. The pillows were only twenty cents each. The well has been drilled, automatic pump bought, cement blocks, shingles, and all the lumber paid for.

The last of the lumber was delivered in December, so now if God has some willing workers and the weather becomes milder, the dining hall can be built in a short time.

Will someone please volunteer to take the responsibility of this job? I am willing to go any time to cook for the workers. Husband's health is bad so he needs someone to take over on this carpenter work. He laid the basement but had to hire help. If he has to hire carpenters and helpers it will take money and the dining hall fund is all used now. Last fall we asked for help, and one man about eighty years old wrote that he would help. I find that it takes temporal work to keep my salvation on good spiritual ground. So dear ones, does God require more of some than others? I want to go to heaven, but my Lord wants me to work it out in fear and trembling. How about you? Let us hear from you soon.

Yours for the gospel, Sister Sam Barton
R. 11, Box 119, Tulsa, Okla.

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New Mexico—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt and to all the saints who read the "Faith and Victory"—For some time I have felt that the Lord would be pleased for me to write a testimony to tell some of the Lord's precious dealings with me and the many times he has healed me of various ailments—some very serious. The first time I was healed I had been troubled with what I called spasmodic colic for many years which nothing had ever checked but a hypodermic. I had seen many people

healed, but knew that some were taking medicine on the sly so I doubted all of them. But one night at meeting I saw a small child (under a year old) healed instantly. A few nights later I had an attack of the above mentioned colic, also I had been having a severe sore throat. My husband was ill, and I thought, "O, what shall I do?" The thought came into my mind to pray to God. I studied over it a few minutes then thought if God could heal the baby (who I knew could not claim what it did not have) He could heal me. So I earnestly asked Him to heal me, and the next thing I knew it was morning. The pain was gone, also my sore throat and I've never had the colic since, or sore throat like that. This was about twenty years ago.

But even after that I went back to remedies. But God, who is not willing that any should perish, through many trials, bereavements, and much love, brought me back to learn to trust Him, and I was healed of many minor ailments. About four years ago, while I was living at Clovis, N. M., I had the flu. It settled in my eyes and I was cross-eyed for several days, then things began to look dark. Sister C. Z. Stonecypher came over to see me and prayed for me, then they were some better, but yet things looked very dark until I was able to go to the chapel to meeting and asked for prayer. Before long I could see as well as ever. Two or three years later I saw an article in a paper telling of some one who had the flu and described the affliction of my eyes exactly, and they went totally blind. So I am sure I would be blind today if it had not been for God's great healing power and His love for me. He has healed me instantly of severe burns and many other things. Just the past two weeks I have been down with a very bad cold and I was so weak it affected my heart and I had a heart attack, which He healed me of about a year ago. But I am still trusting Him to give me the victory over that affliction.

Please pray for me that I may remain true to Him as long as He sees fit to leave me here. It cannot be very long now, as I passed my 77th birthday last month. I have many unsaved friends and neighbors. Help me pray for their salvation. This is such an ungodly town no one seems to be interested in the least in the salvation of their souls, but I know the Lord can wake them up and set them to thinking of the hereafter. May His rich blessings rest upon his church, and the work at the "Print Shop." Your sister in His name,

Herriott B. Calkins.

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Okla.—Dear saints,—I am praising the Lord for his wonderful salvation. The Lord wonderfully blessed me on the 14th of December. I had a fall that separated my hand from my wrist, and today I am using my hand. The Lord wonderfully healed it, praise His dear name. What a wonderful Saviour and healer He is. I did not have any aid from the doctor whatsoever. The home doctor said that I would have to go to the hospital at Enid. I told him if he could not set it that I would turn it over to my doctor, and that is Jesus. He said the bone was even broken, but my doctor healed it, praise His wonderful name. I did not have pain in that arm to keep me awake two minutes. He wonderfully blessed me to keep going from place to place. Through this affliction I had some lessons to get. One of my lessons is: whenever you speak the truth in the fear of God, don't take it up, just let it be. Another: He wants us to be lively stones in the building. He wants us to know more how to lift holy hands. I told the Lord to try me again and I'll do my best by his help. He pointed me to the 15th

chapter of St. John, beginning at the 7th verse. The Lord has wonderfully blessed me through this affliction, making me to know how to be more loving. He also gave me the Scripture St. John 14:1, and I just threw myself on Him and was not afraid to trust Him. He gave me the song: "O be still, thou soul of mine." It is one of the old songs, but it seemed new to me at the time He gave it to me. Pray that the Lord will increase my faith.

