

FAITH AND VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



Volume 17, No. 10

Published at

Guthrie, Oklahoma

25c Per Year

April, 1947

O, Sacred Cross

Thou sacred cross
Of Mount Calvary
Where Jesus died
To make me free;
'Twas there He did
My burdens bear,
That I the love of God should share.
"Father, forgive them," hear Him say
On that dark crucifixion day.
While mockers stood around with glee,
And knew not that he died for me.
On thee, O cross, the darkness fell;
When Jesus died
To save the world,
The rocks did rend,
The mountain quake.
All this was done
For my soul's sake.
While there 'upon
The cross of wood,
His side was cleft,
Out came the blood.
Oh, precious flow!
To wash and make
Me white as snow.
From thee, O cross,
To Joseph's tomb,
They took the body
Of God's dear Son.

Though watchers stood to keep him fast; He triumphed over death at last. And now He sits with God above; Where all is peace, and joy and love: From whence He shall come on that great day, And bear my ransomed soul away. Glory, praise and honor to His name!

—Ulysses Phillips

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Warn the Righteous

In Ezekiel 3:17-21, we read: "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: there-

fore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul." This message was given to the prophet to pass on, and it reaches us today. "Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified before hand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into." 1 Pet. 1:9-12.

God's message to sinners to repent and his warning to the righteous that they sin not, is for the people of today, and we are especially interested in his warning to the righteous people at this writing. Who are the righteous? In the second chapter of First Peter we find that they are those who have laid apart all malice, guile, hypocrisies, envyings, and all evil speakings, which includes the whole catalog of sins; and have come to Christ to follow the example He set. In other words, they are dead to those sins, that Christ

may live in them. For further Bible proof read Gal. 2:20, 21, also Rom. 6:1-7. So this righteousness is not ours, but it belongs to Christ, "who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth."

Here are some reasons why it is so important that we sin not. We would have to uproot that righteousness of Christ out of our hearts, and lose the sweet influence of his love out of our lives. Thus, bringing a reproach on Him who died for us, also, losing what influence that life of righteousness had gained for us. Read Ezek. 18th and 33rd chapters, which show that we would lose the righteousness of Christ if we sin, and our place in the family or church of God with all the gifts and authority which the heavenly Father has given us. Hence, even when a preacher loses his authority in spiritual things, the weakest saints has power with God to bind him, or any other sinner (Psa. 149:6-9; Luke 10:19). "And the kingdom shall not be left to other people" Dan. 2:44. "How camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment?" Matt. 22:11, 12. "And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints" Rev. 19:8.

Then, there is the deadly chance that there will be no opportunity to repent and regain any of these things: "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day" John 6:44; so we lose our eternal reward or inheritance. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you" 1 Pet. 1:3, 4.

—Ray Key

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Setting the Right Example

"Those things which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: And the God of peace shall be with you." Phil. 4:9. The saints are to represent the church of God in the earth. Before we can persuade people to come to the Lord we must show them something better than what they have. "The husbandman that laboreth must first be partakers of the fruit." 2 Tim. 2:6. We can tell people how to live a holy life and live it ourselves and it will have a great bearing. We are representing Christ to a lost world. We should have enough respect for our brothers and sisters in the Lord, and the lost world, that we be very careful not to bring a reproach on the cause. Our lives are having an effect upon others—perhaps more than we realize.

One time I heard a brother say that his boy went to the altar and got saved. He asked him what it was that led him to get saved. The boy replied, "Daddy, you did it!" That life the father lived had a great bearing on the boy. We are either enticing people to come to the Lord or we are driving them farther away. He should have the cause of God at heart.

If we are professing to be in the church and not living the life we are a hinderance and a stumbling-block. People will pick out the ones who are not living the life and criticize the church. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matt. 5:16. "For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done unto you." St. John 13:15. Jesus left us an example, "that we should follow in his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: who when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; But committed himself to him that judgeth righteously." 1 Pet. 2:21-23. In 1 Tim. 4:12 Paul tells us to be an example of the believers, "in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." In Titus 2: 7 He tells us to be a pattern of good works: in doctrine "shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech that cannot be condemned: that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you."

We are exhibiting the character of Christ, when saved. We are to exhibit his holiness, purity, and righteousness before the eyes of all with whom we come in contact. That is the purpose for which we are here. When people behold our lives they should see Jesus. That is what Paul meant when he said, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." There needs to be less of self, and more of the Christ-life within us. We need to be filled with the Spirit, love, and power of Jesus Christ every day we live. We need to be filled more with the fruits of the Spirit spoken of in Gal. 5:22-25. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

When we live this kind of a life it makes us a gazing stock to the world. 1 Pet. 2:9. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should shew forth the praises of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." In Titus 2:11-14. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men, teaching us that 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." May the dear Lord help us to live so that we may win others to Christ and be found of him blameless in that day. —Murfey Allen

SIN

When we speak of sin we speak of an awful destructive, God dishonoring, soul destroying element: there is nothing more degrading than sin. From the statements that some people make, it is very evident

they do not understand what sin really is nor the relationship of those who commit sin. I have heard some say that "every breath we draw is sin." Some say it is a "sin to eat," or a "sin to drink," and a great number hold to the idea that it is impossible to live above sin in this life.

In order to come to a clear understanding of this subject: it will be necessary to consult the Word of God, since by it we have the knowledge of sin. We shall let the Bible tell us what sin is.

In 1 John 3:4 we find this statement: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." And in Romans 14:23b we read, "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin." James 4:17 says, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

These Scriptures make it very clear what sin is. When one knowingly does that which is wrong; and transgresses God's law, he commits sin and is brought under condemnation and guilt, because he had a knowledge that the thing that he was doing was not right in the sight of God; and is therefore a sinner.

Now the question arises: "Who hath sinned?" Romans 3:23 gives us this information, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Notice carefully, it did not say, "All are sinning," but it does say, "all have sinned." The Scriptures also plainly show that God does not lead people into sin nor into sinful practices. Of what spirit then are people that sin? 1 John 3:8 says, "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose was the Son of God manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." Matt. 1:21 says, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins." Note that it says, "from their sins," not "in their sins."

Another question then would confront us; and that is, "Can those who cling to sin enter heaven?"

Let us see what Jesus said in John 8:21. We read: "Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come." Also the apostle Paul in his letter to the Galatians, naming over a catalog of sins, says, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." "Sin can never enter there." The sin route does not lead heavenward.

Was there ever anyone who lived without sin?

Turn to 1 Peter 2:21, 22, "For even hereunto were ye called because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that ye should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." And he bids us to follow him, saying, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the Father but by me."

We see then that without Jesus no man can deliver himself from the guilt and power of sin. He may be able to make some reforms in his life, but it takes the power of the blood to save from sin. In Jer. 13:23 we find the question and statement, "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil." There is no other name given under heaven among men whereby ye might be saved save the name of Jesus. "For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come." 1 Thess. 1:9, 10. "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins." Col. 1:12-14. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. While we are living in a world of sin and wickedness, with temptations of various kinds around us, we can never the less live a sinless, and victorious life: yet not by our own power, or might, but: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Peter 1:3-5. Praise God for his keeping power. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust in the Lord forever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength." Isa. 26:3, 4. His own arm brought salvation down. Romans 6:4 reads like this: "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." If any man be in Christ he is a new creature; and we are exhorted in Col. 3:1-6: "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life shall appear then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience." "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" Heb. 9:14. Jesus saves from sin. "The wages of sin is death."

—Ulysses Phillips

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

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

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

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

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.; night services, 7:30 p. m.; Mid-week prayer meeting Wednesday, 7:30 p. m.; Bible Study Friday, 7:30 p. m.

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PRAYER REQUEST

Please ask the dear Lord to heal my body of stomach, throat, and head trouble that I may be able to sleep more. I ask it in Jesus' blessed name and for his glory.

Miss Lena Elliott, Ark.

Editorials

The work in the Lord's Print Shop is progressing nicely, and the office girls are happy and satisfied in Christ and the work he has called them to do. The tracts, papers, and booklets are going out in a steady stream to all parts of the country, and letters are coming in practically every day telling of how God is making the contents of the sient preachers a blessing to souls.