Your sister in the one body, Annie Wiley

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Oklahoma.—Greetings to all the saints in the name of our Lord who died and arose to give us life eternal.—I am truly thankful for His loving kindness in giving His life for all that will believe in His words.

I request the prayers of all the saints for my daughter who is afflicted in body. Pray that she may be healed. I have been saved but want more of his grace that I may be all He would have me to be and live for Him.

Annie Banks

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

Readers of the "Faith and Victory."—Greetings in the name of our dear precious Lord and Savior. I thank the Lord this morning that I am saved, sanctified, and satisfied. Praise His dear name! I feel as though the Lord has led me to give my testimony for Him. I read many testimonies in the "Faith and Victory" and it makes me feel good to know the Lord is so merciful unto all of us. In his Word it tells us, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33. Praise the Lord, His promises are true.

The Lord has done so much for us I hardly know where to begin. My husband and I have been married a little over a year (Oct. 28, 1945). I was saved a couple of months before we were married. My husband has been saved and serving the Lord a good many years.

Just two days before we were married the Lord had wonderfully supplied us with a house. I imagine you all know how hard it was to find houses in those days. It was just an answer to prayer that we ever got it. The Lord will surely supply your needs. "If ye ask anything in my name I will do it." John 14:14. Bro. and Sister Hilbun, two very dear saints, were buying a home, but they couldn't get possession of it right away, so we all moved into our house together. The Lord provided a way between the two families, so that we had enough furniture for the house. So that helped us all. The Lord surely knows best. We lived four months together as one happy family.

After they could get possession of their own home, then they moved and we had the problem of furnishing the house. My husband had been out of work suffering from a nervous break down received after he got out of the army, so we didn't have any money to buy the furniture. We prayed about it and went by faith, and the Lord miraculously guided us to the furniture which we needed and supplied the money to buy it.

The Lord had made a way for my husband to have a job, which he kept two or three weeks then quit in order to get the rest that he was badly in need of because of his nervous break down. We had to then put our full trust in the Lord. We had some checks coming from the government but they did not come regularly. They came when the Lord knew we needed them. The Lord surely had His guiding hand over us during this time. I know we never would have made it if it had not been for our Lord and Savior's great compassion and mercy toward us. We had used all the money which we had saved in the bank for the baby that was coming. Once

again we got down and prayed about it and told the Lord our need, and once again He supplied it. What a mighty God we serve! God laid it upon a small congregation in Chicago, that we had only seen once, to send us the money for the doctor bill and the trip home in the ambulance. I shall never forget their loving kindness toward us, and I remember them always in our prayers. There was no room in the hospital, so I was permitted to return home right after the baby was born—and this also was in answer to prayer. God watched over me and gave me an easy time, and I became the mother of a baby girl after being in the hospital only about 45 minutes. Our Lord supplied everything we need to care for her, clothes, furniture, food, etc.

One Sunday morning my husband didn't feel good, but he got ready for church services anyway, thinking he would feel better later on. Before services were over he had to go home. All that day he was ill. First he would feel numb in one part of his body and then another part. If it had not been for the Lord he would have passed away. But God healed him instantly. Since that time he has not had any trouble with his nerves or his stomach. When God does a job He does a thorough job. Praise the Lord! His promises are true, for we have trusted, tried, and proved them to be so. Surely He sticketh closer than a brother, and He is an ever present help in time of need.

After my husband was healed he started looking for a job, which was no easy task. He looked for a job for a few months and it seemed as though nobody wanted to hire him. But it is always darkest before the dawn, and finally the Lord gave him the kind of job he was looking for. One that is not hard and he gets a day a week off. He has been working steady since he started the job.

We have sold our other house and are now buying a much better one. The profit that we made on the other house and the few odd jobs that he had taken for a day or so amounts to more than if he had worked steady at one job all year. Praise our dear precious Lord!

I could go on telling the wonderful things the Lord has done for us, but I feel this is what the Lord wanted me to write about this time. I hope this encourages someone else to press on for the Lord and trust in Him no matter what your lot may be, for he will surely see you through. Remember, "All things work together for good to them that love the Lord" (Romans 8:28).

Yours in Christ, Bro. and Sister Ralph Wilkins.

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Ia.—Dear brothers and sisters, greetings in the name of Jesus.—I thank God that He has spared me to write my testimony again. It has been over a year since I wrote a testimony. At that time I was in grief about my daughter and granddaughter. Perhaps some of you remember the request for prayer that I sent for them. They were in an awful wreck on Christmas Day, 1945. I truly thank all the saints for their prayers. He did answer prayer. I know He did. I did not see any way for my daughter to live. I knew the Lord was able but I just couldn't see how she could live for she was in a terrible shape. Thank God, He heard the prayers of the saints and put them on their feet again. My granddaughter is sound and well. My daughter cannot walk well yet, but she is able to do all of her house work. And what is so sweet, she says she found Jesus a few months ago. Praise His name. Pray much for her. Pray that she won't ever be entangled with the devil any more.

I thank God I can testify to a holy, sanctified life, and I mean to go all the way with Him. Many have started and have fallen by the way because the way

is too strait and narrow for them; but I cannot go back on the Lord for He has done so much for me.

He healed my arm of a bad scald on Christmas Eve's Day. I was cooking when hot water spilt on my arm. I was the only one in the house. It hurt very much, but I prayed for the Lord to heal it and He healed it immediately. Your sister,
Dollie Brown

o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear saints,—How glad I am that I found a people who taught holiness of life and are living it. Yes, Sanctified vessels, Christ dwelling in cleansed hearts that have no desire to sin. I too am thanking God for a cleansed heart. The Lord has come in to dwell, and oh, what rest and peace He gives. I am praying for a great revival in all the world, and the signs following those who believe, the sick healed, etc. Rena Armstrong.

o—o—o—o—o—o

La.—Dear saints of God everywhere, greetings in the dear name of Jesus.—I desire to send in a request for prayer for my healing. I have a dizziness in my head and almost fall at times. Also, my hearing is very bad. Please pray that the Lord will heal me if it is His will for me to be healed. I am trusting the good Lord for both soul and body. I am going to trust Him till I die. I have been saved a long time and I haven't yet become tired of living this holy life. Pray that I will keep humble at Jesus' feet all the days of my life. Your brother in the Lord,
Nick Brown.

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BIBLE STUDY

JESUS SUMS UP HIS CLAIMS

Sunday, March 2, 1947

Printed Portion John 12:12-16, 20-32.

John 12:12. On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,

13. Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.

14. And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written.

15. Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt.

16. These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and that they had done these things unto him.

20. And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast:

21. The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.

22. Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus.

23. And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.

24. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

25. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

26. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor.

27. Now is my soul troubled: and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.

28. Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.

29. The people therefore that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.

30. Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.

31. Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

32. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

Golden Text: I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. John 12:32.

Practical Truth: The drawing power of Christ was unique, and is unique today.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The little town Bethany, though small indeed, was important enough to be honored by the Lord in stopping there oft. Great things had taken place of late and much people knew that Jesus was there. Lazarus had been raised from the dead and many Jews were turning unto the Lord. Some said, "Sir we would see Jesus," others, "The world has gone after him." Thus we have the setting for His triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Read what the other apostles write concerning this.

This is one of those special occasions wherein God had prearranged that mankind should honor his Son. Unbelief prevailed, yet man was to take note of this happening. If man held their silence the rocks would cry out and praise God. May God by His Spirit so touch our souls that our spiritual eyesight and understanding may be so quickened that we can behold the splendor revealed in these truths. Here man and God meet. God in person of His Son, taking upon him the form of man. The God of all power, majesty and glory condescending in humility and meekness. The Lord of lords and King of kings, not in royal array but assuming the role of a servant, entering the city riding on a borrowed colt. He who owns the cattle on a thousand hills stooped unto poverty. Though he was rich yet he became poor that we through his poverty might be made rich. See the golden opportunity knocking at the gates of Jerusalem, his beloved city. Do you recall the lamentation? Jesus says, "The hour is come." Surely we stand on the threshold of opportunity.

Verse 24—The corn of wheat must fall and die.

Humanity—Father save me from this hour.

Divinity—Father glorify thy name.

Death is swallowed up in victory.

"Then came there a voice from heaven." "The angel of the Lord encampeth around about them that fear him." "This is the King of the Jews." Is He reigning supreme in our hearts today?
—O. C. Porter.

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JESUS WASHES THE DISCIPLES' FEET

Sunday, March 9, 1947

Printed Portion John 13:3-15, 34, 35.

John 13:3. Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

4. He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

5. After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

6. Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?

7. Jesus answered and said unto him. What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

8. Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

9. Simon Peter saith unto him. Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

10. Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.

11. For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he. Ye are not all clean.

12. So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them. Know ye what I have done to you?

13. Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

14. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

15. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

16. A new commandment I give unto you. That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

17. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Golden Text: A new commandment I give unto you. That ye love one another: as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. John 13:34.