Brother Clyde Stroud and Brother Eldon Rhoades are building the sixteen ft. extension to the print shop building. They have it well under way, with cement floor put down in the rest room and blocks laid above the windows and doors. With a few weeks of nice weather it will be finished and ready for its needed use.

We are a happy and contented family here at the print shop. Peace and quietness prevail in the home and in the office. His Spirit and divine love are the ruling factors, making heaven on earth, all praises to his name.

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On the 6th of March I was called to pray for Sister Brandt at Bangor, Mich. I went to Kalamazoo, and from there Bro. Leo Wilkins took me to Bangor, which is thirty miles west of Kalamazoo.

When we arrived at the Brandt home we found Sister Brandt a very sick woman. She had been sick for two months and at times the family thought she was passing on. She was anointed and prayed for, and showed signs that God had touched her. Then we laid hands on her and prayed the second time and she showed more strength and slipped her feet to the floor and sat up. After waiting for some time, we laid on hands and prayed the third time. She then arose to her feet and walked around in each room of the house, thanking God for healing her. The family prepared dinner and she went to the table and ate dinner with the rest of us.

Since I came home the family wrote that the enemy had attacked her again with the affliction and she was having some tests and needed our prayers. Even though the Lord may see fit to take her home, all who were present there that day know that the above statement is true and that God honored her faith and confidence in Him and caused the family to rejoice in his healing power.

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Peter said in his first epistle to the children of God, "Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

Man had sold himself under sin. The devil had a mortgage on his soul and it was so heavy that he was taking his soul to hell, misery, and torment. Man had no way of paying the mortgage off and Satan was fast bringing his soul to ruin and destruction in a place where the fire is never quenched and the worm (soul) dieth not.

Our God in his great mercy and pity for us, sought a way to redeem us. There was only one way of redemption for us and that was through the sufferings and death of his only begotten Son.

God had said, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." The penalty of death was hanging over our heads and had to be paid. No man was free from sin for all had sinned and come short of the glory of God; hence one man's sin could not atone for another. Man was hopelessly doomed so far as his strength, wisdom, and power was concerned. Then God, our heavenly Father, stepped in and through his only begotten Son, showed such pity and love toward us that he "gave his only begotten Son" to take the penalty of death upon himself that belonged to us, and suffer the pangs of death in our stead, for he was without sin; therefore could offer his soul and pour it out unto death for us, paying the penalty of death which we could not pay, lifting the mortgage that Satan had on every soul, and letting us go free. Therefore we find in the holy Scriptures these words: "Whom God has set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God." Romans 3:25. Also, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." Eph. 1:7. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins." Col. 1:14. "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." Heb. 9:12. In Revelation 5:9, we read, "For thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred and tongue, and people and nation."

Brethren, we are not redeemed by corruptible things such as gold and silver, but by the precious blood of Christ. Through his blood we have a perfect salvation, for he was as a lamb without spot or blemish; therefore we do not have to fear the devil any more, nor bow to his commands, nor be driven by his lash; but through divine love for our Redeemer, we serve him in the beauty of holiness and reign over sin and Satan in this life, having been set free by the atoning blood of Christ.

OBITUARY

Charlie Thomas was born of Henry and Ellen Thomas October 30, 1893 in Dewitt Co., Texas, where he spent his boyhood days. He came to Oklahoma from Texas to live in the year 1904 with his parents, and settled in Okmulgee County, where he spent the remainder of his life.

He was married to a Miss Petty; however Satan separated them, as he does many others.

He joined the Baptist denomination in 1914. Then in 1939 he was saved and embraced the real truth, and lived happily in Christ the rest of his days.

He was much loved and made many friends. He was afflicted for quite awhile, but was only confined to his bed a few days.

He departed this life Feb. 28, 1947, age 53 years, three months, and twenty-eight days. His father and one

sister preceded him in death. He leaves to mourn their loss a mother, four brothers, four sisters, and many other relatives and friends. Funeral service was conducted by Geo. W. McMillan.

Services Easter Sunday

The saints at Midway, near Jena, La. expect to have all day services and dinner at the chapel Easter Sunday. We desire other saints and friends to come.

The saints at Guthrie, Okla. plan, Lord willing to have all day services on Easter Sunday, as usual, with preaching service in the morning and the Ordinance services in the afternoon. The saints here will prepare food and spread it on the tables in the new dining hall for dinner. All the saints and all others are invited to come and spend the day at Guthrie. Come whether you have any food to bring or not. We are expecting plenty of food here for both soul and body, and it will be free to all who come.

DINING HALL CONSTRUCTION ON THE NATIONAL CAMP GROUND

The Lord willing, the construction work will be resumed on the new dining hall on the national campground at Monark Springs, Mo. on the 15th of April, according to information received from Bro. Sam Barton, chairman of the national campground board.

The concrete block basement walls were built last year, and it is now about ready for the construction of the main dining room and kitchen over the basement, and this is to be built of lumber with cedar shingle roof. Size of the building is 30 by 64 ft. Most of the material is on the ground. However, the fund for this project is rather low, and at present it seems that we will be unable to hire laborers, so the progress of the work will be determined by the number of consecrated saints who respond to the call for help. Cabins and board will be provided for the workers on the campground. Ask the Lord what He would have you to do for the national meeting. If you can come April 15th or even later, write at once to Bro. Sam Barton, R. 11, Box 119, Tulsa, Okla., and let him know so that he may know whom to expect. Every saint with an income has an obligation to the Lord to give of his or her means "as the Lord prospers" him. If you are situated so you cannot come to help on the building, why not use some of the Lord's money to hire additional workers or support those who are working, and thereby be "workers together with God?" It may be forwarded to the undersigned and will be used as you direct.

The national campmeeting for this summer will be held July 18 to 27, inclusive. In this connection, we want to remind the saints everywhere that this is not a local campmeeting affair, but is national in intent and purpose, and every saint in every state should cooperate wholeheartedly for the success of this national gathering of God's people. Does it cause you concern when you know the cause of God anywhere is faltering or going down? Let us gladly

assume our responsibility as a part of the national campmeeting regardless of where we live.

For the past two years the caretakers on the national campground have been paid \$30 per month from the campmeeting fund to fulfill the promise made to them by the saints. Contributions for this purpose have dropped off gradually, and now only two congregations are regularly supporting it. Some have wondered if the caretakers were still there. Yes, they are there, and we have managed to make all monthly payments to date, but if greater interest is not shown in this problem, other arrangements will have to be made at campmeeting time.

Remember that the national campmeeting fund pays the expenses of the actual campmeeting and the caretaker, and the dining hall fund is for the dining hall construction. Please send your offerings to the undersigned, and specify for what fund it is sent.

When ALL the people had a "mind to work" the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt. The spiritual "new Jerusalem" is building her walls and there is not a "dead stone in the building."

—L. D. Pruitt, Secy.-Treas.
1005 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla.

Communism

The Enemy of Christianity and Our Government

By Kenneth O. Goff, Ex-Communist

On admission to the Communist Party one must sign a membership card which pledges his allegiance to the Communist International, and for the revolutionary overthrow of our government, the establishment in its place a United States of Soviet America. One then assumes an alias (another name) so that if his membership book is ever found, it cannot be traced. If you are a member of any of its national committees, you receive a number. On entering the Party I chose the name John Keats and later received the number 18-B-2, the later to be used if the Communist Party went underground.

Communism and Religion Don't Mix

I was told that I wouldn't have to give up my religious beliefs, and all they asked in regard to that was that I read their material on religion. Later, I was told by a leading comrade, that if I didn't give up my religious beliefs I would have to die along with the ministers and priests after the revolution. He said dialectic materialism and religion don't mix, and anyone with religious tendencies would be a menace to a Communist state. He gave me a number of anti-religious books to read, in hopes I would soon renounce my Christian faith. I asked him about the thousands of "liberal" ministers who have either defended or furthered the Communist cause. He said: "These liberal chameleons are of great value at present, but once our goal is reached, they will either have to change their belief or pay the price with their heads along with the rest."

We were given to understand that Communism was Twentieth Century Americanism, and that Earl

Browder and Foster were the Washington and Lincoln of our day. Large posters were displayed of all mass meetings showing the American flag alongside the Soviet flag, and in the background it showed Browder, Foster, Lincoln, and Washington. During the civil war in Spain in 1936 the two volunteer American battalions were named after Washington and Lincoln. It was a common thing to see in our meeting place a picture of Lenin and Washington side by side, draped with the Red flag.

Revolutionists Frequently Deny Communist Party

I was told that I could deny that I was a member of the Communist Party but never to make any statement damaging to the reputation of the Soviet Union, as it was the fatherland of all workers and should always be upheld. I was assigned to a special branch in the Party to which certain individuals belonged, who, of necessity, had to hide their affiliation with the Party, in some cases even from some of its own members. This was required because a slip of the tongue could handicap our work among other groups.

The general membership of the Communist Party is never disclosed to the public and only a few leaders in each state admit their membership in the Party. These men became the mouthpiece in disclosing its stand to the world. The rest remain under cover in order that no accurate check may be made as to its strength. This policy has led many to believe that the Party is weak. As an argument they refer to the small vote of the Communist Party in the general elections. The Party does not allow its power to be shown through votes cast for its presidential candidates. It only uses the election as a channel to carry on a propaganda campaign to further the destruction of our democratic system, the very system which gives them the right to vote. It can be truthfully said that there are more Communists in America today than there were in Russia before the revolution and in Spain before their civil war. Since the so-called "dissolution" of the Comintern, their membership has increased by leaps and bounds.

Earl Browder, National Secretary of the Communist Party in the United States, in his book, "Communism in the U. S." page 310, says: "The worker's school is that institution where we are providing our leaders with weapons, ideological weapons of Marxism and Leninism, to be used in the mass struggle." Georgi Dimitroff, president of the World Comintern said: "The masses must be stirred to struggle, and the Communist schools must be used to help them grasp the mighty, fertile, ALL POWERFUL BOLSHEVIK THEORY, the teachings of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin."

One of my first duties on entering the Communist Party was to attend the Gene Debs Worker's School (then at 113 East Wells Street, Milwaukee, Wisc.). There I received my primary training in anti-Christian, anti-American ideas. Later I was assigned to attend the main school in New York. I refused this assignment, having just married and knowing also that being there would mean I could not see or talk to my wife for six months. When sent to this school,

not even the immediate family is to know the location of the school, and all letters are addressed to a place in New York City, and from there they are taken to the school. While in the school, one isn't allowed any contact with the outside world except through the Party leaders. All expenses and problems are taken care of by the Party, even that of sex. Both sexes attend the school. There are no moral restraints.

Boring from Within

When a Party member has received the proper training, he applies to whatever organization he is assigned in the hope of guiding its course to the left. A special course is given each year for those working in the church groups and in the Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. These students are leaders in their church groups. As an example of the cleverness of these God-hating atheists, I cite you an incident which occurred in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Two young girls were assigned by the Young Communist League to bore from within the Epworth League of one of the city's largest churches. They soon became quite popular and were elected to leading league offices, one of the girls having charge of worship.

On one Sunday evening the Epworth League held a discussion on "Christ, the Alternative to Communism," by E. Stanley Jones. We were notified of the meeting and ten of our comrades attended, and successfully led the discussion along Communist lines, till we had Christ, if He were here on earth today, leading strikes and marching on Washington, D. C., to overthrow the established government. One red haired fellow in the Church, who seemed a little more awake to what was transpiring, arose and asked the pastor of the Church whether this was a meeting of the Epworth League or the Young Communist League. The pastor thought this was a very irregular question due to the fact that Communists don't believe in God; therefore don't attend church. He assured the young man that this was a good Christian discussion. To fully convince this young man, he asked any Communists in the room to please raise their hands. There were ten of us there, but not a hand was raised. The pastor smilingly turned and said, "Just as I told you—there are none here." This is just one example of what is taking place in thousands of our churches throughout the land.

Editor's Note—

The above article written by an ex-Communist who was deep in the thing and knows what he is talking about, will give our readers some knowledge of the evil powers that are working to overthrow our government. When laws which protect and allow freedom of worship are no longer in effect, the saints of God will be open to public persecution, for the spirit covered up by the word "Communism" is atheist and purposes to do away with Christianity and the right to worship God according to the dictates of our own consciences. It is thoroughly anti-Christ and is a fulfillment of the prophecies found in the twentieth chapter of Revelation concerning the pagan power

which was once bound (verse two) but has now been loosed again for a little season until the end of time. Verse 3: "and after that he must be loosed a little season."

In the eighth verse the deceiving work of this satanic spirit is mentioned. It is deceiving the nations literally speaking, and is also deceiving the spiritual nations "Gog and Magog," which refers to religious bodies of people in the world, the mother and her harlot daughters, Mystery Babylon the Great.

This dragon power, the old serpent, the Devil and Satan is now at work deceiving all these sect religions. When it has sufficient power and authority it will bring great persecution upon the real children of God, His body the church, and in time will fulfil the prophecy in the ninth verse of this chapter.

—ooo—

Michigan—Dear saints everywhere, greetings in His precious name,—Our precious Lord has done much for me, and God means more to me than anything or anybody in this whole wide world. He just recently healed me again of a serious illness.

One Monday morning I started to get up and began having chills and fever very bad. My husband stayed at home and kept me in bed most of the time. Then thru prayer the Lord touched my body and the chills and fever left and I felt much better. I stayed off my feet most of the time for a few days, then got up again. Two or three days later I began to feel worse, but the trouble seemed to be mostly in my chest this time and I felt very weak and probably had fever. Then through prayer I felt better again. Later I began to feel like I had a pressure and inflammation on the bladder, which bothered me by spells, but the Lord took that away in answer to prayer. Then one Saturday I felt quite tired and nervous and the next day in the afternoon there was an ache across one side of my back, then my hip bone began to feel like the bone was diseased. Later my hip and across one side of my back and my stomach became numb. Sores came on me at least half way around me, and I believe there were sores all the way through me besides in those parts that were affected by this disease, for I was so sore I could hardly lay on my stomach, or either one of my sides, or my back, it hurt me so much. And sometimes the pain seemed almost unbearable. (My mother-in-law died this past month of May with this same disease, and her doctor said her sores were all in the inside. She surely suffered terribly also. The doctor kept her dragged a lot toward the end, she suffered so much.) I hardly slept any night or day for around a week and a half. I believe that numbness in my hip lasted about a month. (One woman who had had that disease told me she still has a place that is rather numb on her yet. She said it is a nerve disease and she thought maybe the nerve cells died where the disease was located).

Many people came to see me before and after I was healed. Some relatives who had not been in my home for ten years came to see me and I had the privilege of testifying to them.

Some wanted me to have a doctor. I consented to an examination as I thought there would be no harm in that if I did not take any medicine. When he came to make the examination I prayed that God would help me tell the doctor what I wanted to say to him, and He did, Praise God. I said to him, "I don't know if anyone has told you or not, but I don't take any medicine, but I believe in trusting the Lord."

He said, "Then about all I can do for you is diagnose your case."

I told him that was what I wanted him to do. I also told him I did not have anything against the doctors, but I believed in trusting the Lord, as I wanted God to get all the glory for my healing. He respected my belief and was nice about it.

This is what he found wrong: chronic varicose ulcers (secondary anemia), very low blood pressure, very rapid heart, toxic poisoning (a shingle condition. Shingles is a disease of the nerves), and albumin 3+ in the urine. The doctor said sometimes those ulcers never healed and then sometimes after a long time they got better. He said I did not have cancer, but there was no way of telling cancer in its first stages. I asked him if my condition was serious, and he said it was.

That night after the doctor was here I had the worst night I had had up to that time. I guess my cousin who is unsaved and some of my folks thought I was going to die. After this cousin heard what the doctor had said about me she started to cry quite hard. I asked why she was crying and she said that she loved me and did not want me to leave them. I told her not to cry for I believed the Lord would heal me. That seemed to encourage her and she stopped crying. I think that was the afternoon before I was healed the following morning. This cousin said when she was talking to me, "You have suffered so, Eva, I could see it in your face." She said she hated to see me suffer and wondered if I thought it would be wrong to take an aspirin. I told her it would be and that I did not believe in taking anything as I was trusting the Lord.