Practical Truth: A true disciple of the Lord loves Him and His Word to the extent that he will be diligent to carefully obey His commands and follow His example.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In the beginning of our lesson we see the Lord of lords and King of kings preparing himself to perform one of the most humble and lowly acts we have on record. "He, who had all things given into his hands, and being in the form of God, made himself of no reputation, but took upon him the form of a servant" and began to wash his disciples' feet. (To be humble is to have a low estimation of one's self.) Many people become insulted when they are told they appear humble. Many do not want that humble spirit Christ manifested while traveling upon the earth. Just as Peter said, "Thou shalt never wash my feet," so are many saying today. But the voice of Christ echoes with the same words: "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me." Unless we permit Christ to do whatsoever He pleases to us and with us, we need not expect to have part with Him. And we can only so yield ourselves into His hands as we become humble enough to completely say, "Not my will, but thine be done." It is true that humbleness is looked upon by the eyes of the world as something very disgraceful. But Christ came and made the despised quality the crowning grace of culture that He inaugurated. He has given us an example.

Jesus makes it very plain that we, His followers, should do to one another as he has set the example. For

He says, "Ye ought to wash one another's feet, for I have given you an example that ye should do as I have done." "Ought" means duty bound. So if we are following our example we are obligated to partake in the ordinance of Feet Washing. Jesus did not wash their feet because their feet were dirty after traveling dusty paths shod with sandals. The Jews had a custom of giving water to a weary traveler to wash his own feet, but this was something different, something that Jesus said they did not know about then but would know hereafter. As the bread and fruit of the vine were to be used after his death in remembrance of his broken body and shed blood, so the humble act of his saints washing one another's feet is a reminder to us of His humility in coming to this world to be a servant and shamefully treated that we might have life, and our humbleness and willingness to serve one another. The proud in heart try to use their human intellect and explain this Scripture away, but the humble servants of the Lord receive His blessings by believing and obeying it.

Surely Christ was the perfect servant here on earth. Therefore, since our Lord and Master has given us the example, we "ought" to follow.

In verse 34 He gives the new commandment, "That ye love one another as I have loved you." And how did He love? By humbling himself as a servant and setting the perfect example of humility in all things, even the death of the cross. From beginning to end of His ministry here on the earth, he showed his love to us by humility. In 1 Peter 5:5 His followers are instructed to "be clothed with humility." That is the grace which is the dress of a Christian. The various graces will not do their proper work nor will they be complete unless we are girded about with the grace of humility. —L. Modglin.

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INTIMATE WORDS WITH HIS DISCIPLES

Sunday, March 16, 1947

Printed Portion John 14:1-6, 12-18; 15:1-6.

John 14:1. Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

4. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

5. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

6. Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

12. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

13. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

15. If ye love me, keep my commandments.

16. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.

17. Even the spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

18. I will not leave you comfortless; I will come unto you.

John 15:1. I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

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

Practical Truth: Fellowship with Christ leads to fruitfulness here and heaven hereafter.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

As we study the lesson for today we can see a great love and concern in the heart of Jesus for his children. He had walked with them in the sweet fellowship of the Spirit, He had washed their feet to teach them how to be humble, He had eaten the last supper with them, and was soon to be taken away from them. Jesus knew it would be hard for them to give Him up, but, behold, how He loved them! He wanted them to be faithful, to love one another, to keep His commandments. They would meet persecution and opposition just as he had. Yet if they were faithful in their prayer life and obedient to the Father, He would send the Comforter, the precious Holy Spirit, to abide in their hearts to guide, to teach, to comfort and sustain them. He must needs go away, but said He would go to prepare a place for them, and that they could be with Him.

Let not your hearts be troubled! Oh, what precious words! It won't be long. Peter asked him where he was going. Why do you have to go away? How can we live without you? Here we have worked together. When we needed courage or power we came to thee. We do not know where you are going and how can we know the way?

"I am the way," says the Saviour. I will come and reign in your hearts. I will be your strength. I will make you able to do greater works than these.

Let us notice what happened after they received the Holy Spirit. They prayed and the place was shaken, the sick were healed by Peter's shadow, 5,000 were added to the church in one day. Then they could only reach a small portion of the earth. Now the precious gospel message can reach all around the globe. As we abide in Christ and He abides in us we are able to bear much fruit, the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22, 23). We must keep our life so attached to Christ that His life can flow into our life, which makes the fruit of the Spirit grow in large clusters to feed and to nourish the hungry and build up in the kingdom of heaven. If we have not Christ we have not life and can bear no fruit, but must be cast into the fire and burned. What kind of fruit are we bearing today? Can we say just now that He abides? "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you."

—B. Metcalf.