That night (during the morning hours) God only knows how I suffered. It was so terrible I said, "God, why do I have to suffer like this?" Then a little later I asked God to give me encouragement in my little Scripture Box. The Scripture I got read, "The Lord knoweth the way that I take, and after he hath tried me I shall come forth as gold." That encouraged me much. I also told the Lord that he had promised not to let us have more than we were able to bear. I said, "Lord, I know that is true, but it seems like I can hardly bear much more." The Lord knew this and soon wonderfully healed me. Praise His precious name! (Another thing I want to mention is that shortly before I was healed it felt like something tore in my stomach when I stood on my feet. 't felt like a rupture.)

I was feeling bad the night before I was healed and in the early morning hours was so bad that I believe most of the church here were up praying for me from around midnight until I was healed around four a. m., Dec. 18th. Sister Christine Hilbun said she prayed God would band all of the prayers together that the saints were offering up for me and raise me up to His glory. I got some relief, then became worse again, so I asked my daughter to send a telegram to Bro. Pruitt. They told her they could not get one through before seven o'clock, so she put a call through. The operator said no one answered. I told Aneita to continue to try and I prayed that the Lord would help him to answer the phone right away. Soon he did answer and told Aneita for me to be encouraged, that they would go to prayer for me right away and he believed the Lord would heal me. My husband came and told me about it, and I don't believe it was much more than one-half hour afterward that the pain left me and I have scarcely had a pain, if any, since, praise God forever. Then a little later quite a few from the congregation, also Bro. E. W. Hilbun, our

pastor at the time, came out to pray for me. I told them the dear Lord had already heard prayer and had taken the pain away, but that I needed sleep badly as I had not had any good sleep for around a week and a half. They agreed in prayer for me for that, and soon after they left I went to sleep and slept for several hours.

A few days later I received a letter from Bro. Pruitt saying after he talked with my daughter he called his wife and asked her to pray, then he went right to prayer for me and continued to pray until he felt the burden ease off, and he knew that God had done something. That probably was when the pain left my body. What a mighty God we serve! I had a few other symptoms after that, but I applied the anointed handkerchief that Bro. Pruitt sent me with that letter, upon which they had laid hands and prayed earnestly that God would heal me, and I have improved by leaps and bounds ever since. To God be all the glory, as I never took one drop of medicine.

I have been healed of other serious afflictions. It is so wonderful to trust the Lord. I want to thank each one for your prayers. Also pray that I always prove faithful to the Lord.

Mrs. Leo Wilkins

—oOo—

JESUS CHRIST THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER

I went to meeting the other day
To see our pastor on his way;
He had worked for a good, long while,
But he was old and out of style.

On the Lord's day I went again;
We had no pastor with us then.
We got along the best we could,
Which, I'll admit, was not so good.

After we had our evening devotion,
A few of the brethren had a notion
That we should gather in one accord
And ask a petition of the Lord.

That He might send us a man of grace
To try to fill the pastor's place
That we had sent away, you know,
Because he didn't preach just so.

We all agreed that we would pray;
So we did, that very day.
We prayed, "Dear God, please take heed,
And send a man to take the lead."

But, no, the brethren could not stay;
They just had to leave right away;
But although they had to go,
They would write to "So and So."

"Brother 'So and So' is fine;
He knows just where to draw the line.
He's a man after God's own heart,
And by us he will do his part."

Brother "So and So" received his letter.
He came and left the church no better;
And never will be, I will allow,
Until God's love gets in somehow.

Brethren, I do declare,
I know God would have answered prayer,
If we had stayed there at our post
And waited on the Holy Ghost.

I believe God's message would have gone
To some dear pastor ere very long;
Not through letter or telephone,
But straight from God on His throne.

To tell him we were awaiting there,
Still on our knees in earnest prayer;
That he must go without delay,
And be our guide and with us stay.

As Ananias received God's call,
Arise, go, and meet Brother Saul.
He received no letter to depart—
Just God's message in his heart.

And when his time with us is spent,
This dear man whom God has sent,
There will be no voting, yes or no;
God will tell him, "Time to go."
—Amos Shelley



A Warning Against Sin

"Awake to righteousness and sin not."

Last night the Lord awakened me from my sleep and gave me a little glimpse of the awfulness and deceitfulness of sin. As He talked to my heart, I had such a longing to warn others, especially the dear young people, against sin. I have two dear children whom I know the devil will do all he can to overcome. We know that without Jesus in the heart one cannot resist the many temptations set before the youth of today.

The text says, "Awake to righteousness." Or, in other words, learn what is right; and after we learn the right way of living, then "sin not;" for sin is the transgression of God's law. After we learn a thing is wrong and we continue to partake of that, we become sinners, for "he that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin." For this reason I feel like warning young boys and girls against some things that the devil is using to drag down precious young men and women today.

First, to the dear young girls, the devil is after you with all his force. God placed within woman a virtue that if and when you guard and protect it, you will be respected by men as being virtuous girls or women. But it is up to you to do the guarding against all evil that will break down a gap and let Satan impose anything upon you.

The devil is starting with our girls today when they are very young. From twelve on they seem to be allowed to date boys, and most of them with little or no advice about how to resist temptations. The boys will take them to a love scene picture show. The ungodly things they see there stirs the passion in both the girl and boy, and the boy puts his arms around the girl and asks for a kiss. "Oh," some may say, "there's no harm in a kiss. Why every boy and girl kisses now-a-days." But, dear girl, trace the history of a fallen girl and see if the beginning didn't start with a kiss. I know it is practiced much now; and I also know that there are more girls and boys going wrong now than ever. Yield not to the first step and you won't be tempted with the second.

When young girls smoke it deadens their sense of right and wrong, also when they dare to drink a little. The boys know if they can get a girl to drink and smoke they will soon have them going their way. After you go their way they think much less of you than before. Boys want clean, decent girls for their wives, girls that are worthy to be the mother of their children.

Sin has such a sting. Only recently I read a letter of a young woman that sold her virtue to the devil and then took up drinking to cause her to forget. But now she has met a nice young man who loves her but will not marry her because of her wild life and she is suffering from the sting of sin.

Oh, dear young girls, take your stand and live clean, virtuous lives that all can love and respect you. You will surely be repaid for your efforts. There is nothing concerning your moral life more wonderful than to live so that when after you are married your husband can tell you how proud he is of you that you were a clean girl and a clean mother for his children. May God bless each dear girl is my prayer.

Now we address the boys. I know you have many temptations. First, when the boys are very young the devil makes them feel big to hold a cigarette in their fingers. Next, here comes the temptation to slip little things—and they get by for awhile—then larger things are taken. Step by step you are led far from an honest, upright life. When you are small, bad talk sounds very unbecoming, but you will get with a bunch of boys. One seems to be trying to out talk the other, and you become embarrassed that you are not counted with the crowd, so there you start. The first bad word sounds bad in your ears, but on you go using a little more, and soon it has no effect on you. Dear boys, take a resistance against evil. Be more willing to be called sissies or cowards than to be numbered with the group that really shows by their actions that they have not the power to do that which is just and right.

For instance: One boy asked another why he did not smoke. "Are you such a sissy you can't take it?" he asked.

The other boy replied, "Why don't you quit smoking?"

His answer was, "I can't."

Then the other asked, "Are you such a sissy you can't quit smoking?"

The boy answered, "You got me now."

Yes, if you want to be counted brave, learn what is right and do it.

Then we know there are other temptations. The girls are living loose and careless with their dress to try to attract the attention of young men. I know boys have much to resist, even as the wise man said in Prov. 7:11, "She is loud and stubborn, her feet abide not in her house." No, instead of them learning to be keepers of the home so they might learn to be good wives, they pace the street with a loud laugh to attract you young men. And in the 21st verse, "And with her much fair speech, she caused him to yield." But the wise man gives a warning to young

boys: (verse 25) "Let not thine heart decline to her ways. Go not astray in her paths." Read the whole chapter and take its advice and you will be glad later that you turned away.

Let us read one more verse from the book of Proverbs 19:17, "Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge." It makes no difference if he is your best friend, if he entices thee to do that which is not right, turn away and be brave enough to say, "No."

Here are a few words to fathers and mothers: We can help our boys and girls to resist such evils by setting a life of clean talk, right conduct, and godly advice before them. There is a lack on our part. When I was a child my parents taught me to not let little boys kiss and hug me while playing, not even my cousins. My heart is made to ache sometimes to see little boys and girls playing together and hear one of the parents say, "Kiss her, son." Or tell a little girl to sit on the boys' laps. Dear ones, do you not know you are killing the moral in that little boy and girl? When they reach their teen age they will think nothing about leading a loose life, for you told them to do it from childhood up. "Awake to righteousness and sin not." Margaret Eck.

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

Oklahoma—Dear Saints,—I am glad that I can testify that I am saved and living for the Lord. I know it means much to be saved. I love the Lord with all my heart and want to let my light shine for Him in this dark world. Pray for me that I will live for Him and be what He would have me to be. Your little sister in Christ,

Wilma Ruth Metcalf.

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

California—Dear saints, Greetings in the precious name of Jesus,—I am still saved and encouraged more than ever before to press on. I realize more than ever before what it really means to live a Christian life. It is more than just saying, "I'm a Christian," or, "I belong to some church." It takes a real settled experience with the Lord. There will be more than you or I know about. If you have it inside, it will come out. Your friends and everyone with whom you associate will know it. As Paul said, "Old things are passed away; and behold, all things are become new." That means all the bad things you did before you got saved all pass away. You don't have a desire for them. You are a new creature. Your affections are set about. Some people might say you are crazy. They think you are crazy because you don't do the things you did before. You have a new mind, you look different, act different, and are different. The Bible says we are a peculiar people and it means what it says. We are a peculiar people. Maybe we are not peculiar. If we are not, we had better do some digging and find out what is wrong.

I want to get as far from this world as I can. We can do that by living close to the Lord, and have it fixed in our minds that we do not care what the world says about us, we are going to do what the Lord tells us to do. Why should we care what the world says about us if we are dead to the world and its follies? Maybe we are not dead. If we are not, it is time to do some dying out to the world. How is the world going to see anything better in us if we laugh

at their jokes and are as foolish as they are. If we realize what Christian means we would be more careful the way we act. Christian means Christ-like. I am sure if we live as near like Christ as we can we won't have any time for foolishness and such like. Christ was always busy. I know if we are Christians we have plenty to do without being foolish. I know it is easier said than done for the young people, but we can through our Lord Jesus Christ. Pray for me that I might be all the Lord would have me to be. By His grace I mean to press on till I see His precious face some day. Gus Poulos, jr.

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

HAVE WE DONE WHAT WE COULD?

When the last trumpet blows and we go to see our Lord,

Can we say in that great Judgment Day,
I have done what I could in this dark and sinful world,
I have done what I could for my Lord?

—Chorus—

Have we done what we could for our Lord?

(for our Lord)

Have we done what we could for our Lord?

(for our Lord)

Have we traveled for miles to find some hungry soul?

Have we done what we could for our Lord?

If we've done what we could in this dark and sinful world,

Our reward we shall have over there.

A bright crown we shall wear throughout eternity,
If we've done what we could in this world.

Gus Poulos, jr.

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Mich.—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I want to testify and thank the dear Lord through "Faith and Victory" for the healing of my body Jan. 12, 1947 of a rare blood disease, "polycythemia."

On January 11, 1947 the doctor told my wife it was incurable, I could drop dead any time, as my blood was so full of red corpuscles and blood so thick my heart could not take care of it. It was clogging up my blood vessels. On Sunday, Jan. 12, 1947 I was anointed and prayed for healing. God healed me at once.

On Monday, Jan. 13th, I left my home for Flint, Mich. to visit my daughter. While there I had a doctor and a blood specialist to give me thorough blood tests. I had two tests. They both reported they could not find anything seriously wrong with my blood. Thank God.

We praise God for His healing power, and how God does hear and answer prayer when we place our confidence in Him. Your brother, Bert E. Bolles.

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Calif.—Dear Brother Pruitt and all the saints, both far and near, greetings in the dear name of Jesus. I feel led by the Spirit to write my testimony. I feel the love of God flooding my soul. I haven't always been all that God wanted me to be, but I can truthfully say this morning that my all is on the altar for the Lord to no longer walk after the flesh, but after the Spirit (Rom. 8:1).

I have been reading "Faith and Victory" for twenty years. It has been and is now real food to my soul. I enjoy reading all the testimonies, all the requests, all the editorials—in fact, I enjoy the whole paper.

Please pray for my sister in Houston who has lost her mind. I want to be all God would have me to be.

Your humble servant,

Ella Connor

Correspondence

Oklahoma.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—Holy greetings in Jesus' precious name.—Today finds me yet saved and much encouraged to live for the dear Lord. I hope my testimony will encourage someone. I thank the good Lord for a know-so salvation, and thank Him for saving me when He did. The Lord is a wonderful God. May the young people who read my testimony be encouraged because we know God will surely answer prayer.

On the 27th of January the Lord really settled me down in His truth. On the 27th of Jan. I had a vision. I dreamed that Sister Anne Bowen and I were at some big gathering. The wind began to blow very hard from the north, and a pane went out of the window. Sister Anne Bowen got up to fix it but was not succeeding, so I got up to help her. As soon as I got up to help her she left and the other people all went out. I looked around and said that I went to help her but she left me all alone in the room, but I praised the Lord anyway. While I was fixing the window I looked out and saw a river of water. I got down and ran out to it. I wanted to get in but saw no way, for it was deep. As I stood there waiting on the Lord I lost sight of this old world. The Scripture came to me which was given to Moses when he was leading the children of Israel out of Egypt and was confronted with the Red Sea: "Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord." While standing, waiting, a solid rock foundation appeared before me from the bank of the River, so I jumped in. But while I was jumping down I saw my mother afar off. I said, "Mother, Mother, I'll never see you again. I am drowning." But I went down under the water with my head and when I came to the top I was standing on the bank wide awake, praising God, saying, "Glory be to God." While praising God, a voice began to talk to me, saying, "You must be baptized." I said, "Yes, Lord, I will." It showed me the word church. "My church is without spot or wrinkle." I said, "Yes, Lord, it is." (Eph. 5:27). He said, "Thou art Peter, and upon this Rock I will build my church." I said, "Yes, Lord, you did." (Matt. 16:18). He said, "I add to the church such as should be saved." (Acts 2:47). I said, "Yes, Lord, you do." There is no confusion in the church of saints (1 Cor. 14:33).

I was the happiest person one would want to see, and I have been happy ever since. I ask an interest in your prayers that I ever stand true in the Lord and obey Him on all lines.

Your saved Sister in the Lord,
Mattie Celestine.

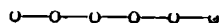


Neb.—Dear saints, greetings in Jesus' dear name,—I am thankful this morning for all blessings, for surely God has been gracious to us to love and value our souls so much that He sent His precious only begotten Son to redeem us from sin and heal us of all our infirmities. I desire to be all that my dear loving Saviour wants me to be—nothing more and nothing less. I love all the dear sisters and brothers in the holy family of God; and I do love and appreciate every interest, every prayer, every sound advice, but Jesus is so perfect he understands perfectly and His love and compassion is past our understanding. My heart is fixed in Jesus, and if there is anything left undone, with all my heart I mean to make all things clear between Jesus and my soul. I am learning some great lessons. Cares of life press hard against me to keep me from feeding upon and enjoying quiet moments with the Lord. I need patience and more patience. Jesus has helped me to understand. I want to win souls with patience. I am surely being tried and tested; but it was

in the furnace that Jesus was seen with the three Hebrew children. In the lions' den Daniel could say, "The Lord delivered." The Lord sent His angel. It is in trials that we see victory, so I am determined to keep my heart fixed upon Jesus and press my way through from day to day. I get a great lesson from the record of the men who carried the sick of the palsy to a place where Jesus was preaching, and they could not get to Jesus for the press (the crowd). But they went upon the house top and tore up the roof and let their request down at Jesus' feet. They had to tear everything out of the way between them and Jesus, then they could let the sick man down at Jesus' feet. So it is with me daily. It is a pressing way. Will you pray for me as God leads.