JESUS' INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Sunday, March 23, 1947

Printed Portion John 17:1-11, 20-23.

John 17:1. These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

2. As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

3. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

4. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

5. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

6. I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world; thine they were and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

7. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.

8. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

9. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

10. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

11. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

20. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

21. That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

22. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

23. I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

Golden Text: Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. John 17:11.

Practical Truth: As Christ prayed for us, so we should pray for others.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Every time we read and study God's precious Word we have entered an holy place and are standing on holy ground, but when we study John 17 we enter the Holy of Holies where Jesus our high priest is about to make the great sacrifice of Himself for the sins of all nations of the earth and here addresses a solemn prayer to the Father for himself and for us.

Notice verse one: "Father, the hour is come." Then he prays for the glory which must come by the sufferings of the cross. "God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." Gal. 6:14. He desires the glory that He had with His Father before He came in the form of human flesh and blood. Jesus did not seek for an easy way, nor to please the flesh. Again He says in chapter 12, verses 27 and 28: "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? Father save me from this hour"—No, for it was for this hour that I came—"Father glorify thy name." The hour is come, the time

of suffering and shame, agony and death. Blood must be spilt to atone for sin. Heaven and earth was searched and none was found worthy to open the book and to loose the seals thereof. Jesus was given power over the flesh and was able to glory in suffering, in shame, disgrace, reproach, being spit upon, scourged and even in death overcame the powers of hell that God might be glorified in Him. Do we shrink from the persecution of the world? Are we ashamed to bear our cross for His dear sake? After Jesus was glorified through suffering and death he was taken up into heaven to be forever glorified with the Father. He prayed for this final glorification to come after he had borne the cross or been glorified by suffering.

"While I was with them, I kept them in thy name." Sanctify them now that they may be one in us. They are thine. I love them. Fill them with thy Holy Spirit, that they may have power to overcome the evil one, for I desire that they come and be with me where I am. Let us carefully study this wonderful chapter and let Jesus reveal to us the depths of his loving heart and soul to us, and let us remember that now the hour is come when we must take up our cross and suffer for the truth. Be sure you have received the Holy Spirit, which makes us one and gives us power over sin, the flesh, and the devil.

—B. Metcalf.

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JESUS LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE
Sunday, March 30, 1947

Printed Portion John 18:37, 38; 19:10-16, 25-30.

John 18:37. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

38. Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.

John 19:10. Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?

11. Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

12. And from henceforth Pilate sought to release him; but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.

13. When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha.

14. And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!

15. But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.

16. Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away.

25. Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas and Mary Magdalene.

26. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

27. Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

28. After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

29. Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.

30. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Golden Text: God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16.

Practical Truth: Christ our King submitted to unjust suffering and death for our sakes.

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COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The spirit of truth and righteousness which Jesus possessed and manifested was a constant rebuke to sin. The depraved heart of man in some measure delights in sin, yet at the same time does not want that sin brought to light and exposed. The only way the Jews could hide and feel secure in their sins was to get rid of the Light which exposed them. This they ignorantly thought they could do by destroying the vessel (body) which bore the Light. They had long followed him to catch him in his words in order to have some accusation to bring against him before the rulers, but the Lord knew their hearts and each time would expose their guile. They had no love for Caesar and had hoped that their long-expected Messiah would come and deliver them from his power, but they were willing to feign loyalty to Caesar in order to get rid of Jesus. So they brought the accusation against him that he claimed to be a king.

Today's lesson begins with the scene of Jesus standing before Pilate being questioned as to the truth regarding His alleged claim to be a king.

Do you understand Jesus' answer, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight" (verse 36)?

One either belongs to the kingdom of darkness and submits to Satan's rule of force, or he has been translated into the kingdom of light and soul peace where Jesus rules and governs the heart and life by love. Can one know to which of these kingdoms he belongs? How? Can one know in most cases to which kingdom others belong? How? Be sure to give Scriptural answers.

Jesus did not hesitate to speak when an opportunity presented itself to bear witness to the truth, but he would not speak to defend himself. He knew it was his Father's will that He should be sacrificed for the sins of the world, and that the hour had come, so he humbly submitted. Thus the Scripture was fulfilled: "He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth." (Read the 53rd chapter of Isaiah in connection with this lesson.)

When a Christian has victory through Christ, he can face severe trials, persecutions, and afflictions with the comforting assurance that they could have no power at all over him unless the Father permitted it.

Many shrink from the reproach of the cross and lose great blessings thereby. No doubt it was hard for Mary to "stand by the cross," but notice how Jesus rewarded her faithfulness.

—G. Ray