I feel a burden for the dear ones who do not see, and seemingly will not hear. They are blind and prefer to remain that way. They are nearing the day of judgment, but asleep, unconcerned, indifferent, sleeping away, nothing to be alarmed about, and many running after their own gods.

Sister Jesse Sultzbaugh.



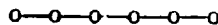
Mo.—Dear saints everywhere, greetings in Jesus' dear name,—I feel that it would please God for me to tell a little of my experience through life. When I got saved I desired to give up taking medicine. A few years passed and one day I started to take a dose of medicine and the dear Lord spoke to me in a soft, low voice, "Why not trust me for your healing?" I told Him that if that was His will I would do the best I could. Another voice spoke to me and told me I could not get along without taking it. I decided that was Satan, so I kept on trying to please the Lord. My little chickens began to droop around and die. I started to dope them for lice. When I picked up a chicken He said, "Why not trust me for all things?" I told Him to take the lice off them if it was His will. The lice disappeared and they quit dying. From that day till this I have trusted Him for both soul and body, praise His holy name. I am glad the dear Lord is willing and ready to hear and answer prayer any time we call upon Him with all our heart.

The little Faith and Victory has been much help to me and I surely enjoy reading it.

I have troubles and trials of affliction but just take them all to the dear Lord and by his help and grace and the prayers of you dear saints he delivers me out of them all. My boy for whom I requested prayer a few weeks back has improved some and is able to work a little again. I thank God for it. I am still asking all of you to remember me and family in your prayers.

Your sister in Christ,

Nancy Sweezee.



Va.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—I am happy to greet you in the name of Jesus and to acknowledge his goodness to the Sons of men. I am saved from every known sin, and healed in my body. I am happy in Jesus this morning, and very glad for the "Faith Pub. House," someone who has time to help those in need. We are a few saints of this truth here, and the Lord has blessed this work much in the last two years. It is a long story, but we are here. We came from Charlotte, N. C. sixteen years ago. At the time there were eleven in the congregation. Some moved away and some went back to the world, leaving only one and that was a cripple unable to get around. The Lord impressed me to go back and help build up the work. When I would pray for the Lord to build, He would tell me there was nothing to build upon and that I was needed. So I obeyed and called a meeting. A few came out to help. We began meeting and in 18 months we

were progressing nicely. We have twelve and a very nice stone building seated. So long as we have faith in the prayers of God's people for our success and we live according to His Word everything will be all right.

I am thankful for the prayers for my son that God's will be done and we know his will is right and righteous. How I wish he were saved, and I believe the Lord is going to save him some way, for we dedicated our children, home and all to the Lord when they were young, and we still hold our dedication.

Continue to pray for us and the work of God at this place and Virginia, as there are not many in this state acquainted with the truth. Dollie Brown

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

N. C.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—I wish to request prayer for my brother that he will quit drinking liquor, and be saved. His drinking is a great worry to me and to mother, who is physically blind though she has a bright and clear vision of the truth spiritually.

May the Lord bless you in your great work for Him. Pray for me that I may do more for God.

Your sister in Christ, Mrs. E. A. Vannoy.

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

La.—Dear saints, greetings in Jesus' name,—I am sending my testimony for the first time. I am putting all my trust in Jesus alone. I love the Lord. He heard my cry. Dear saints everywhere that read "Faith and Victory," please pray for me. Pray that the Lord will heal me. I have been sick for two years, have not been able to work. I truly believe the Lord will heal me through the prayers of the saints. That is why I am sending in my request for prayer. Pray that the Lord will keep me in his one way. I mean to stay with the Lord to the end. Your brother in Christ. Ples Franklin

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

Praise God, dear brothers and sisters in Christ. May God bless us all in these perilous times. I do hope and pray we can all be faithful in Christ till He takes us home. I love to read the Faith and Victory paper. God strengthened my eyes that much. Praise His dear name. I am all alone with God most all the time. The weather is so bad now with much snow and very cold, that I cannot go out, but He sends some in. I can tell them about getting saved. That is all I wish to do in this world. Praise God for that. Pray for me always, dear ones.

Your sister in Christ, Emaline VanZandt

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

Mich.—Dear saints.—Again I greet you in the precious name of Jesus. We received our little paper, and it was full of good things. I saw where some woman got an anointed handkerchief. We used to get them years ago, and God answered prayer after we applied it on a broken leg. Praise God, the work was done. Not many believe in prayer, but the Bible is full of healing, and Jesus gave us the recipe in James 5:13, 14. Read the 16th chapter of St. Luke, beginning at verse 17. That was Christ's last commission to his saints, and especially to his ministers, and God verified his promises by signs following, and He has done that ever since with his true followers. Of course, we cannot expect anything from the Lord if we know to do good and do it not. If we are his children we will do as he tells us in his word. Why do men call themselves Dr. instead of brother? The Bible says we are all brethren. The Bible speaks of some being heady and high minded. I believe in staying down on the lower shelf where God can reach us and use us. Jesus is our example, our pattern, so we have no right to feel above our elder brother (Christ). Let us

stay humble where God can use us. There is such a falling away. There is much of this nice, nice on the outside, but what about the inside where God looks? Let us be honest and obey in every place and everywhere to the glory of God, who does so much for us all. Dear sinner, you can blame no one but yourself, for at least you can read your Bible and pray in your own home and separate yourself unto the Lord and not go where the Lord would not go, and not do the things the Lord would not do. Keep your conscience pure, and God will never leave nor forsake you. Please pray for me that God will heal me to his glory. Mrs. W. E. Berryhill.

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

Ala.—Dear Brother Pruitt,—I send greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ my Saviour who one day—thirty years ago—wonderfully saved me from my sins, and I have been growing in grace ever since. I now have faith to trust Him for the healing of my body as well as I did for the saving of my soul. Praise His name forever. I am praying for that faith that will not shrink though pressed by every foe. I have been through many tests since I made the decision to follow Jesus all the way. Since I have put away my ways and have taken up the way of the cross, which is a straight and narrow way, so many people have separated themselves from me, but I can rejoice in that, for when I read Luke 6:22 that all of these things will happen for the Son of man's sake I am satisfied to follow Jesus more and more day by day. It is a wonderful life to live. Fifteen years ago my husband accepted salvation at a prayer meeting here in our home, so we read the Word of God and have prayer meeting together here. We love the Word, for it is light to us. There are only a few of us isolated saints here in Birmingham who have left the compromisers and have decided to follow Jesus. We get together at times, read the Word, sing and pray, give our testimonies, and have a glorious time in the Lord. Saints pray for us. Your sister in the Lord. Willie L. Parker.

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

Mo.—To all the dear saints scattered abroad, in the precious name of our dear Saviour, greeting,—I am still saved and enjoying God's great salvation to the fullest extent. I am now 88 years of age and feel like I did many years ago when God first saved me, with scarcely an ache or pain from one year's end to another, for which I give God all the glory and praise. I always thank God every night at bed time for his watchful and tender care over me through the day, and also pray to him if I can do any thing more to honor Him, to just let me know it, and by His help and grace I will measure up, Amen.

—E. M. Wood

Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and workers,—May God bless all of you and help you to be a blessing at all times and to be faithful. I am still saved and encouraged to go all the way. I find good reading in the Word of God. In Isaiah 32:17 it says, "And the work of righteousness shall be peace: and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever." Verse 18, "My people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation and in sure dwellings and in quiet resting places." Brother, Sister, this is a good way to live. He will watch over us when we sleep and when we wake. I want to stay awake for the Lord, for He is stirring my heart for service. When He saved me I promised him that I would serve him all the days of my life. My time is short. Then let us all be up and doing, for the Master's voice we hear; then let us all be up and doing, the harvest time is here. Pray for me. I need much prayer. Thomas Davis.

Louisiana—Dear saints and readers of "Faith and Victory"—It has been a long time since I have written a testimony through the paper, but I promised the dear Lord if he would heal our little girl who was very sick four weeks ago, that I would testify through the paper of His healing power.

She was out of doors shelling pecans on a Thursday evening when very suddenly a hurt struck her head back of the right ear down near the neck. She came in crying and holding her head much to the left side and forward. After prayer she got ease but had to continue to hold her head in that position. Later she took fever and became very sick and vomited. She could hold practically nothing on her stomach for two days. She had a severe headache and complained with the back of her neck. We prayed and called for the ministers near us, and in answer to prayer she was well on Monday and back to school on Tuesday. Thank the Lord! He is yet a healer for those who put their trust in Him. He will not fail us if we do not fail Him.

Mrs. A. E. Flynn

British West Indies—I do thank God for a free and full salvation that saves from all sin and makes us new creatures through Christ Jesus our Lord, praise his dear name forever, amen. I mean by God's grace to ever keep pressing onward and upward toward the prize of the high calling of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Now I want to say I am surely glad that I am in the narrow way today, and I mean by God's help and grace ever to keep there, never to turn back in this old world again, for it does not profit anything. I am surely glad that I obeyed the Lord in water baptism this morning. Praise His holy name forever more, amen.

Your true sister in Christ,

Thelma C. Coe.

This is the testimony of a crippled sister who got saved in a meeting in her home and we carried her out into the sea and baptized her. She has a good experience.

—Bro. George Stephenson

La.—Dear saints, greetings in Jesus' dear name,—I believe it is to the glory of God that I write my testimony. I enjoy reading the little paper very much. It seems it gets better all the time. I enjoy reading the testimonies of others. They are a source of encouragement to me. I trust that the Lord will help that what I can say might encourage someone too.

Thank the Lord, he is working out my life. I have failed him in times past, but since I came back to him and was baptized about two and a half years ago, he has been very precious to me. I have had many trials and tests, but, praise the Lord, I have victory over all the power of sin and the devil.

A little over a year ago I was sick and wrote to Brother Pruitt and workers there to please pray for my healing and encouragement. Praise the Lord, he helped me wonderfully.

I still have some of the same ailments that I had then. The Word tells us to confess our faults one to another and pray one for another that we may be healed. I have made some confessions which the Lord impressed me to make, so now I ask you to please pray that God may work out my life to his glory and heal me in his own good time for his glory and the encouragement and strengthening of my faith and others.

We have had a hard winter, which has kept me in, and I have had more time to read and pray and meditate on the deep things of God.

I feel more encouraged than ever before that God

is dealing with my husband. My faith reaches out and I have been praying earnestly for God to draw him and numb his heart and that he might come to the Lord before too late. Please pray earnestly for his salvation.

A sister in Christ

Lula (Snow) Ochsner

N. C.—Dear brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ,—I received my "Faith and Victory" paper and the nice tracts. Words cannot express my heart felt thanks nor tell of the pleasure I had in reading them. After I had read my first copy of the paper I gave it to a colored man who lives a long ways from here, one who believes in God's healing power.

Please pray for me. I have bad stomach trouble and am alone in the world, except my Saviour is with me. My body has been healed many times in my life. I was told in the year 1926 by three doctors that I could not live six months, but God healed me. Since that time I do not have any doctor at all when I get sick. I trust in One who can heal the soul and body. Don't forget to pray for my healing.

Mrs. Minnie McSwain

Colo.—To the Church of God: Greetings in the name of our precious Lord. It is with heart-felt gratitude that I wish to write you and extend my thanks and most sincere appreciation to you all for your sweet spirit of love and sympathy and your earnest prayers.

It was not so encouraging that results were so slow and I did not seem to respond as one might hope for, but I know that God heard and did help me greatly. Of course, no one could know how much agony I was delivered from, but if I were never any better than I am now, I shall never cease to praise my Lord for the wonderful way He has lessened the pain, and for the good trip home. But I believe in His own good time, He will give me complete deliverance. I desire that He may have all the glory. I want to live closer to Him than ever before, and hope that in some way, though it be a small way, He may be able to use me as a channel through which He may bless some others. Time is short, and the world is so dark, the darkness is increasing fast. Oh, that we may all live so close to Him that we may truly be "candles of the Lord" holding forth the light of life that others may see the Way.

Please keep holding on for me. May God gird you each with fresh strength in Him to go forth each day, conquering in His name. Yours with Christian love to all,

Mrs. Blackmore Drake

Ohio—Dear Brother in Christ, greetings in the name of Jesus our Lord and Saviour. We continue to enjoy "Faith and Victory" an especially the good testimonies of the saints of God. What an encouragement they are to all the rest of us to press on toward the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus. We wish to praise God for ever saving us and showing us the one true church of God, and having made us a member of the body of Christ. We were called out of sectism into the evening light several years ago, praise God forever! We expect by His help to stand true until God calls us home and to never compromise with sin or modernism. May God use our lives to His glory, as our greatest joy is to see and help others to the truths of God's Word. We thank you for your prayers for the healing of our body, and have felt the divine power of God at work, and ask that you continue to remember us at the throne of grace, that if it be His will that we may be completely healed.

Your blood-washed brother, V. E. Yantis.

BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll, \$1.15; Lesson Cards 5c per set.
Order from Faith Pub. House, Guthrie, Okla.

THE RISEN LORD AND HIS DISCIPLES

Sunday, April 6, 1947

Printed Portion John 20:19-23, 26-29; 21:15-17.

John 20:19. Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

20. And when he had so said, he showed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

21. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

22. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

23. Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

26. And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

27. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side; and be not faithless, but believing.

28. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

29. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

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

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

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

Golden Text: Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. I Cor. 15:20.

Practical Truth: Christ's resurrection brought new joy and confidence to the apostles, and it should bring joy and confidence to us.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The lesson chosen this year in commemoration of our risen Lord omits the facts concerning His bursting the bars of death asunder and deals with three of his appearances to the believers after his resurrection.

Can you draw a picture in your mind of the disciples as they assembled there in that room? They had passed through a very dark time when their faith in the Lord had been severely tried. They had "trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel," and truly it was, but their hopes of redemption was different from the plans of the Lord, so their hopes had been shattered. They thought they could no longer commune with the Lord and be comforted by the gracious words that pro-

ceeded out of his mouth. And besides this, the Jews who hated and crucified their Master also hated his followers, so they were filled with fears about their safety. Their hopes had brightened some when they received the exciting news that the Lord had risen, but still they were puzzled as to what it all meant. But, oh, what joy when the Lord appeared!

In some respects this reminds us of a soul under conviction and its new birth. It gropes in darkness and uncertainty, knowing not which way to turn. It has heard of the risen Lord, yet is hardly able to comprehend the meaning. Thus, partly in despair and partly in anxiety, it shuts itself up from the enemies of the Lord, and waits in suspense. When the Lord sees it earnestly desiring to get into contact with him, he appears on the scene and speaks peace to the troubled soul. Then truly it is GLAD when it SEES the Lord!

In regard to verse 22, it seems that Jesus was instructing them to be willing to receive the Holy Spirit and not reject Him; for other Scriptures make it plain that the receiving of the Spirit was not until after the ascension (See Luke 24:40; Acts 1:5, 8.).

Verse 23. Christ committed unto his followers the gospel of salvation. When it is preached under the anointing of the Holy Spirit it binds men in sin or looses them as they reject or receive it.

Notice the promise in verse 29. Because He lives and sent the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, into the world, any human who desires may be blessed with the privilege of sweet fellowship with Him. Living faith in a living Saviour is at a very low ebb in the world today; consequently, not many are enjoying this blessing which Jesus promised, and those who do not enjoy it regard those who do as being almost insane. Nevertheless, such does not lessen the joy of those who experience the blessing.

Jesus knew that it was essential that faith in his resurrection be firmly established in the minds and hearts of his disciples; and his many appearances to them made a mistake impossible.

THE KINGDOM ESTABLISHED

Sunday, April 13, 1947

Printed Portion 1 Samuel 9:1, 2; 11:12, 13; 15:1, 22-26, 34, 35.

1 Sam. 9:1. Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power.

2. And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.

1 Sam. 11:12. And the people said unto Samuel, Who is he that said, Shall Saul reign over us? bring the men, that we may put them to death.

13. And Saul said, There shall not a man be put to death this day: for today the Lord hath wrought salvation in Israel.

1 Samuel 15:1. Samuel also said unto Saul, The Lord sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the Lord.

1 Sam. 15:22. And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offering and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

23. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

24. And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.

25. Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the Lord.

26. And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.

1 Sam. 15:34. Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul.

35. And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the Lord repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.

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

Practical Truth: Obedience to God is a large factor in making an individual or a nation great.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The International Sunday School Lessons now take up a study of the Hebrew Monarchy, beginning with King Saul, with whom the historical series upon "A Nation in the Making" ended a year ago. These lessons will cover a period of about 450 yrs. so will be incomplete; but we trust that from the few examples that are studied the students will be able to learn lessons concerning God's dealings with those who obey Him and those who disobey.

Of the smallest tribe of Israel did God choose one to be their first king. He was a man of large stature, but "clothed with humility." Saul could not quite understand why he should be anointed king, but he submitted to the calling of God. Samuel, the prophet, gave him three signs whereby he should know that God had chosen him, and after these signs were come to pass, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him.

As time went on, instead of always being watchful and prayerful and careful to obey all of God's commands, Saul allowed a feeling of pride and self-righteousness to creep into his heart, which to some extent crowded out the fear of God. He began to believe he was wise enough to decide for himself what was the right thing to do. He allowed wrong thoughts to enter his mind, thus he sinned and fell short of the duty he was called to do.

"To obey is better than sacrifice." Obedience is the giving up of the will to the will of another—it is therefore the sacrifice of the whole man. When one has given himself thus to God, he has offered to Him all that he has to offer—all his powers of soul and body as well as material possessions. This is far more precious and therefore more acceptable to the Lord than "thousands of rams or ten thousand rivers of oil" (Micah 5:7). It is a sacrifice that can be offered at any time and any place. Obedience is a sacrifice that can always be rendered unto God. It is a sacrifice that every one can offer for himself. All other offerings without this is vain and even an abomination (Isa. 5:13) unto Him who owns "every beast of the field and the cattle upon a thousand hills." (Psa. 1:10).

We may see in the history of Saul how important it is that we should make the most of the opportunities God has set before us. Saul proved faithless to the trust committed to him, and became in the end a worse man

than He would have been if no such privileges had been conferred upon him. His career is an illustration of the truth of the Saviour's words: "From him that hath not shall be taken away even that he hath." —L. Modglin.

THE KINGDOM STRENGTHENED AND ENLARGED

Sunday, April 20, 1947

Printed Portion 2 Samuel 5:6-10, 17-25.

2 Samuel 5:6. And the king and his men went to Jerusalem unto the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land: which spake unto David, saying, Except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither: thinking, David cannot come in hither.

7. Nevertheless David took the strong hold of Zion: the same is the city of David.

8. And David said on that day, Whosoever getteth up to the gutter, and smitteth the Jebusites, and the lame and the blind, that are hated of David's soul, he shall be chief and captain. Wherefore they said, The blind and the lame shall not come into the house.

9. So David dwelt in the fort, and called it the city of David. And David built round about from Millo and inward.

10. And David went on, and grew great, and the Lord God of hosts was with him.

2 Sam. 5:17. But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David: and David heard of it, and went down to the hold.

18. The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.

19. And David enquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the Lord said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

20. And David came to Baalnerazim, and David smote them there, and said, The Lord hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Baalnerazim.

21. And there they left their images, and David and his men burned them.

22. And the Philistines came up yet again, and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.

23. And when David enquired of the Lord, he said, Thou shalt not go up but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees.

24. And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the Lord go out before thee to smite the host of the Philistines.

25. And David did so, as the Lord had commanded him: and smote the Philistines from Geba until thou come to Gazer.

Golden Text: David went on, and grew great, and the Lord God of hosts was with him. 2 Sam. 5:10.

Practical Truth: Wise and godly leadership helps to make a nation strong.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We see an important lesson of truth taught in these few verses of Scripture which we desire the Sunday School pupils to keep in mind while studying this lesson, also in all the undertakings of life: "Man's true security and strength lies not in his possession of the seen, but in his relation to the unseen." This applies to individuals and nations alike.

Up to this time no army had been able to successfully besiege Jerusalem, and the Jebusites felt so secure within their walled city that they taunted David with slurs about the weakness of his army. But David kept in touch with God and advanced at his bidding, so was able to do that which the eye of sense would have told him he could not do. The dwellers at Jerusalem failed to count the strength of the Lord on David's side when they were feeling so secure. It was not gained by any strength that David had nor his skill in warfare, but was a gift from God to him, and was in His plan that the "stronghold of Zion" should become the "city of David." After David was established there he dwelt there securely only because the Lord willed it so. Notice how carefully David sought the Lord for guidance each time before he attempted to go to battle.

Notice how persistent the Philistines were in trying to defeat David in spite of their knowledge of the many defeats in other battles with him.

This is a type of the enemy and his hosts at work. He fights to keep souls from entering spiritual Jerusalem (the church of God) and then seemingly never tires of attacking them after they are dwelling there. But it is encouraging to know that we, like David, can dwell there securely so long as we seek the Lord earnestly for guidance and follow it diligently.

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NATIONAL GLORY AND DECAY

Sunday, April 27, 1947

Printed Portion 1 Kings 3:5-9; 5:13-16; 11:4-9.

1 Kings 3:5. In Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.

6. And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

7. And now, O Lord my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.

8. And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.

9. Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

1 Kings 5:13. And King Solomon raised a levy out of all Israel; and the levy was thirty thousand men.

14. And he sent them to Lebanon, ten thousand a month by courses; a month they were in Lebanon, and two months at home: and Adoniram was over the levy.

15. And Solomon had threescore and ten thousand that bare burdens, and fourscore thousand and hewers in the mountains;

16. Beside the chief of Solomon's officers which were over the work, three thousand and three hundred, which ruled over the people that wrought in the work.

1 Kings 11:4. For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.

5. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

6. And Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and went not fully after the Lord, as did David his father.

7. Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.

8. And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.

9. And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice.

Golden Text: Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding Proverbs 3:5.

Practical Truth: Prosperity is attended with dangers of moral and spiritual decline.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We find a similarity between this and lesson Two.

When God chose Solomon to reign as king over Israel on his father's throne, he looked upon himself as a little child. He felt unable to judge the great company of people under him. He was a child who knew not how to go out nor come in, but he loved the Lord. This is the best and greatest thing that can be said of anyone. All those who love the world have not the love of the Father (1 John 2:5, 15). This love can only be where God is loved above all things—His Word observed and His commands obeyed with joy and delight. Because Solomon loved the Lord, he honored his father and walked in the statutes of his ways. He was humble and desired to have wisdom and understanding to know how to discern between good and bad. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him." Jas. 1:5. The true wisdom for which we have to ask God does not consist of great knowledge, but in that which enables us to discern between good and evil, right and wrong, sin and duty, truth and falsehood, that we might not be misled in any way.

His desire was granted, "Lo, I have given thee a wise and understanding heart." He doubtless studied and toiled like other men for his acquirements, but he was divinely and supernaturally assisted in a manner and to an extent that no other man ever enjoyed. Thus he reigned as king forty years. There was no king like unto him.

But we come to that strange, dark period in Solomon's career—and yet not strange either, for intellectuality, wealth, and fame present great temptations which few human beings are able to resist. In contrast with his earlier piety and glory, we notice that he began to allow himself too much liberty, then venture into danger and perish therein. This is an example of how Christians drift from God and fall into sin. In the earlier part of his reign, Solomon was right toward God, but later he multiplied to himself gold and silver, the lust of the eye and the pride of life, which finally gained over him the mastery. It should be a solemn warning to us. If Solomon could fall—a Solomon brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord and walking in the ways of God, the wisest man of his time—how necessary it is for us all to watch. Solomon forgot to pray, which he had so well practiced in earlier years. Prayer alone holds watch, therefore it is necessary in prosperity and success as well as in adversity. "Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation."

—L. M.